

# FY25 Annual Report Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Department of Planning





# Table of Contents

<i>Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees</i>	4
<i>Who We Are &amp; How We Work</i>	5
<i>Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program</i>	7
<i>Maryland Heritage Areas Program</i>	11
<i>African American Heritage Preservation Program</i>	14
<i>Historic Preservation Capital Grants and Loans</i>	19
<i>National Register of Historic Places</i>	22
<i>Architectural Research</i>	26
<i>Archaeological Research</i>	30
<i>Cultural Resource Information Management</i>	34
<i>Preservation Planning</i>	35
<i>Historic Preservation Easement Program</i>	38
<i>State and Federal Project Review</i>	40
<i>Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum</i>	42
<i>Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory</i>	46
<i>Military Monuments</i>	49
<i>Maryland Preservation Awards</i>	50

# Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) is governed by a 15-member Board of Trustees, which includes the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker (or their designees), and 12 members appointed by the Governor. Of these members, the Governor must appoint at least two trustees qualified with an advanced degree in archaeology or a closely related field and have experience in the archaeology field. Of the trustees qualified in the field of archaeology, one needs experience in the field of submerged archaeology and one needs expertise in terrestrial archaeology. The term of a member is four years. The Board also appoints area representatives from unrepresented regions of the state; these representatives participate fully as Board members but do not vote in full meetings.



May Board meeting at the Fire Museum (Baltimore County)

## *Trustees Appointed by the Governor*

Albert L. Feldstein – Allegany County  
LaShay Harvey, PhD – Baltimore City  
Franklin Robinson, Jr. – Charles County  
Jeffrey Buchheit – Harford County  
Kristine Roome, PhD – Howard County  
Sarah Kunkel Filkins – Kent County  
Samuel J. Parker, Jr. – Prince George’s County  
Darius Johnson – Talbot County  
Laura Davis Mears (Chair) – Worcester County  
Julie Hevener Ernstein, PhD – Terrestrial Archaeology  
Benjamin Ford, PhD – Submerged Archaeology

## *Area Representatives*

Charles A. Stek – Anne Arundel County  
Harry T. Spikes II – Baltimore City  
Kirsti Uunila – Calvert County  
Dean R. Camlin – Carroll County  
Sakinah Linder – Harford County  
Lisa Sasser – Kent County  
Tom Vitanza – Montgomery County  
W. Dickerson Charlton – Prince George’s County  
Douglass C. Reed – Washington County

## *Ex Officio Members*

The Honorable Rebecca L. Flora, AICP – Governor’s Representative  
The Honorable Chris West – Senate President Designee  
Vacant – Speaker of the House’s Representative



Trustees and Deputy Director Anne Raines with 2025 Preservation Award Winner at Claggett Center (Frederick County)

# Who We Are & How We Work

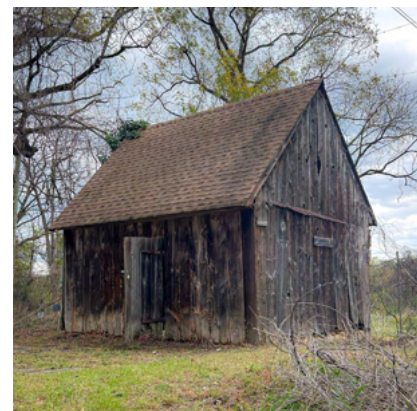
Founded in 1961, MHT is the state agency dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Director and State Historic Preservation Officer Elizabeth Hughes leads MHT, which operates within the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP), from its headquarters in Crownsville. MHT serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office, charged with implementing federal preservation programs at the state level.

The Office of Management oversees the administrative functions of MHT and includes the Director and Deputy Director, human resources and personnel management, and budget and grants management.

The Office of Research, Survey, and Registration handles the state's information on historic properties and archaeological sites. This office supports new archaeological and architectural surveys, maintains the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) and online tools for archaeological and architectural research, and forwards nominations to the National Park Service's (NPS) National Register of Historic Places (National Register). This office also administers the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program and maintains the MHT Library with an extensive collection of resources.

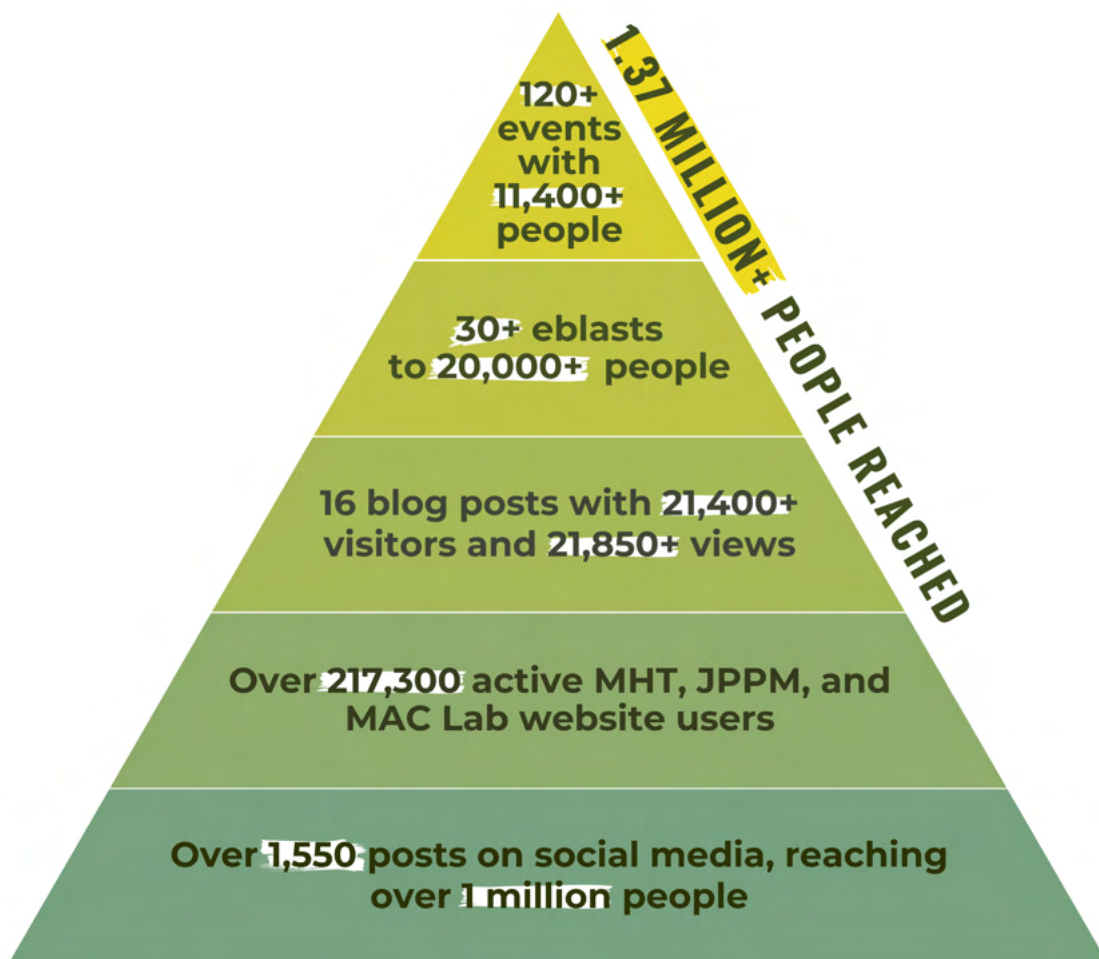
The Office of Preservation Services includes the Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program, African American Heritage Preservation Program (AAHPP), and Historic Preservation Capital Grant and Loan programs. This office also houses the Maryland Maritime Archaeology Program, coordinates the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments, reviews state and federal actions for impacts on historic and cultural resources, and manages the state's historic preservation easements.

The Office of Archaeology studies, promotes, and preserves Maryland's rich archaeological heritage. Consisting of terrestrial and maritime programs, MHT archaeologists conduct research, coordinate public lectures and fieldwork opportunities, and disseminate information about Maryland's archaeological sites. MHT assigns archaeology personnel and resources throughout the agency to accomplish the office's work, which also coordinates with the gubernatorially-appointed Maryland Advisory Committee on Archaeology.



The Office of Planning, Education, and Outreach creates and monitors the statewide preservation plan, provides planning assistance for local governments, and produces interdepartmental educational programming for MHT. It offers grants for heritage tourism through the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and supports preservation planning in counties and municipalities across the state through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Program. This office also coordinates MHT's communications efforts – including quarterly e-newsletters, the "Our History, Our Heritage" blog [[bit.ly/MHT-Blog](http://bit.ly/MHT-Blog)], social media, web content, and public outreach – reaching an audience of nearly one million people annually.

Located on 560 acres along the Patuxent River in Calvert County, Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (JPPM) offers events, tours, lectures, school visits, and workshops related to the state's historic and prehistoric heritage. JPPM operates the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab), a state-of-the-art facility dedicated to archaeological conservation, curation, and research. A robust set of digital materials associated with the MAC Lab, along with JPPM's public outreach and social media, reaches roughly 380,000 people. More than 7 million people view artifacts on loan at institutions such as the Smithsonian and museums across Maryland each year.



# Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program



The Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program and the federal tax incentives administered by MHT encourage private sector investment in the rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings to promote investment in local economies. Property owners can apply for state competitive commercial, small commercial, and homeowner credits. In FY25, tax credit staff conducted program outreach through workshops, round-table discussions, and a focus group led by the National Trust for Historic Preservation that reviewed draft energy retrofit guidance for historic homeowners.

## Competitive Commercial Tax Credits

Each year, owners of income-producing properties can compete for a state income tax credit (capped at \$5 million) up to 20% of eligible expenses for substantial rehabilitation projects. Projects with high-performance buildings or low-income housing may also qualify for an additional five percent credit. Projects participating in the Opportunity Zone program, an economic development tool used to spur economic growth in distressed areas of the United States, may qualify for enhancements of up to an additional 7.5% and a higher per-project cap. Since it began in 1996, the state's historic tax credit program has invested more than \$498 million in Maryland communities. For the FY25 round, 16 applicants sought more than \$38 million in tax credits for construction projects with an estimated cost exceeding \$236 million. MHT awarded \$20 million in commercial tax credits for FY25, and these credits are expected to leverage more than \$108 million of private investment in the ten projects described below.



**605 Upland Road – Baltimore County (\$257,298)**

This 1901 ornate shingle-style house in Sudbrook Park, developed by Frederick Law Olmsted, was the

largest and most expensive home built in the neighborhood. The project will convert the house into rental apartments while restoring the front porch, cedar shingles, original windows, and much of the interior.



**St. Luke's Clergy House – Baltimore City (\$2 million)**

Located in Baltimore's Franklin Square Historic District, this project will rehabilitate the Gothic Revival Clergy House, constructed in 1905 as the rectory for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, into a

multi-purpose community hub with classrooms, offices, kitchen, library, and daycare. A rear addition and accessible entrances will support this new use.



**Hampstead School – Carroll County (\$1.5 million)**  
Built in 1919 in the Vernacular Tudor style, the Hampstead School illustrates rural Carroll County's shift from one-

room schoolhouses to consolidated public schools in the early 20th-century. Developers converted it into senior affordable housing after its use as a school ended in the 1980s. The project will preserve historic features, upgrade systems, and improve accessibility for residents.



**Detrick and Harvey Machine Works – Baltimore City (\$5 million)**  
The former Detrick and Harvey Machine Works, a masonry industrial complex located

in the Old East Baltimore historic district, reflects the city's industrial growth as a center for heavy machinery manufacturing dating back to the 1880s. Expanded by Bethlehem Steel in the 1910s for wartime production, the now-vacant site is slated for redevelopment into makerspace and nonprofit office facilities.



**Liberty Trust Bank Building – Allegany County (\$1.5 million)**  
Cumberland architect Wright Butler designed the six-story Liberty Trust Bank Building, built in 1907, which reflects early 20th-century commercial growth in the region.

Among Cumberland's first skyscrapers, it remains one of its tallest buildings. The project will restore the building's historic entrance and convert it into upper-floor apartments with a fitness center.



**Holly Hill – Baltimore City (\$320,000)**  
Built c. 1801, this Federal-style house is among Cockeysville's oldest standing buildings, linked to the early milling, agriculture, and water-powered industries. Now located within the Broadmead retirement

community, the project will transform the vacant structure into meeting rooms, a kitchen, and bathrooms with upgraded infrastructure and ADA accessibility for community use.



**Second National Bank Building – Allegany County (\$1.3 million)**  
Designed by Cumberland's Bruce Price, the 1893 Second National Bank Building blends Romanesque and Byzantine styles with orange brick and brownstone details. The

building's expansion through the 20th century reflects Cumberland's economic development. The project will revitalize the vacant building with a ground-floor restaurant and office suites on the upper floors.



**Institute of Notre Dame – Baltimore City (\$5 million)**  
The Institute of Notre Dame, a historic Catholic school complex in the Old East Baltimore Historic District, includes a chapel, convent, and auditorium built between the 1840s and 1920s. The project

will convert the site into low-income senior housing, retain the Caroline Center (a women's workforce training site), and preserve stained-glass windows, interior details, and courtyard porches as amenities.



**Building 51B/46C – Crown, Cork, and Seal Highlandtown Plant – Baltimore City (\$2.1 million)**

The building (c. 1935-7) exemplifies mid-20th-century brick-clad industrial design with exposed concrete, steel framing, and industrial windows. Originally built for bottlecap manufacturing, the complex consisted of two separate structures later joined during an expansion and now functions as a single unit. Rehabilitation will create artist studios, offices, and a multi-tenant ground-floor retail and food hall.



### Mutual Benefit Society of Baltimore – Baltimore City (\$911,000)

Located in the Market Center National Historic District, the Mutual Benefit Society of Baltimore building once housed an organization founded by banker and philanthropist Harry O’Neill Wilson to provide insurance to African Americans. The project will restore the exterior and signage, while converting the interior into mixed-income housing and commercial space.

## Small Commercial Tax Credits

In 2014, Maryland expanded the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program to include a new \$4 million small commercial tax credit for modest rehabilitation projects. In 2022, HB0027/SB289 was passed and signed into law, establishing a new fund with an annual appropriation of \$2 million for small commercial projects from 2024 to 2031.

MHT officially reopened the small commercial program on July 1, 2023. In FY25, the Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program approved nine proposed small commercial projects worth an estimated \$352,965 in tax credits.

### *Highlight: Enoch Pratt Free Library, No. 19 (Baltimore City)*



In 1905, a major gift from Andrew Carnegie helped the Enoch Pratt Free Library expand its neighborhood branches. This included Library Branch No. 19 in the Fells Point Historic District, which began construction in 1922. Architect William W. Emmart designed the one-story, three-bay brick building, featuring a raised basement, concrete quoins, and large windows with keystone headers.

A recently completed small commercial tax credit rehabilitation project revived the former library building, which included structural stabilization, masonry and roof repairs, restoration of historic windows, plaster and wood flooring repairs, and updated systems. The project team also reinstated the original open layout and preserved built-in bookshelves. Project leaders reimagined the space as “Library 19,” and it will now serve as a flexible, community-focused hub, with potential for nonprofit and commercial tenants, public gathering spaces, and outdoor amenities.

## Homeowner Tax Credits

In Maryland, homeowners can earn a state income tax credit equal to 20% of qualified rehabilitation expenses for projects costing \$5,000 or more. In FY25, the Maryland Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program approved 162 proposed residential projects worth an estimated \$1.97 million in tax credits.





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

Founded in 1824 by the Sisters of Charity as St. John's Benevolent Female Free School, the campus that would become the Visitation Academy was taken over in 1846 by the Roman Catholic Order of the Visitation. The Sisters expanded the school to include a convent and chapel and continued to develop the campus over time. Additions to the east and south introduced a monastery wing with cloistered gardens in 1851 and a Corinthian-inspired chapel in 1852, noted for its wide wings, long rear porches, gabled roof with evenly spaced dormers, and bell tower. Other buildings were added to create a courtyard complex that housed dormitories, classrooms, and auxiliary spaces.

The school operated continuously until 2016. Despite later alterations, the buildings retained exceptional historic integrity, including 19th-century finishes in the chapel and classrooms.

In 2023, after a brief setback from a fire, the campus underwent a major rehabilitation. The competitive commercial tax credit project transformed the historic structures into a boutique hotel with a restaurant, community gathering space, fitness center, retail shops, salon, and bar. The project team preserved the original chapel as a distinctive interior feature, with its marble altars, stained glass by Franz Mayer, and paintings of the Order's founders. A new condominium building was added on a vacant portion of the site, with another planned.

# Maryland Heritage Areas Program



Governed by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) and administered by MHT, the Maryland Heritage Areas Program designates, supports, and collaborates with state-certified heritage areas and their partners to create place-based experiences for the public that preserves and promotes Maryland's unique stories and contributes to the well-being of local economies. MHAA provides grants to organizations located in each of Maryland's 13 heritage areas, supporting the state's diverse historic, cultural, and natural resources, enhancing local communities, and promoting tourism and economic development. In FY25, MHAA approved an amendment to the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area boundary, making it the first county-wide heritage area and allowing new places and partner organizations throughout Prince George's County to access grant funding and technical assistance.

## Strategic Planning 2025 – 2032

In FY25, MHAA hired a consulting firm and embarked on a year-long statewide and inclusive strategic planning process, culminating in the "Maryland Heritage Areas Program Strategic Plan: A Statewide Vision for Success July 2025 – June 2032." This plan, which will guide MHAA and the program at the state level for the next seven years, articulates the central and essential role heritage plays in tourism, community enhancement, and sustainability. Importantly, the new plan clarifies the program's vision and purpose and prioritizes 1) impactful grantmaking, 2) increasing support to the heritage areas, 3) refining governance and operations, and 4) enhancing messaging, outreach, and communications. It also recognizes the role the Maryland Heritage Areas Program plays in fulfilling the five goals of the statewide preservation plan Heritage2031, all three of MDP's strategic priorities, and the Moore-Miller Administration's goal of creating an "Equitable, Robust, and Competitive Economy for Maryland."

## FY25 Grant Awards

In FY25, nonprofits and local jurisdictions submitted 197 grant applications, requesting more than \$10.9 million to foster economic development through heritage tourism projects and activities. MHAA awarded more than \$5.3 million to 89 projects, leveraging more than \$20 million in non-state matching support. Sixty competitive capital and non-capital project grants comprised \$3,577,615 of the total funding awarded. MHAA grants also helped support the work of the 13 heritage area management entities, including operational grants (totaling \$1.3 million), 13 block grants (totaling \$325,000), and three grants for marketing (totaling \$91,478). Block grants provide funding for smaller non-capital heritage tourism grants (or "mini-grants," typically under \$5,000), and heritage area management entities distribute these within their boundaries.

FY25 grant highlights are excerpted below.

**Working the Waters – Waterman Heritage Deadrise Boat Exhibit – Queen Anne’s County (\$50,000)**

The Queen Anne’s County Economic & Tourism Development was awarded a non-capital grant for a new exhibit on waterman culture and heritage. The exhibit will be framed around a deadrise workboat, developed in the late 1800s from skipjacks for fishing and oystering in the Chesapeake Bay. These iconic vessels reflect both the culture of the region and the challenges of working in its unique environment. The permanent exhibit, hosted by the Chesapeake Heritage and Visitors Center, will explore how waterman heritage shaped Queen Anne’s County history through hands-on experiences, videos, storytelling, oral histories, photography, and artifacts.



**The Henry Hotel Restoration Project – Worcester County (\$100,000)**

This capital grant supports the continued rehabilitation of the historic Henry Hotel in Ocean City. Built in 1916 and owned by entrepreneurs Charles and Emma Henry from 1926 to 1954, the hotel served Black workers during segregation and remained the last hotel in the resort town to be owned and operated by African Americans. The project includes roof, wall, siding, and window repairs, which are all key steps toward transforming the first floor into a museum and learning center that honors the building’s cultural and community legacy.

**From Tragedy to Transformation: Crownsville Hospital Story through Oral Histories – Anne Arundel County (\$50,000)**

The Galesville Community Center received a non-capital grant to document the history of Crownsville Hospital, founded in 1911 to institutionalize African American patients. As plans for the site’s restoration move forward and the number of living witnesses declines, the project team will collect oral histories from individuals with first- or second-hand accounts of the hospital and conduct new research. The project will preserve this complex chapter of Maryland’s mental health and racial history through an online database and documentary.



**Ellicott City Jail Rehabilitation Project – Howard County (\$100,000)**

Preservation Maryland received a capital grant to help rehabilitate the historic Ellicott City Jail, located near the courthouse in the heart of town. In partnership with Howard County, the project will adapt the structure as a community meeting space, offices, and a research lab for University of Maryland (UMD) students. The effort will preserve the jail while creating opportunities to interpret its complex role in the Underground Railroad and ensuring its relevance for future generations.

**The Columbia Air Center Exhibition Project at College Park Aviation Museum – Prince George’s County (\$50,000)**

Field of Firsts Foundation is collaborating with the College Park Aviation Museum on this non-capital grant to develop virtual and holographic exhibits highlighting the Columbia Air Center – the first Black-owned and -operated airport in the U.S. Located next to College Park Airport, the nation’s first and oldest continuously operating airport, the Field of Firsts will build on its ongoing partnership with the museum to interpret this important history.

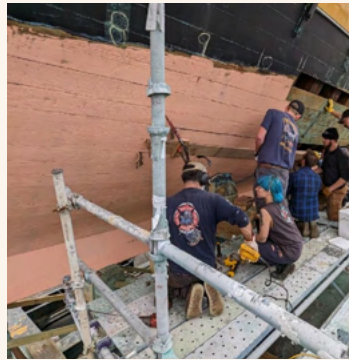


**Deep Creek Lake Centennial Celebration – Garrett County (\$50,000)**

The Property Owners’ Association of Deep Creek Lake secured a non-capital grant to support the lake’s 100th anniversary celebrations in 2025. Formed between 1923 and 1925 by a hydroelectric dam, the lake has long been a center of recreation, tourism, and culture in Western Maryland. Planned events include fireworks, festivals, informational kiosks, and a time capsule that highlights both the lake’s historical significance and its continued impact on the region.

### Schematic and Design Planning for the National Museum of Civil War Medicine Upgrades – Frederick County (\$50,000)

The National Museum of Civil War Medicine received a non-capital grant to support planning for major exhibit and design updates. Located in downtown Frederick, the museum is nationally known for interpreting the medical history of the Civil War and currently welcomes approximately 40,000 visitors each year. This project will modernize the museum's exhibits with personal stories of surgeons, soldiers, and civilians highlighting how their experiences shaped modern healthcare. New interactive elements – like lifting a Civil War-era stretcher – will make the history more engaging and accessible for today's visitors.



### Success Story: Replanking *Pride II* Phase 2 (Baltimore City)

This year, *Pride of Baltimore, Inc.*, completed a second phase of preservation work on its replica Baltimore clipper ship, *Pride of Baltimore II*, focused on replacing worn planks on the boat's hull. The replanking project required months in dry dock in Savannah, Georgia, away from home port. After identifying the exact planks in need of replacement, shipwrights shaped and sanded new lumber, then installed, caulked, sealed, and painted each piece. Now returned to Baltimore, *Pride II* is once again operating as an educational vessel, teaching students and visitors about the city's rich maritime history.

Clipper ships – prized for their speed and sleek design – were a staple of late 19th-century maritime culture, serving to connect ports from around the world. In Maryland, these vessels were especially linked to Baltimore, which became a leading center for their design and construction. The distinctive “Baltimore clipper” style was developed in the Chesapeake Bay and built in Fells Point shipyards during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Their speed and agility made them ideal for privateering during the War of 1812, outmaneuvering and outrunning larger British ships, and cementing Baltimore's reputation as a center of maritime innovation.

Thanks to the incredible work of *Pride of Baltimore, Inc.*, *Pride II* will continue to share that story with the public.

# African American Heritage Preservation Program



The AAHPP encourages the preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural significance to the African American experience in Maryland. The General Assembly created the AAHPP in 2010, and the program awarded its first grants in FY12. MHT and the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture jointly administer the AAHPP, allocating \$5 million to 31 projects in December 2024. Applicants submitted 71 eligible project proposals, requesting more than \$14 million for FY25.

## FY25 Grant Awards



**Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery – Frederick County (\$150,000)**

The Catoctin Furnace African American Cemetery highlights the vital role of enslaved African Americans in the iron industry. DNA

research identified 40,000 descendants of Catoctin Furnace ironworkers. Catoctin Furnace Historical Society will use grant funds to purchase the cemetery, enabling public access and historical interpretation of the site.



**Asbury United Methodist Church (UMC) – Annapolis, Anne Arundel County (\$193,717)**

Founded in 1803, Asbury UMC's African American congregation built the current church in

1888. Once home to many formerly enslaved members, the church now hosts community events, including a job re-entry program for those seeking employment after incarceration. Asbury UMC will use funds to restore windows, repair masonry, and replace doors to preserve the historic building.



**Mt. Gregory UMC – Howard County (\$236,500)**

Founded in the 1860s to educate African American children, Mt. Gregory UMC

served as both school and church into the 20th century. The 1898 Gothic Revival building remains active today as a congregation and a food pantry. Funds will support renovations to the church's lower level for continued community use.



**Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church – Frederick County (\$250,000)**

With roots in the 1790s, Quinn Chapel AME Church served as an Underground Railroad safe house, Civil War hospital, and later, as a school for Black children

in Frederick. Funding will support Quinn Chapel AME Church in repairing the bell tower as well as stabilizing and maintaining the building.



**St. Paul Church – Caroline County (\$240,000)**  
St. Paul Church Historical, Revitalization & Maintenance, Inc., will transform St. Paul Church, built in the 1880s,

into a community-based center promoting African American culture in Denton and the surrounding area through events, literature, and seminars. Project funds will support cemetery conservation, floor and foundation repair, and interior and exterior finishes.



**Fairview Methodist Episcopal Church – Carroll County (\$74,783)**  
For nearly 175 years, Fairview Methodist Episcopal (now United Methodist) Church and

Cemetery has continuously served the Carroll County community. Built by free African American farmers, stone masons, and carpenters, the church held night services so enslaved and free residents could attend. Funds will support Fairview UMC in cemetery conservation efforts.



**Frederick Douglass Summer House – Anne Arundel County (\$106,000)**

The Frederick Douglass Summer House (c. 1894), a Queen Anne-style frame dwelling built for Douglass, is the oldest home in the African American-founded town

of Highland Beach. Though he died before its completion, it now houses a museum in his honor. Funds will support the town's efforts to make structural improvements to the building.



**Elk Landing Hollingsworth House – Cecil County (\$49,000)**

Built in the early 18th century by prominent Quaker colonist Zebulon Hollingsworth, the Hollingsworth House was remodeled in 1848, incorporating a kitchen and slave quarters. Now

a living history museum, the Historic Elk Landing Foundation will use funds to restore the slave quarters and interpret the African American experience for visitors onsite.



**The Montgomery Chapel Cemetery – Montgomery County (\$10,000)**

Montgomery County Parks Foundation will conduct ground-penetrating radar at the Montgomery Chapel Cemetery (c. 1870s), a vital remnant

of Hyattstown's post-Emancipation African American community. This cemetery is the only remaining trace of Montgomery Chapel, which was demolished in 1982.



**The Harlem Theater – Baltimore City (\$243,000)**

Opening in 1932 with a lavish Spanish-style interior, the Harlem Theatre is the last extant first-

run movie theater to serve Black Baltimoreans during segregation. Still a vital community hub, today it hosts youth and multicultural performances. AJOR Real Estate Group will use funds for roof and window repair.



**Charles "Hoppy" Adams Jr. House – Annapolis, Anne Arundel County (\$250,000)**

This project aims to convert Adams's home – a refuge

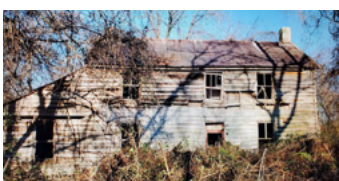
for Black entertainers during segregation – into a historic house museum that will interpret his legacy and African American life in Jim Crow Annapolis. The Charles W. "Hoppy" Adams Jr. Foundation will use funds to acquire adjacent land, once owned by Adams's parents, for a visitor's center and parking.



**Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, George Rice House – Calvert County (\$50,000)**

The Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm educates youth about 20th-century African American farming, highlighting the Gray family's Reconstruction-

era successes despite racial discrimination. Interpretive signage and trails share this legacy with visitors. The County Commissioners of Calvert County will use project funds to make the site and walking trails ADA-compliant.



**Mander House Museum – Kent County (\$247,000)**

Congo "Mango" Mander, a formerly enslaved man, bought the Mander House property in the late 1700s. Still in his family today, it will become a museum telling the story of local African American freedmen. Funds will support structural repairs, a new roof, and a conditions assessment ahead of a full rehabilitation.



**Malone Methodist Episcopal Church – Dorchester County (\$250,000)**

Built in 1895, the single-story, gable-roofed Malone’s Methodist Episcopal Church has ties to Harriet Tubman’s

family, including in-laws who are buried in the cemetery adjacent to the church. Harrisville/ Malone Cemetery Maintenance Fund, Inc., will use project funds to support a new foundation, masonry repairs, and roof rehabilitation.



**Brooks UMC – Calvert County (\$77,000)**

Serving one of the oldest African American Methodist congregations

in Calvert County, Brooks UMC’s 1968 building is located on the site of a former segregated school. The church runs a food pantry, a voter registration site, and a choir space. Funds will support mechanical upgrades, accessibility improvements, and pre-development costs.



**Button Farm Living History Center – Montgomery County (\$106,000)**

The Menare Foundation will conduct critical renovations at Button Farm, a living history

center in Seneca Creek State Park. Funds will provide a new pavilion roof, farmhouse framing, window repairs, electrical work, and barn repairs to preserve the stories of formerly enslaved people and their descendants who built this post-Emancipation community.



**Blandair, Slave Quarters – Howard County (\$250,000)**

Howard County Government will restore the slave quarters associated with the Blandair Estate in what is now Blandair Regional

Park. The rare double-pen building, made of sawn planks with a central double fireplace, will be preserved to honor all who lived there, both free and enslaved. Funds will support the rehabilitation of the roof and siding, as well as window repairs.



**Mt. Nebo AME Church – Prince George’s County (\$50,000)**

Built in 1925, Mt. Nebo AME Church is a rare surviving example of a rural AME church in Prince

George’s County that served as a refuge during the Jim Crow era. Funds will support Friends of Historic Mt. Nebo Preservation Corporation in stabilizing the building ahead of a full rehabilitation for use as a community center.



**Ebenezer AME Church – Frederick County (\$195,000)**

Dr. William Henry Bell, a formerly enslaved man who went on to become a college professor, originally established Ebenezer AME Church with other community members in the early

20th century. The church, built in 1920, features a front-gabled roof and pointed-arch windows. Funding will support accessibility improvements.



**Tyree AME Church – Worcester County (\$250,000)**

Tyree AME Church, built in 1915 in the Germantown community, features Gothic Revival architecture

and tripartite colored-glass windows. Before the Germantown Rosenwald School opened, it also served as an educational space. Funds will support the church with structural repairs to the foundation and original bell tower.



**Cowdensville AME Church – Baltimore County (\$87,000)**

Cowdensville AME Church, built between 1904 and 1907, has roots in the 1857 free Black community of Crowden Town. Throughout the years, the church served as a hub for worship,

Civil Rights meetings, and community support services. Friends of Cowdensville AME will use funds to support the repair of the narthex.



**Hosanna School Museum – Harford County (\$225,000)**

Built in 1867 on donated land and with Freedmen’s Bureau support, the Hosanna School educated freed African Americans and now operates as a museum teaching local history, addressing issues of slavery through the Jim Crow era. The Hosanna Community House, Inc. will use funds to support accessibility upgrades, including accessible bathrooms and an updated chair lift.



**Barksdale Grocery Store and Tavern – Howard County (\$185,000)**

Established in 1943, the Barksdale Grocery Store and Tavern was a hub for the local African American community in Jessup. Operated by Edgar D. Barksdale, the first person of color to hold a liquor license in Howard County, the site housed multiple other businesses. Funds will support the rehabilitation of the historic building into a new community and commercial space.



**Asbury UMC – Frederick County (\$36,000)**

A pillar of the community for more than 200 years, Asbury UMC in the City of Frederick Historic District began as an integrated worship space before becoming restricted for African American use during segregation. The church building, constructed in 1921, features Gothic windows and a central brick tower. Asbury UMC will use grant funds for accessibility upgrades and a new gutter system.



**The Custom House – Kent County (\$232,000)**

Built more than 275 years ago to govern trade and shipping via the Chester River, the Custom House in Chestertown may contain an underground holding cell for enslaved people. The house, now home to Washington College’s Starr Center for the Study of the American Experience, hosts public programming on African American history. Funds will support an archaeological investigation, as well as framing and waterproofing the chamber.



**Galilee United Methodist Cemetery – St. Mary’s County (\$24,000)**

Established by an African American congregation in Mechanicsville, Galilee Methodist Episcopal Church Cemetery (c. 1880) holds graves of many, including Civil War veteran J. T. Cully of the 9th United States Colored Infantry. Once conserved, it will support genealogical research and historical interpretation. Funds will support St. Mary’s College of Maryland with cemetery conservation and site mapping, fence repair, and the installation of interpretive kiosks.



**St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Lappans – Washington County (\$75,000)**

Built in 1849, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church served local white landowners as well as free and enslaved Black congregants. A stained-glass window honors two enslaved Black congregants, the first to be married in the church and who are buried in the cemetery. Funds will support the church with repointing and electrical upgrades to preserve the site.



**Coulbourne and Jewett House – Talbot County (\$242,000)**

The Coulbourne and Jewett House (c. 1875) at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum was home to Black entrepreneur William Coulbourne, whose seafood packing business with Frederick Jewett became St. Michaels’ largest employer. Funds will help convert this Victorian-style building from a museum store into an education center focused on the lives of Black watermen.



**Freetown, Education, Research, and Cultural Museum – Worcester County (\$250,000)**

Located in the historic African American community of Freetown, this late 19th-century home once sheltered people formerly enslaved along the Pocomoke River. Funds will support the Freetown Education, Research, and Cultural Center of Snow Hill to rehabilitate the building, turning it into a museum that preserves and shares the area’s rich African American heritage.



**Asbury UMC – Baltimore County (\$186,000)**

Asbury UMC began in 1828 as a meeting house for enslaved and freed persons living in the White Marsh area, with the current church built in 1913. In 1872, members formed the Union of Brothers and Sisters of Ford’s Asbury Lodge #1 for community aid and burial support. Funds will support Asbury UMC’s exterior rehabilitation, including repairs to the roof and windows, and the addition of accessibility ramps.



### **Mt. Zion UMC Laurel – Anne Arundel County (\$180,000)**

Mt. Zion Church, built in 1913, has continually served the Bacontown community since its opening, honoring the legacy of Maria Bacon, an African American woman who established roots here after emancipation. Funding supports NST Collaborative in the rehabilitation of the historic church and the preliminary design schematics for a space that documents, preserves, and promotes Bacontown’s African American heritage, as well as the lived experiences that shaped its history and identity.



### **Success Story: Bethel Center (Garrett County)**

Funded by an AAHPP grant in FY22, the Bethel Center project shed light on the story of Garrett County’s African American community at the turn of the 20th century. The Center’s wood-frame building, built by the Bethel AME Church in the 1890s, served as a church, school, and community hub in the town of Oakland. Like many African American sites, it faced a difficult history and closed in the 1920s–30s, as residents left the area amid growing racial tensions and limited job opportunities. An Amish farmer purchased the building in the 1930s and relocated it to his farm, where his family used it as a blacksmith shop for nearly a century.

In 2023, the building was carefully disassembled and moved to Mountain Lake Park, where the mayor and a dedicated team, including Kate Smith, Oakland’s first African American elected official, led a meticulous reconstruction effort. Challenges such as the lack of a foundation, altered windows and doors, and weathering of bare wood were addressed through thoughtful design and skilled craftsmanship.

The Bethel Center is a powerful example of the AAHPP’s impact, preserving a vital piece of African American history in Garrett County. Thanks to creative partnerships and enthusiastic leaders in the Mountain Lake Park Historical Association, the site now features new siding, paint, and roofing, standing as a tangible example of persistence in the face of adversity.

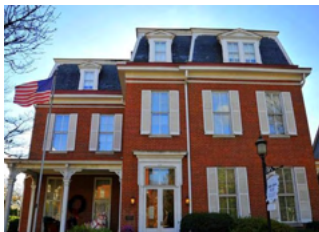
# Historic Preservation Capital Grants and Loans



The Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program provides support for nonprofit organizations, government entities, business organizations, and individuals for acquisition, restoration, and rehabilitation projects. Properties must be listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register (see p. 22). The program also allows nonprofits and government entities to receive funding for architectural, engineering, archaeology, and consulting services. For FY25, the Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program received a \$600,000 appropriation and re-awarded \$145,905 from prior year funds. Of the 55 applications requesting more than \$4 million in funding, MHT approved ten projects.

The Historic Preservation Loan Program offers low-interest loans to nonprofit organizations, business and government entities, and individuals to refinance, acquire, or rehabilitate properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register. Qualified nonprofit organizations are also eligible for a transfer of funds for certain purposes, including acquisition and rehabilitation of historic properties. In FY25, MHT did not receive any qualified loan applications or any transfer applications.

## FY25 Grant Awards



### Gordon Roberts House – Allegany County (\$86,000)

The Gordon-Roberts House, home of the Allegany County Historical Society, is a rare Second

Empire-style landmark building built in 1867 for Maryland State Senator Josiah Gordon. The Allegany County Historical Society will use grant funds to restore the porch, repair the gutters and soffits, and address ceiling plaster issues to help preserve this historic Cumberland site for public programs, office space, and ongoing interpretation of Allegany County's history.



### Kent News Building – Kent County (\$74,000)

Constructed in 1859, the Kent News Building has served as a church, school, newspaper office, and film theater.

Today, the Sultana Education Foundation uses the building as its headquarters and for classroom space for history and environmental science programming. The building suffers from deterioration of its brick walls. The foundation will use grant funding to replace bricks in the foundation and repoint using lime mortar to preserve the building's integrity.



**Hays House – Harford County (\$41,000)**

The Historical Society of Harford County will use grant funding for urgent repairs to the Hays House

(c. 1788), Bel Air’s oldest residence. Currently a museum run by the historical society, the house requires siding, stairs, trim, and chimney repairs to address water damage, rot, and safety concerns while preserving its historic fabric.



**Howard County Courthouse – Howard County (\$100,000)**

Built in 1843, the Howard County Courthouse is a Greek Revival landmark tied to significant Underground Railroad trials. Howard County will use grant funding to restore the courthouse exterior by repairing

masonry, windows, doors, shutters, and metal elements, preserving this important piece of legal history.



**Easton Armory – Talbot County (\$83,000)**

Constructed in 1927 with Medieval Revival elements, the Easton Armory now hosts the Waterfowl Festival.

Waterfowl Chesapeake will use grant funds to remove old roofing, repair damaged decking, and install a new roof, metal coping, gutters, and downspouts, ensuring the building’s continued use for community events.



**Teackle Tenement – Somerset County (\$100,000)**

The Somerset County Historical Trust will use grant funds to repair the foundation, replace the cedar shingle roof, and address the structural framing of the c. 1810

tenement house at Teackle Mansion. Once restored, it will serve as a museum interpreting the lives of artisans, slaves, and servants who worked at the historic estate.



**Tudor Hall – St. Mary’s County (\$75,000)**

Built c. 1785, Tudor Hall is a Georgian-style estate linked to Revolutionary War figures and the Key family. It is now home to

the St. Mary’s County Historical Society, which will use grant funding to support a condition assessment, rehabilitation planning, and cost estimates to guide future preservation efforts at the historic home.



**Easton Railroad Station – Talbot County (\$40,000)**

The Easton Railroad Station, a brick and cedar-shingle building built in 1920, has historically been

a key community and commercial hub. The Town of Easton will use grant funds to replace shingles, repair structural damage, install copper flashing, and restore gutters to preserve this historic Rails-to-Trails landmark in the Easton Historic District.



**First and Franklin Presbyterian Church – Baltimore City (\$100,000)**

The Committee of the Presbyterian Church in the City of Baltimore will use grant funds to repair hazardous brownstone elements at First and Franklin Presbyterian Church, a

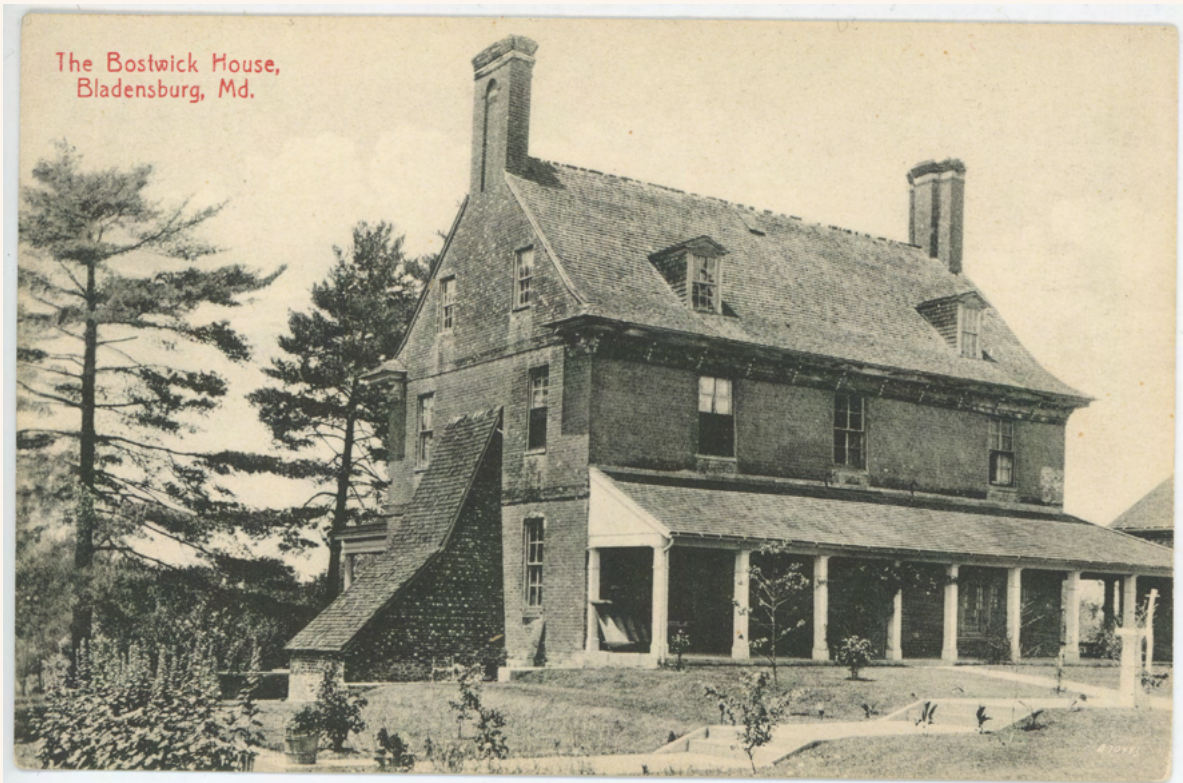
National Register-listed landmark of Gothic Revival architecture and LGBTQ+ history. Built in 1859, the church is home to Baltimore’s original Presbyterian congregation and a longtime advocacy hub.



**La Grange Plantation and Smokehouse – Dorchester County (\$29,905)**

LaGrange, or Meredith House, is one of a few Georgian houses remaining in Cambridge. This 18th-century house has changed over time, with additions

representative of the late Victorian period. Currently operated as a house museum by the Dorchester County Historical Society, grant funds will support repairs to the dormers and smokehouse.



*"The Bostwick House" Postcard (UMD Special Collections, unknown date)*

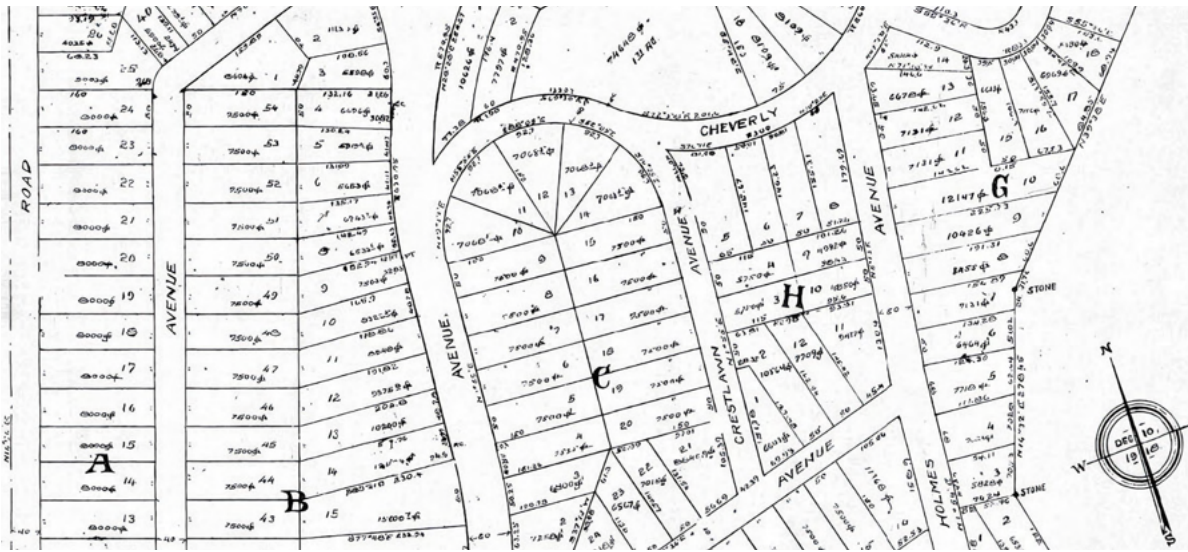
### **Success Story: Bostwick House (Prince George's County)**

Built in 1746 for merchant Christopher Lowndes, Bostwick House is one of four pre-Revolutionary structures in Bladensburg. Overlooking the Anacostia River at the former Port of Bladensburg, the two-and-a-half-story brick house later became home to Benjamin Stoddert, the first Secretary of the Navy, in the 1790s. Today, it serves as a classroom for the UMD Historic Preservation Program and a site for Anacostia Watershed Society programming.

During his ownership, Benjamin Stoddert added a unique buttress to the south end of the house, likely to stabilize the brick masonry on the sloping site. The buttress reflects an early and unusual structural solution that has become one of Bostwick's most distinctive features. After a severe storm in 2012 caused major damage, a temporary steel support stood in its place for nearly a decade. The restoration required careful documentation, brick salvage, and archaeological study. With the buttress reconstruction completed, the partnership at Bostwick House can focus on a larger planning effort around the future of the site.



# National Register of Historic Places



As the federally designated State Historic Preservation Office, MHT nominates Maryland properties to the National Register, a federal designation program which recognizes a property's historic character, offers access to financial incentives, and provides a measure of protection from harm by federal- or state-funded or permitted projects. Properties newly listed in FY25 are highlighted below.

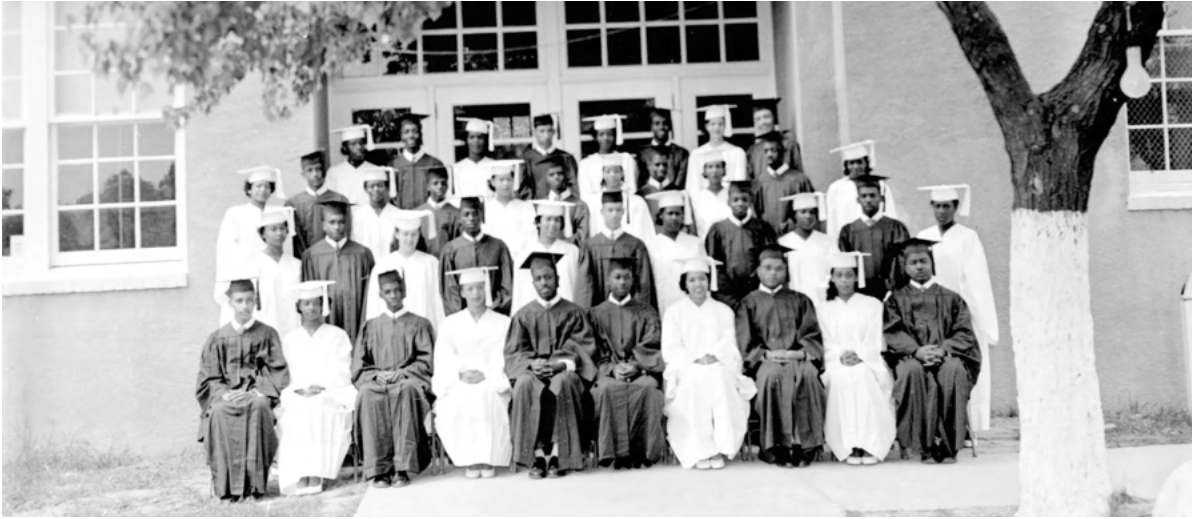
Located just outside Washington, D.C., the **Cheverly Historic District** (Prince George's County) features curving streets (above), mature trees, and cohesive Colonial Revival architecture. Thoughtfully planned in the early 20th century, the town includes over 1,300 contributing buildings – among them a rare concentration of Sears kit houses. The district illustrates the area's growth as a commuter suburb and its transformation from a segregated community to a center of Black political and civic leadership in the mid-20th century.

Pioneering architect Helen Ross Staley designed **Harundale Presbyterian Church** (Anne Arundel County), which was constructed in phases from 1949 to 1958. The church stands as a striking example of postwar modernist religious architecture in Maryland. With clean lines, exposed brick, and a dramatic A-frame sanctuary featuring a colored-glass window and aluminum steeple, the building embodies both national architectural trends and Staley's reinterpretation of traditional church forms. It remains a testament to her legacy and Mid-Century religious design.

The **Pomonkey Historic District** (Charles County) is a historically significant African American community founded in 1868 around a Freedmen's Bureau school and Metropolitan UMC. Spanning more than a century of development, Pomonkey reflects the resilience and determination of its residents, who built religious, educational, and social institutions during segregation. The district's continued growth into the late 20th century demonstrates a collective effort to foster opportunity, identity, and self-determination in rural Black Maryland.

**West Nottingham Presbyterian Church** (Cecil County) represents a rare rural example of vernacular Italianate ecclesiastical architecture. The stone church was originally constructed between 1800 and 1804 and modified in the mid-19th century. Together with its 1880 chapel and 1930 connecting hyphen, the complex illustrates changing architectural styles and the growth of its Presbyterian congregation. A historic cemetery on the 10-acre site marks over a century of religious and community life from 1800 to 1930.





*Bel Alton High School Class of 1957. Thomas and Maxine Headen Collection, College of Southern Maryland.*

Built in 1938, **Bel Alton High School** (Charles County) symbolizes African American educational activism during segregation. Designed with uncommon amenities for a rural Black school of its time like electricity and indoor plumbing, it reflected the community's determination to secure quality education. Expanded through 1959, the school also enrolled Indigenous students, underscoring the broader inequalities in segregated education. Operating as a segregated high school until 1966, it embodies both the architectural evolution of rural Black schools and the long struggle for educational equity led by African American parents, teachers, and students.

Perched atop a wooded rise in Bethesda, **River Road Unitarian Church** (Montgomery County) exemplifies Mid-Century Modern architecture aligned with the values of its progressive congregation. Designed by the renowned firm Keyes, Lethbridge and Condon and completed in 1965, the building features sloping roofs, a distinctive bell tower, and integrated gathering and worship spaces. The winner of four major design awards when it was built, it remains a landmark of postwar modernism and community-centered design in the Washington, D.C. region.



The **Bladensburg Battlefield** (Prince George's County) holds national significance for its role in the War of 1812, marking a pivotal moment when British forces defeated American troops and advanced to burn Washington, D.C. The battle highlighted the bravery of men such as Commodore Joshua Barney and Charles Ball, an African American who escaped enslavement to fight for American freedom. The battlefield serves as a powerful reminder of national resilience and early struggles to define American identity.

The **Midtown Edmondson Historic District** (Baltimore City) encompasses a mix of rowhouses, warehouses, commercial, and religious buildings constructed primarily between the 1890s and 1940s. It reflects Baltimore's early suburban expansion, streetcar-era development, and the post-WWII racial transition of West Baltimore from white to predominantly African American. The district exhibits a range of rowhouse styles (right) and stands as a strong example of a late 19th- and early 20th-century suburban neighborhood.



The **Hughesville Commercial and Tobacco Warehouse Historic District** (Charles County) contains a cohesive collection of early to mid-20th-century commercial and industrial buildings. Centered along Old Leonardtown Road, the district includes tobacco warehouses, packing plants, stores, offices, a firehouse, and a former auto dealership. It illustrates Hughesville's role as a regional commercial and tobacco-marketing hub, and its modest vernacular architecture and rural setting preserve the character of this once-thriving crossroads community.

The **Naval Ordnance Laboratory** (Montgomery County), nationally significant as the first and foremost Cold War-era naval weapons research and development facility in the U.S., is recognized for its scientific contributions and postwar architecture. Work conducted by leading American and German scientists, along with specialized buildings designed by Eggers & Higgins, reflects a pivotal period in military innovation and mid-20th-century engineering.



*Postcard from 1960s of Naval Ordnance Laboratory*

**Joanna and Dennis D. H. Clemson Farm** (Frederick County) represents a well-preserved example of a prosperous Piedmont Maryland farm from the mid-1800s. The L-form brick dwelling, with a post-Civil War ell and intact 19th- and early 20th-century outbuildings, embodies regional domestic and agricultural architecture. Set on rolling land along the Clemson Branch, the rural setting and surviving structures convey strong historic character and integrity.



MHT made key amendments to several National Register nominations under the *Women's Suffrage Movement in Maryland* Multiple Property Submission (MPS), expanding our understanding of the movement's reach across Baltimore and beyond. The MPS highlights Baltimore as the organizational heart of the state's suffrage movement, where dense reform networks, access to transportation and media, and a concentration of civic institutions made the city a natural center for advocacy and organizing.

Updates to historic districts in Baltimore included the **Old West Baltimore Historic District**, a hub of African American civic activism, including for women's rights; the **Mount Vernon Place Historic District**, home to suffrage organizations and parades; and the **Goucher College Historic District** where faculty and students led advocacy efforts.



Westminster Historic District

The MPS also recognizes sites like the **Belvedere Hotel**, host of the 1906 National American Woman Suffrage Association convention, as well as **Sharp Street Memorial UMC and Community House**, **Brown's Arcade** (headquarters of the Equal Suffrage League of Baltimore), the **Fifth Regiment Armory**, and the **Lyric Theatre** – all important venues for organizing and advocacy. Together, these nominations strengthen the narrative of where and how suffrage activism thrived in Maryland. Outside Baltimore, the **Westminster Historic District** (Carroll County) was listed under the MPS. With nearly 1,400 structures, the district's homes and meeting spaces reflect the civic activism of local women who advanced suffrage and social reform in Carroll County during the early 20th century.

**Highlight: Historic Highway Bridges of Maryland, 1694 – 1965**



Recently listed, the **Historic Highway Bridges of Maryland, 1694–1965** MPS illustrates the state's transportation and engineering evolution. Three bridges reflect the diversity of this legacy: the Sykesville Bypass Bridge, the Pocomoke River Bridge, and the Snow Hill Drawbridge.

The **Sykesville Bypass Bridge** (Howard County) remains the only aluminum bridge built in Maryland and one of just seven in North America. Its triangular box girder design utilizes lightweight, corrosion-resistant aluminum and semi-monocoque construction, in which the outer shell and internal framework share structural loads, reducing dead weight while maintaining strength. On the Eastern Shore, the **Pocomoke River Bridge** and **Snow Hill Drawbridge** (both in Worcester County) demonstrate the shift from water to road transport in the 1920s and 1930s. These trunnion bascule bridges, which pivot on fixed axles to lift their movable spans, balanced river navigation needs with increasing automobile traffic during Maryland's statewide push to modernize infrastructure. Together, these bridges embody engineering innovation, regional economic shifts, and the rise of modern roadways.

# Architectural Research



Through architectural surveys and documentation, MHT identifies important historic properties and develops detailed records of their appearance, history, and significance. This data informs decisions about the treatment and preservation of historic places across the state. Of the nearly 300 standing structures, survey districts, and updates added to the MIHP in FY25, MHT played a meaningful role in reviewing forms, providing detailed comments, and coordinating with consultants throughout the process. For more information on architectural updates to the MIHP, see p. 34.

## FY25 Grant Awards

In FY25, MHT received 29 applications for the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, totaling \$1.25 million in requests, and provided \$194,000 in funding to five projects for architectural survey and documentation. Information on the grants for archaeological survey can be found on p. 30.



### Maryland LGBTQ Heritage MPS and National Register Nomination – Baltimore City (\$30,600)

Baltimore Heritage will use a previously completed historic context study to produce an MPS to the National Register for LGBTQ history in Maryland.

The project includes preparing a new National Register nomination for an individual resource in Baltimore and updating the draft nominations for Leon’s Bar, the Chase Brexton Building, and Monumental Elks Lodge #3.



### African American Historic Resources of Southern Maryland National Heritage Area – (\$58,000)

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland will research and document African American historic resources in Southern Maryland

through a National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, one supporting National Register nomination for an individual resource, and five to seven MIHP forms. Project results will be shared in a public presentation.



### Documenting the Maryland Park Service’s Modern Structures – Allegany, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Washington Counties (\$60,000)

This project will involve a survey of Cunningham Falls, Greenbrier, Gunpowder Falls, and Patapsco Valley State Parks, focusing on structures built between 1950 and 1980 in the distinctive Park Service Modern style. Preservation Maryland will use project funds to hire a consultant to prepare four to six MIHP survey forms and a historic survey report.



**Enhancing the Social Context of Historic Sites – Montgomery County (\$30,400)**  
Building on an archival project focusing on Black history, Sandy

Spring Museum will update documentation in the MIHP on historic resources in the Sandy Spring area to include a broader social context and the contributions of African Americans. The project will produce approximately seven Addendum forms for selected properties.



**Documenting Baltimore's Laurel Cemetery – Baltimore City (\$15,000)**  
The Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project will prepare

a National Register nomination for Laurel Cemetery, Baltimore's first nondenominational cemetery for African Americans, founded in 1852. This project will also include continued cemetery research, burial database digitization, and two public walking tours.

## Architectural Research Activities



*Rising Sun Train Station (Photo: HSCC)*

In addition to projects funded through the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, staff conducted high-priority site visits to document historic resources and assist property owners, state agencies, and preservation partners in every region of the state. These properties included: advising ongoing restoration work at the **State House and Treasury Building** (Annapolis); **Wye House** (Talbot County), a National Historic Landmark built in the 1780s as the plantation residence of the Lloyd family, who were among Maryland's largest slaveholders and key figures in early politics; the endangered **Neikirk Farmstead** (Washington County), a historic

agricultural log dwelling thought to date to the late 1700s; the **Rising Sun Train Station** (Cecil County), which served the Octoraro Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad from 1865; **Blandair** (Howard County), a former plantation in Columbia now preserved as a public park; **Wheatley's Methodist Church** (Dorchester County), an 18th-century church with exposed heavy timber framing; **Bounds Lott** (Wicomico County), an early brick-ended frame dwelling; **Foggy Bottom Farm** (Anne Arundel County), which has an intact assemblage of early-20th-century agricultural outbuildings; **Ogleston House** (Cecil County), an 18th-century hall-parlor dwelling with double front doors that is now threatened; the **Overlea** (Baltimore County) neighborhood that features Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman styles; **Wharf House** (Queen Anne's County), built in 1771 as part of Centreville Wharf, a key trade and shipping center; the Federal period **Tucker House** (Queen Anne's County); **Reed House** (Howard County), a significant example of early suburban planned development; the log-plank **Elkridge Furnace Slave Quarters** (Howard County), part of Maryland's earliest industrial ironworks complex, where enslaved laborers produced pig iron; **Longwood** (Howard County), a plantation started by Dr. Gustavus Warfield, a notable country physician and slaveowner in early Maryland; **Bush Hotel** (Harford County), the last remaining building of the former colonial town of Bush; **Asbury Broadneck UMC** (Anne Arundel County), which houses a significant African American congregation and a historic cemetery; the National Register-listed **Mary's Mount** (Anne Arundel County), once home to the Harwood and Bird families; **Dolbey House** (Wicomico County), a pedimented gable-front dwelling with an earlier one-and-a-half-story rear wing; and **Bryan's Chapel** (Queen Anne's County), an African American church supporting a congregation dating back to roughly 1800.



*Longwood (Baltimore Banner)*

MHT staff advanced several ongoing documentation efforts this year. MHT staff conducted a follow-up survey of **Smith Island** (Somerset County), one of the last inhabited islands in the Chesapeake Bay, to address lingering questions in its National Register nomination. Work continued on Eastern Shore potato houses, including a site visit to the **Taylor Processing Complex** in Salisbury (Wicomico County), and a new project launched to study the early architectural heritage of Queen Anne's County.

The Architectural Survey Data Analysis project – a comprehensive review of all MIHP records for standing structures – advanced this year with analyses of Cecil, Charles, Dorchester, Frederick, Talbot, Washington, and Wicomico counties [[bit.ly/MHT-DataProject](https://bit.ly/MHT-DataProject)]. This project not only identifies underrepresented themes, property types, and communities in the MIHP, but also adds new searchable data fields like architectural style and materials to MHT’s online database Medusa (see p. 34). These enhancements enable more robust comparative analyses of historic resources and deeper insights into statewide development patterns.

## Public Programs

In FY25, MHT hosted several public programs related to documenting Maryland’s buildings and communities. Each event highlighted projects funded through the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, initiatives by partner agencies, and MHT staff updates.

In March 2025, MHT hosted the annual **Architectural Fieldwork Symposium** for more than 100 attendees, featuring project updates and seven presentations on topics such as early Maryland tobacco barns, African American beach resorts, tenant houses in Queen Anne’s County, and colonial Maryland brick construction. The event brought together field surveyors, architectural historians, preservation planners, and other practitioners from across the state to discuss recent projects, themes, and methodology.

In July 2024 and February 2025, MHT hosted two **Documenting Underrepresented Communities** events, each drawing more than 120 attendees. Both featured presentations and a moderated roundtable on topics including documentation of Black life in Bellevue; Asian American communities in Baltimore City and the Maryland suburbs of Washington, D.C.; and the legacy of Bel Alton High School, which served colored students in eastern Charles County until 1966.

Additionally, in December staff presented research on early craftsmen in Annapolis at the **Vernacular Architecture Forum – Chesapeake Chapter Symposium** held at George Washington’s Mount Vernon.



## Success Story: Documenting Threatened Sites on the Lower Eastern Shore

With support from the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, the Somerset County Historical Trust completed Phase II of its Threatened Sites Survey, which produced ten MIHP Architecture Forms. This multi-phase project documents Lower Eastern Shore sites threatened by climate change, neglect, and redevelopment.

The second phase of work focused on Dorchester County’s Neck District, a peninsula west of Cambridge, once inhabited by Algonquian peoples. The area supported agriculture and shipbuilding, with surveyed sites ranging from the colonial-era Spocott plantation to early 20th-century landmarks such as Lloyds Store (a 1938 general store serving watermen and farmers), Emory AME Church (built in 1903 by a Black congregation on land donated by Civil War veteran Isaiah Turner), and Snug Harbor (a c.1945 hunting lodge).



## Success Story: Documenting Slavery at St. John's College Campus

With funding from the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, St. John's College in Annapolis launched a comprehensive effort to examine its 329-year history. Spearheaded by the College History Task Force, the project combined in-depth historical research with a professional architectural survey of 19 campus resources, including 16 historic buildings, two monuments, and one site. The survey documented the physical characteristics of each resource, condition, and changes over time, produced updated MIHP forms, and evaluated each resource for National Register eligibility. At the same time, researchers examined the school's ties to Indigenous and enslaved people and how those connections shaped campus development and building names.

In the college's early years, major donors like Charles Carroll of Carrollton, William Paca, and Thomas Stone – men who all profited from enslaved labor – helped fund the institution. Five campus buildings predate 1864, when slavery was abolished in Maryland: McDowell Hall (1789), Humphreys Hall (1837), Chase-Stone House (1857), Pinkney Hall (1858), and the Paca-Carroll House (1855). Current research has not uncovered details about the labor used to construct these buildings, but documentation exists for some of the men connected to them. While definitive records of construction labor are limited, the survey confirmed that several architects and builders associated with these early structures were enslavers, reflecting the broader context of building practices in Annapolis at the time.

McDowell Hall, for example, served as the first building on St. John's campus and was named for the college's first president, John McDowell, who enslaved at least one individual, Joseph Williams, during his tenure at St. Johns from 1790 to 1806. When McDowell left St. John's to accept a position at the University of Pennsylvania, Williams appears to have accompanied him, despite Pennsylvania's law prohibiting the transport of enslaved people into the state. Likely in response to this law, McDowell manumitted Williams a year later, in 1807.

Together, the architectural survey and historical research created a more detailed and accurate record of St. John's College, documenting its buildings as well as the social and economic forces that shaped them. The full report with details on all buildings studied can be found on MHT's website [[bit.ly/4a5YV3W](https://bit.ly/4a5YV3W)].

# Archaeological Research



Through archaeological surveys and documentation, MHT helps identify important historic and prehistoric sites with its terrestrial and maritime archaeology programs.

## FY25 Grant Awards

In FY25, the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program provided \$106,000 in funding to four archaeological survey and documentation projects. See p. 26 for information on architectural survey grants.



**GPR of Fort Cumberland, Wills Creek Museum/Emmanuel Episcopal Campus – Allegany County (\$18,000)**  
28 Washington

St., Inc. will use ground penetrating radar to survey around Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland to locate cultural remains buried beneath lawns, sidewalks, and roads. The non-invasive work aims to locate archaeological features possibly linked to 18th-century Fort Cumberland and later site use.



**Archaeological Investigation of 18WO220, South Point Site – Worcester County (\$20,000)**  
The Beach to Bay Heritage Area will support fieldwork

by the Archeological Society of Maryland (ASM) at the South Point Site in Worcester County, which faces threats from erosion and sea level rise. Efforts to salvage archaeological data at the site include mapping, documenting, and excavating an Early Woodland/Meadowood site with a midden. The team will document findings in a detailed technical report before the site is lost to climate change.



**Keyser Complex Chronology Project – Frederick County (\$30,000)**

The College of William and Mary will refine the Late Woodland period chronology in Maryland's Potomac River valley

through new radiocarbon dating, ceramic analysis, and drought data. Focusing on the Keyser Ceramic complex, it will model how climate, trade, and settlement patterns shaped community interactions during the period's final centuries.



**Infusing Archaeology in Education to Cultivate Authentic Inquiry – Allegany County (\$38,000)**

Towson University will host a multi-day workshop at North Point State Park, offering K-12 teachers hands-on archaeological experience in fieldwork, lab, and classroom settings. Participants earn Continuing Professional Development credits from the Maryland State Department of Education and join a cohort promoting responsible archaeology through classroom engagement.

## Archaeological Research Activities

Staff continued to update and maintain the Maryland Archaeological Synthesis Database [[bit.ly/MHT-Synthesis](https://bit.ly/MHT-Synthesis)], which compiles information from thousands of excavations and added 40 sites in FY25. MHT continues its efforts to survey lands owned or controlled by state agencies, including the Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as well as local governments, to identify the full range of archaeological sites present on these properties. In addition, staff carried out survey work on two federally owned properties and numerous projects on privately owned properties, in some cases partnering with municipalities or state agencies.

**Rochambeau Project, Cecil and Harford Counties.** With multiple fieldwork sessions in Cecil and Harford Counties, MHT archaeologists conducted remote sensing investigations as a part of the broader initiative funded by the NPS American Battlefield Protection Program grant. Three separate survey areas were investigated in Elkton, and one site was investigated each in Darlington and Abingdon. Notably, the team identified potential features that may relate to Revolutionary War encampments slated for excavation in FY27.

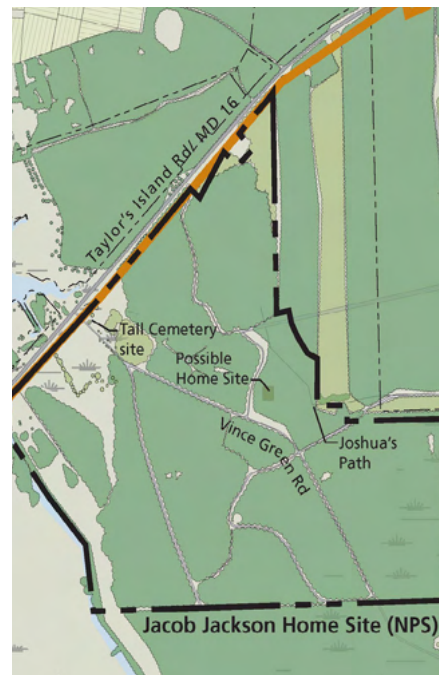
**Jacob Jackson Home Site, Dorchester County.** MHT archaeologists conducted preliminary fieldwork at the Jacob Jackson Home Site. Jacob Jackson, a free Black man, assisted Harriet Tubman by transmitting a coded message that helped in the escape of her brothers through the Underground Railroad. MHT conducted the work under an Archaeological Resources Protection Act permit and in coordination with Maryland State Parks. Investigations focused on identifying and documenting archaeological resources that may contribute to future preservation and interpretation efforts.

MHT staff archaeologists also assisted with investigations and advised on projects, including plans for future excavations at the Piney Grove Paleoindian site (Baltimore County) and the Brickhouse Creek estuarine bay site (Anne Arundel County).

MHT archaeologists presented virtually and in person at conferences, including the Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting and the Middle Atlantic Archaeological Conference, and to the Maritime Archaeological and Historical Society, the Graduate Students Association of the Advisory Council on Underwater Archaeology, the Underwater Archaeology Society of Chicago, Anne Arundel County Government, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and ASM and its chapters. Topics included MHT's Maryland Fluted Point Survey [[bit.ly/4q7WWBI](https://bit.ly/4q7WWBI)], recent fieldwork, archaeology ethics and laws, and threats to submerged cultural heritage. MHT also continued planning and interpretation for the Mallows Bay–Potomac River National Marine Sanctuary, including participating in Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and East Carolina University (ECU).



*ECU students at Mallows Bay*



*NPS map of Jacob Jackson Home Site*

## Public Programs

In FY25, MHT archaeologists actively collaborated with nonprofits, local governments, and others on public outreach and educational programming, including Archeology Month, the Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archaeology, and the Annual Workshop in Archaeology.

In September 2024, MHT and ASM hosted the **33rd Annual Workshop in Archaeology**, drawing over 70 participants to MHT's Crownsville offices. Keynote speaker Dr. Stephen Brighton discussed the Irish diaspora in the U.S. and Ireland, focusing on how Irish immigrants constructed meaning through daily life and material culture. Workshop sessions covered topics such as survey and mapmaking basics, transcriptions, ground penetrating radar, and ethics and the law in archaeology.

Every April, Maryland celebrates Archeology Month, highlighting the state's shared archaeological heritage. The 2025 theme, *Clay, Temper, Fire: Exploring Maryland's Indigenous Ceramics*, inspired 14 public events statewide. MHT and partners produced themed materials – a poster (designed by MHT staff), mini-posters, magnets, and a booklet – reaching more than 1,000 stakeholders via the event website [[bit.ly/MDarchmonth](https://bit.ly/MDarchmonth)], sponsors, ASM chapters, and universities.

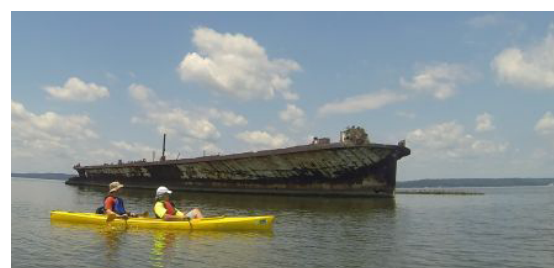
The poster (right) earned second place in the Society for American Archaeology State Archaeology Celebration Poster contest. The booklet [[bit.ly/4foQzW4](https://bit.ly/4foQzW4)] featured articles on Historic St. Mary's ceramics, Delmarva Peninsula pottery, an explanation of how to use the Diagnostic Artifacts in Maryland website [[bit.ly/MD-Artifacts](https://bit.ly/MD-Artifacts)], and a discussion of ways that pottery makers used different substances mixed with clay to achieve different effects. MHT also published a guest blog [[bit.ly/42rb9Pt](https://bit.ly/42rb9Pt)] by a Wicomico County teacher and ASM member on her students' archaeology PSA poster contest, which MHT staff helped judge.

Led and coordinated by MHT, the annual **Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archaeology** combines public outreach, education, and research through the investigation of a significant archaeological site. The 2025 field session (see *Success Story*, p. 33) took place in May and June in partnership with Preservation Maryland, ASM, and NPS at the Teague's Point Site (Charles County).

In addition to these annual programs, MHT held its third Scouting America Archaeology Merit Badge Workshop in May 2025. All 15 scouts who participated completed all 11 requirements to earn the Archaeology Merit Badge. To date, 64 scouts have completed the merit badge, and 11 have received partial completions through this workshop.

MHT archaeologists continued their outreach work with the Park Pals (ages 4–6) and Junior Ranger (ages 7–14) programs. In July, archaeologists participated in the program at Elk Neck State Park (Cecil County), Martinak State Park (Caroline County), Tuckahoe State Park (Caroline and Queen Anne's Counties), and Cypress Branch State Park (Kent County). As an extension of this program, Tuckahoe State Park requested a program for a rotating, multi-station field trip in October, with approximately 120 students present.

MHT maritime archaeologists led paddling tours (right) of Mallows Bay (Charles County) for the Potomac Riverkeeper Network and the Maryland Center for History and Culture, conducted training as part of the Nautical Archaeology Society Recorder and Surveyor Skills Days, and hosted two Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program workshops.



Paddling tour at Mallows Bay

Throughout the year, the MHT Crownsville office has opportunities for the public to volunteer with its archaeology lab. The volunteer artifact processing lab at the MHT office in Crownsville regularly meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. In FY25, lab volunteers donated more than 1,000 hours of labor, meticulously preparing artifacts for permanent curation at the MAC Lab.

## Archaeological Research Permits

In FY25, MHT issued eight terrestrial permits to support work on DNR lands – including Sparks Bank Nature Center, North Point State Park, Ivy Hill, and Patapsco Valley State Park – as well as at Historic St. Mary’s City and Camp Fretterd. Four maritime archaeology permits, issued during FY24, remained in effect during FY25. Two are held by ECU to conduct a field school and continue microbiome sampling for doctoral research at Mallows Bay in Charles County, one is held by a doctoral student from Temple University to sample shell middens submerged along the Eastern Shore, and another is held by a doctoral student from Texas A&M University to study the submerged remains of a bugeye—a type of sailboat used for oyster dredging—at Mallows Bay.

### Success Story: 2025 Field Session at Teague’s Point (Charles County)

In May 2025, MHT archaeologists collaborated with ASM, Charles County, and DNR to conduct the 11-day Tyler Bastian Field Session in Maryland Archeology at the Teague’s Point Site. After an avocational archaeologist first identified the site, MHT surveyed it with ground penetrating radar in 2023. In May, the team excavated hundreds of artifacts, including Chesapeake pipes, diagnostic ceramics, a glass bottle seal, faunal remains, largely intact “onion bottles” (bulb-shaped glass bottles used for wine in the 17th and 18th centuries), a bone needle case, and other small finds, and annealed nails suggestive of a burned structure. Excavations at the site drew dozens of new and returning volunteers, homeschool students, scouts, and STEM clubs. WMAR News featured the survey in an evening segment [[bit.ly/3IYnWmi](https://bit.ly/3IYnWmi)]. Artifacts recovered and features exposed all points to a remarkably intact late 17th- to early 18th-century domestic site that may relate to the Swift or Smith families of colonial Charles County.



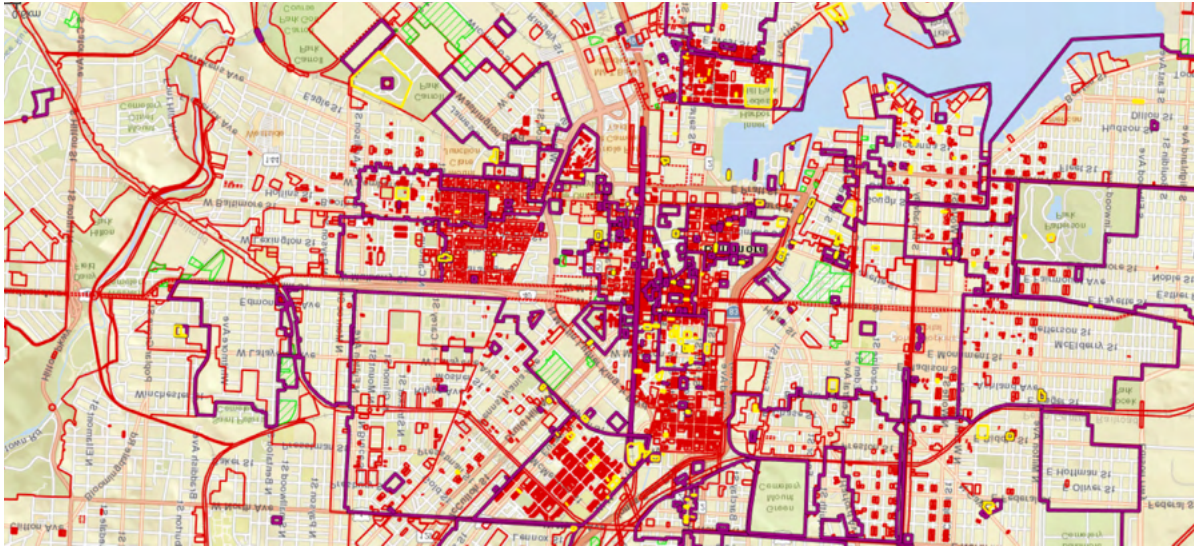
### Success Story: Documenting Maryland’s First Peoples Using Deep Testing Machinery (Allegany County)

In collaboration with the Archaeological Conservancy and ArchaeologyX, MHT archaeologists conducted significant fieldwork at the Barton Site, a deeply stratified prehistoric site in Western Maryland. While prehistoric occupation at the site has long been documented, this phase of fieldwork focused specifically on uncovering evidence of Clovis-period (or Early Ice Age) activity buried beneath several meters of soil. To investigate these deep cultural deposits safely and systematically, the team employed the PaleoDigger, an innovative mechanized system capable of excavating 50-centimeter diameter test pits in 10-centimeter increments to depths of up to seven meters.



Volunteers screened the excavated soil to recover artifacts, and the project successfully documented material over two meters below the surface, including a charcoal feature radiocarbon dated to between 8,836 and 10,284 years before present. These findings contribute significantly to our understanding of the region’s earliest inhabitants and their adaptation to changing environments. The project’s success resulted in multiple conference presentations, media attention, and strong support for bringing the PaleoDigger back to the Barton Site in the fall of 2026. To see the PaleoDigger in action at the Barton Site, visit [bit.ly/4laaREc](https://bit.ly/4laaREc).

# Cultural Resource Information Management



MHT continues to advance access to Maryland’s historic and archaeological data through Medusa, the state’s cultural resource information system [[bit.ly/MHT-Medusa](https://bit.ly/MHT-Medusa)], which now includes more than 45,700 architectural and 15,000 archaeological records in the MIHP, and more than 1,650 National Register listings and 700 MHT easements (see p. 38). In FY25, Medusa received 31,000 visits and more than 58,000 downloads, as users accessed newly added or updated materials such as 163 archaeological sites, 347 architectural survey files, and 98 survey reports covering 1,322 acres. An additional 298 standing structures and surveys – representing more than 8,538 acres – were also updated and made available online.

Responding to ESRI software upgrades, GIS staff enhanced Medusa’s functionality and search tools, continued mapping new MIHP and National Register entries, and updated both the archaeological and architectural inventory databases. In addition to Medusa, much of this data can also be accessed through Maryland’s Mapping and GIS Data Portal, MD iMAP [[bit.ly/imapMD](https://bit.ly/imapMD)]. GIS data further supported MHT’s analytical projects, including the Architectural Survey Data Analysis Project and the Archaeological Synthesis Database (see p. 28 and p. 31).

## MHT Library

In addition to digital platforms, the MHT Library in Crownsville – open by appointment Tuesday through Thursday – continues to offer in-depth research support, assisting approximately 400 patrons in FY25. The library houses more than 11,000 titles related to Maryland history and culture, architectural history, and archaeology, along with architectural drawings, photographs, slides, oral histories, and reports.

FY25 saw expanded access to library collections, including the addition of more than 100 books and the full digitization of all 14,810 Archaeology Site Forms. The library also launched a new LGBTQ+ history research guide [[bit.ly/4lg5006](https://bit.ly/4lg5006)] for Pride Month, while a library intern completed scanning and cataloging the architectural drawing collection.

# Preservation 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 voluntary CLG Program, and reviewing and commenting on local comprehensive plans and amendments. In FY25, MHT reviewed draft comprehensive plans and responded to planning assistance requests from local governments around the state, including Baltimore City, Centreville, Charlestown, Chestertown, Cumberland, Easton, Emmitsburg, Fruitland, Gaithersburg, Grantsville, Havre de Grace, Oakland, Oxford, Prince Frederick, Union Bridge, Westminster, and Calvert, Harford, Montgomery, Talbot, Washington, and Worcester counties.

Staff also participated in grant application reviews for the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Fund, which supports projects on Maryland's Eastern Shore, as well as the Heritage Fund, co-administered by MHT and Preservation Maryland.

## Heritage2031 Update

In 2024, NPS approved *Heritage2031*, Maryland's statewide preservation plan, which serves as a guidance document for agencies, organizations, and individuals engaged in historic preservation and cultural heritage activities in Maryland. The plan has five goals:

1. **prioritize underrepresented communities**
2. **support professionals and the public**
3. **enhance climate adaptation, local planning, and economic development**
4. **improve efficiency and accessibility**
5. **make the case for preservation**

Highlights of progress toward these goals in FY25 are listed here.

### Goal 1: Prioritize Community Histories and Places Underrepresented in the Historical Record

In FY25, MHT managed four NPS Underrepresented Communities grants, adding to existing documentation for Asian American communities in Maryland, American Indian heritage in Baltimore City, African American heritage in the Chestertown Historic District, and a new National Register nomination for Maryland's Rosenwald schools. MHT also provided oversight for an NPS African American Civil Rights grant focused on identifying sites in Baltimore City.



*American Indian Heritage Center. Photo by Jim Davis*



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

In FY25, MHT launched semi-annual Preservation Planners Roundtables, co-hosted with MDP and the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions. The first virtual roundtable drew more than 35 attendees and featured a case study presented by Frederick County staff on the Peace & Plenty Rural Historic District, a potential model for rural areas. The second roundtable featured a presentation from Montgomery County staff on the county's new solar panel design policy and guidelines for historic properties. Approximately 40 planners attended from around the state.

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

Although *Heritage2031's* call to relaunch MHT's *Weather It Together* Program may be curtailed by constraints in federal and state funding, MDP created a new Resilience Lead position, which will provide support to MHT's resilience planning efforts and help disseminate knowledge gathered by the program. In FY25, working with MDP, MHT contributed to the development and launch of the Sustainable Growth Planning Principles – particularly Resilience & Place – as well as the State Hazard Mitigation Plan update (led by the Maryland Department of Emergency Management), draft solar siting legislation, Sustainable Maryland community certifications (led by UMD), MDP's 2025 Climate Implementation Plan, and the Adaptation and Resiliency Working Group of the Maryland Commission on Climate Change. Staff also participated in a workshop on climate change and historic preservation design review in Chestertown, funded by the CLG program, and a workshop on Smart Growth hosted by Preservation Maryland in Frederick.



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

*Heritage2031* called for the reinstatement of MHT's Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program, last funded in 2011. Through the tireless advocacy of partner organizations, including the Maryland Museum Association and the Maryland Center for History and Culture, the Maryland General Assembly voted to restore \$300,000 in funding during the 2025 legislative session.

MHT convened a focus group of museums and cultural institutions to help advise on the program's parameters for FY26 and solicited nominations for the program's statutorily required Review Panel. Applications opened in fall 2025.

### Goal 5: Make the case for preservation

In FY25, MHT expanded its communications reach to raise public awareness about the benefits of historic preservation. The agency gained more than 2,200 new followers across Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, and grew its preservation-focused email lists by more than 1,600 subscribers. New short-format video reels featuring grant projects helped boost engagement and provided a dynamic way to highlight preservation in action. MHT also published a trio of in-depth blog posts that examined the origins and importance of the federal Historic Preservation Fund [[bit.ly/3JAfoml](https://bit.ly/3JAfoml)], underscoring the critical role the fund plays in sustaining preservation work nationwide.



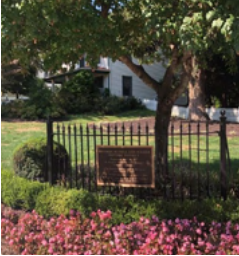
## Certified Local Government Program

Administered by NPS and MHT, the CLG Program recognizes the 24 counties and municipalities in Maryland that have made a special commitment to preservation. Each year, MHT awards 10% of its annual allocation from the Historic Preservation Fund to support CLG projects and educational initiatives. In FY25, MHT awarded four project grants and 13 grants to support education and training grants totaling \$106,052. In addition to grant administration, staff also conducted four-year CLG evaluations in FY25 for Baltimore County, Bel Air, Cambridge, Calvert County, Cumberland, City of Frederick, Gaithersburg, Harford County, and St. Mary's County.



### Frederick County Historic Preservation Plan Update – Frederick County (Up to \$22,062)

This grant funds a preservation consultant to update the county's historic preservation plan using input gathered by staff. The consultant will collaborate with a working group, draft and revise the plan, and present the final version to the historic preservation commission, planning commission, and County Council for approval.



### Survey Update for Gaithersburg's Local Historic Resources – Montgomery County (Up to \$20,000)

This project updates surveys for Gaithersburg's Local Historic Districts, correcting outdated or incomplete

documentation and evaluating previously unsurveyed properties. The work lays the foundation for revising the city's outdated Design Guidelines and demonstrates Gaithersburg's commitment to historic preservation and CLG standards through an accurate, current inventory.



### Historic Trades Training Workshops – Multiple Counties (Up to \$20,000)

Preservation Maryland will coordinate hands-on historic trades workshops in Frederick County, the City of Frederick, Montgomery County, and Washington County, focusing on skills such as window restoration,

masonry, and cemetery care. Held at active preservation sites, each workshop will serve 12 participants and advance local stewardship goals through expert instruction and tailored preservation training.



### Nomination of the Dumbhundred Historic District to the National Register – Allegany County (Up to \$11,790)

This grant supports the

Dumbhundred Historic District National Register nomination with the aim to act as a model for using public education to promote neighborhood revitalization and providing access to funding opportunities. Anticipated outcomes include increased community pride, environmental benefits, heritage tourism, and higher property values.



### CLG Educational and Training Funds – Multiple Counties (Up to \$32,200)

These grants support staff and commissioner

training in multiple CLGs through partners such as the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions. Activities include workshops, conferences, and memberships that strengthen preservation decision-making, promote community engagement, and ensure compliance with CLG standards through ongoing professional development.

## Success Story: Sykesville, Maryland's Newest CLG

In October 2024, the Town of Sykesville was officially admitted to the CLG Program as Maryland's 24th CLG. Sykesville, which evolved from a dairy farm to a mill community to a retreat reached by railroad, is also a Maryland Main Street, recognized many times over the years for its small-town charm. The CLG designation by MHT and NPS acknowledges Sykesville's commitment to preserving the historic sites and landmarks that make up its downtown, protecting its distinct identity, and fostering a strong sense of pride. CLG status will open the door to valuable resources to ensure that the town's preservation efforts remain strong into the future.



# Historic Preservation Easement Program



The highest form of protection available for any historic, archaeological, or cultural resource, historic preservation easements ensure that a property is both appropriately maintained and accessible to the public. MHT currently holds a statewide easement portfolio of 713 easements on 938 properties, encompassing approximately 7,652 acres. Most easements provide perpetual protection. Many private owners conveyed easements as gifts to ensure the continued preservation of a beloved property. MHT obtained some easements as part of a transfer of state or federal property into private ownership, ensuring continued oversight, and received others as a condition of various forms of state or federal grant or loan funding. In FY25, MHT acquired five new easements and modified two existing agreements.

Entering into an easement agreement with MHT initiates a partnership between MHT and the owner of the property. The property owner takes on certain duties, typically including responsibility to maintain the property, insure it, and request MHT's approval for alterations. MHT also takes on responsibilities, including prompt review of proposed alterations and inspection of protected properties. Architectural historians, archaeologists, and other MHT staff provide technical assistance on preservation best practices and guidance on restoration or rehabilitation projects. Since the easement endures even when a property changes hands, MHT provides stability in the long-term preservation of these significant properties, ensuring that any changes needed over time occur sensitively and appropriately.

Easement program staff encourage property owners to reach out to discuss preservation issues or planned projects. To provide guidance and advice to property owners, in FY25, staff members in the program traveled across the state to participate in 67 meetings and site visits in 13 counties and Baltimore City. Similarly, program staff conducted six easement inspections in four counties and Baltimore City, assessing the condition and compliance of protected properties as well as providing technical assistance on building preservation and maintenance. Throughout the fiscal year, MHT's in-house easement committee reviewed and provided recommendations on 102 projects.



COUNTY	NAME	SCOPE	RECORDED	SOURCE	ACRES
Queen Anne	Church Hill Theatre <sup>1</sup>	Exterior, Interior, Archaeology	7/26/24	FY21 MHAA Grant	0.11
Baltimore City	Parren J. Mitchell House <sup>2</sup>	Exterior, Interior, Archaeology	11/08/24	2021 Bond Bill, FY22 MHT Capital Grant, FY23 AAHPP Grant	0.084
Baltimore City	Upton Mansion <sup>3</sup>	Exterior, Interior, Archaeology	01/09/25	2022 Bond Bill	1.002
Baltimore City	Greyhound Bus Terminal <sup>4</sup>	Exterior, Archaeology	02/07/25	2022 Bond Bill, 2024 Bond Bill	0.6616
Anne Arundel	Charles W. Hoppy Adams Jr. House <sup>5</sup>	Exterior, Archaeology	03/21/25	2023 Bond Bill, FY23 AAHPP Grant, FY24 AAHPP Grant	0.270
Baltimore County	All Saints Episcopal Church <sup>6</sup>	Modification	08/12/24	N/A	1.04
Montgomery	Montrose Schoolhouse <sup>7</sup>	Modification	09/18/24	N/A	0.895

**Highlight: Parren J. Mitchell House (Baltimore City)**



After extensive collaboration between state and local partners, the Deed of Easement on the Parren J. Mitchell House in Baltimore City was recorded on November 8, 2024. Located in the historic Upton neighborhood, the late 19th-century rowhouse was home to Congressman Parren J. Mitchell – Maryland’s first African American congressman and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus – until his passing in 2007. The easement also covers the property’s archaeological resources, which may include everyday materials from the home’s long history as well as materials connected to nearby Lafayette Square, where Union troops camped during the Civil War. Now owned by the Upton Planning Committee, the building is set to become the West Baltimore Civic and Entrepreneurship Center, a vibrant community hub featuring meeting space, gallery, offices, and commercial kitchen. Supported by significant state and federal funding, this project will honor Mitchell’s legacy while providing new opportunities for connection and growth in West Baltimore.

# State and Federal Project Review



MHT consults with state and federal agencies under historic preservation laws – commonly referred to as the Section 106 process – to consider how their projects may affect historic and archaeological resources. MHT coordinates with agencies, project sponsors, and the public to help balance project goals with efforts to avoid, minimize, or mitigate harm to these significant places.

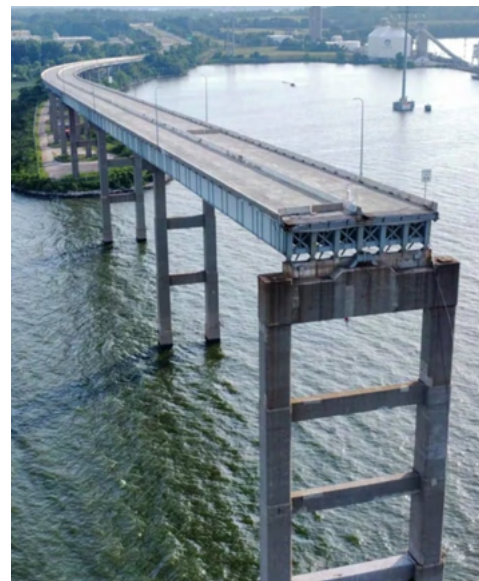


*Project review staff member on a site visit*

## Project Review

In FY25, MHT reviewed more than 5,830 undertakings through Section 106 consultation and formally evaluated 531 resources for National Register eligibility. These consultations produced 25 formal agreements that resolved adverse effects on significant cultural resources and established streamlined coordination procedures for certain programs. Staff worked closely with governmental agencies, business entities, consultants, interested organizations, and the public to complete the historic preservation review process successfully.

One of the most urgent of these consultations involved the rebuild of the Francis Scott Key Bridge following its tragic collapse in March 2024. MHT is actively engaged in Section 106 compliance for the project to ensure that significant historic and cultural resources – like submerged archaeological remains, viewsheds associated with the Patapsco River, and potentially eligible maritime and industrial sites – are identified, evaluated, and thoughtfully considered throughout the rapid reconstruction process. Early consultation has focused on debris removal and emergency permitting, with a multi-year effort underway to define the Area of Potential Effects, assess impacts, and implement appropriate avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures. In response to the urgent need to restore this vital transportation link, MHT worked closely with the Federal Highway Administration and MDOT State Highway Administration to meet federal preservation requirements under expedited timelines, providing same-day responses to submittals, executing a project-specific Programmatic Agreement within 24 hours, and participating in monthly stakeholder meetings. This level of coordination helped ensure compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act during an emergency response effort.



## Program Outreach

MHT staff engaged with federal, state, and local government agencies, program grantees, industry representatives, and the public, providing them with outreach and training opportunities on the Section 106 review process through informal consultation and interagency coordination. In FY25, key staff outreach included presenting a Section 106 Overview at the Council for Maryland Archaeology's "Tribal Consultation Summit" and Section 106 for Consulting Parties at the virtual MHT Roadshow in 2025.



### Success Story: A Forested Legacy: Conservation and Community in Garrett Park (Montgomery County)

In 2023, the Town of Garrett Park was awarded a Community Parks and Playgrounds grant from DNR to create a new park on the Yeandle Property, located in the National Register-listed Garrett Park Historic District. Longtime resident Leticia Yeandle donated the property in 2006 on the condition that it become parkland. The project proposal included forest maintenance, a playground, trails, and a new entrance requiring demolition of the c. 1954 Minimal Traditional-style house, with its characteristic compact form, built-in shelving, and practical floor plan, as well as a detached garage with exposed roof framing. Because state funds were involved, MHT reviewed the project and determined it would have an adverse impact on the historic forested suburb.

To resolve this adverse effect, the Town of Garrett Park worked with MHT and the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Office to develop a website [[bit.ly/4IJROBy](https://bit.ly/4IJROBy)] on the town's history, focusing on forest conservation and the role of both Ms. Yeandle and other women in the conservation of their community. The Town designed the website to allow updates as new information is discovered, giving the community easy access to their unique story.

# Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum



A 560-acre park and museum located along the Patuxent River in rural Calvert County, JPPM connects people to the past through history and archaeology and supports the preservation of Maryland's cultural and natural resources. JPPM is home to more than 70 archaeological sites representing more than 10,000 years of human use at the site, as well as historic houses and outbuildings, exhibit spaces, the MAC Lab, and miles of trails. JPPM engages with local and regional audiences through exhibit spaces, interpretive trails, and cultural events, including festivals, summer camps for K-12 students, workshops, other onsite activities throughout the year, and multiple offsite outreach programs. This programming takes advantage of JPPM's rich archaeological, historical, scientific, and ecological resources. As in past years, JPPM continued to see a high demand for onsite visitation, leading to more than 130,000 people using the site for programs, tours, special events, and general usage.

In FY25, MHT approved a new strategic plan to guide JPPM's operations through 2030 and improve alignment with the statewide preservation plan, Heritage2031. This new strategic plan also incorporates operational needs associated with the multiple capital projects at JPPM, such as the MAC Lab expansion and the Patterson House and Gardens, and begins to prepare JPPM for the MD400 commemoration in 2034.

## Capital Projects and Infrastructure Improvements

Several capital projects and infrastructure improvements progressed or finished at JPPM in FY25, including the Patterson House and Gardens. The project culminated in a successful ribbon-cutting and public opening in May (see *Success Story*, p. 45).

The MAC Lab expansion advanced steadily throughout FY25, adding a new wing to the existing structure, new shelving, and a new HVAC system, as well as insulation, chillers, a new walk-in refrigerator and freezer, and fire suppression. Construction should finish by early 2026, with the lab reopening later that year. The expansion will increase storage capacity and strengthen the lab's support for archaeological research and curation statewide.

Other ongoing projects included design work for the last phase of a 20-year shoreline erosion control project, sitewide improvements to alarm and fire suppression systems, HVAC upgrades to public bathrooms in the Pavilion, and new water fountains with bottle-filling stations and dog bowls along JPPM's Layers of Time trail.

In FY25, the Friends of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, in partnership with JPPM, launched a bench sponsorship program. Within the first three months, donors sponsored and installed five new benches on site.

## Education, Public Programs, and Events

Throughout the year, JPPM offers a range of educational offerings for K-12 students as well as many other public programs. JPPM organized school field trips on-site for CHESPAX, the Calvert County Public Schools' environmental education program, which brings every 6th and 8th grader in the county to JPPM for an interactive field trip. In FY25, JPPM hosted several weeklong day camps that included Archaeology Camp, Native Skills Camp, River Life Camp, Imagine If Camp, Survival Camp, and Hands on History camp.

JPPM offers a wide array of in-person workshops for the public, with topics including basket weaving, bark tanning, and knife making. JPPM's monthly Village Days, which focus on the daily lives of Eastern Woodland Tribes before 1600 CE, run from May through October. With the reopening of the Patterson House and Gardens, JPPM introduced new workshops, offering an Art in the Garden program in May and a historic Backyard Games program in June. Visitors can also learn more about the site through guided tours and visitor engagement staff who travel around the park.

The FY25 Public Archaeology Program took place on Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays beginning in May 2025 at the Straiten Site, a mid-19th- to early-20th-century site inhabited first by enslaved laborers and then by Black tenants. MAC Lab staff worked with a public archaeology intern from St. Mary's College of Maryland to teach excavation and recording techniques, as well as lab procedures, to more than 125 program volunteers. JPPM offered the Public Archaeology Program free of charge.



*Children's Day on the Farm*



*Discovering Archaeology Day*

In FY25, multiple large public programs and events cumulatively engaged more than 10,000 people. JPPM's largest public program, Children's Day on the Farm, occurs every June and brings together more than a dozen Calvert County organizations to help educate the public about Southern Maryland's agricultural heritage. Discovering Archaeology Day, a program highlighting Maryland archaeology, occurred in April in partnership with six organizations. In June, the annual Bernie Fowler Patuxent River Wade-In – a long-standing event spotlighting river health – recorded a "Sneaker Index" of 46 inches, meaning participants could wade 46 inches into the water before their shoes disappeared from sight. For Juneteenth, a partnership event with the Calvert County branch of the NAACP allowed visitors to learn more about the significant contributions made by African Americans to Calvert County's heritage. JPPM partnered with the Piscataway Nation and other organizations associated with Native American heritage to produce American Indian Heritage Day in November.

The 5K race series continued in FY25, with three races occurring throughout the year. Proceeds from these races support both JPPM's public programs and Project ECHO, Calvert County's only homeless shelter. In FY25, the races reached a milestone of \$100,000 in net profit since their inception in 2023.

## Outreach and Volunteers

In FY25, JPPM staff engaged with more than 5,000 people through offsite activities across Maryland. They took part in heritage and cultural programs on the Eastern Shore, including Nause-Waiwash and Nanticoke Indian heritage events, and attended community festivals such as the Calvert County Fair, and the Maryland Day celebration at St. Clement's Island. JPPM archaeologists also assisted with the Southern Maryland Folklife Festival, with an exhibit opening at the Harford County Historical Society and led an archaeology workshop at North Point State Park. They collaborated with multiple county library systems to offer family programming and spoke at the Indigenous Peoples and Archaeologists summit in Annapolis.

JPPM educators also delivered educational programs at schools in the area to more than 400 Maryland students throughout the year, as well as additional outreach to St. Alban's School in Washington, D.C.

Staff engaged with the public through a diverse mix of presentations, workshops, and programs. They worked with tribal and cultural heritage organizations, including the Patowomeck Tribal Center in Virginia and the Ho-Chunk Nation and Wisconsin Historical Society, to deliver educational presentations, provide public programming, and support community-focused workshops. They also partnered with historic sites and preservation programs to give talks, join research initiatives, and facilitate hands-on workshops to the public at sites such as Jamestown Rediscovery, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Colonial Williamsburg, and James Madison's Montpelier.

Staff also shared their work at professional conferences, including the Society for Historical Archaeology annual conference and the annual American Institute for Conservation conference, as well as at specialized workshops like the Mid-Atlantic Primitive Skills Workshop in West Virginia. Additional outreach – including presentations at the World Button Conference, the Equine History Collective, and numerous other organizations – broadened the reach of archaeological and historical research, engaging a wider range of audiences, topics, and disciplines.

JPPM offers a wide range of volunteer opportunities in education, collections, museum operations, and archaeology. In FY25, volunteers contributed nearly 3,000 hours of support, with several individuals donating more than 150 hours each. They assisted with public programs, led and supported archaeological fieldwork, and transcribed oral histories. Volunteers also worked with archaeological and historical collections, including a long-term project cataloging artifacts from the Smith St. Leonard site, and they helped monitor wildlife, such as bluebird nests, in addition to horticultural and other landscape management tasks.



*JPPM's Horticulture Helpers program volunteers*



## Success Story: Patterson House and Gardens Opens to the Public

JPPM reached a major milestone when the Patterson House & Gardens officially opened to the public in early May 2025 with a celebratory ribbon-cutting ceremony. The long-anticipated event drew a large crowd and marked decades of meticulous planning, restoration, and collaboration.

Originally designed by architect Gertrude Sawyer and constructed in the 1930s, the Patterson House required significant restoration and modernization to meet the needs of today's visitors. The multi-year project included improvements to ADA access, a new geothermal HVAC system, updated electrical and plumbing infrastructure, and drainage enhancements through reset flagstones. Crews also preserved the original 1930s wallpaper, replanted the Enclosed Garden using contemporary plans of landscape architect Rose Greely, converted the pool house into public restrooms, and completed a range of other site-wide repairs and upgrades. Timed to coincide with Mother's Day, the opening weekend invited families to explore the newly restored estate – a space designed for beauty, reflection, and connection to history.

Dignitaries and agency leaders from across Maryland attended the ceremony, including representatives from MHT, MDP, the Maryland Department of General Services, the Calvert County Board of Commissioners, and North Point Builders. Their presence underscored the strong interagency collaboration and public-private partnerships that brought this ambitious project to life. The opening of the Patterson House and Gardens represents more than just the unveiling of a historic site – it demonstrates JPPM's ongoing commitment to preservation, accessibility, and community enrichment. Visitors from across the region are now invited to connect with this piece of Maryland history.

# Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory



The MAC Lab at JPPM houses the state's archaeological collection, which includes more than ten million objects representing 10,000 years of Maryland's cultural heritage.

## Research, Curation, and Conservation

In FY25, MAC Lab staff continued the Engaging with *Descendant African American Communities* project in collaboration with the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and MHT. The initiative seeks to identify lineal descendants or culturally affiliated communities of at least 15 individuals of African or possible African descent whose remains are currently housed at the MAC Lab. Over the course of the year, the project coalition hosted community outreach workshops, consulted with DNA specialists, and worked to connect the ancestral remains to permanent burial sites. Staff also completed the Witness to Wallville project (see *Success Story*, p. 47) and recorded a video segment for the Maryland State Arts Council about African religious traditions and archaeological sites.

The MAC Lab's major projects in FY25 included rehousing the significant 17th- and 18th-century artifact collection from the Middle Plantation site (see *Success Story*, p. 48), collaborating with the Maryland Center for History and Culture on religious artifacts from the state's archaeological collections, and accessioning the Newman Street archaeological collection (Annapolis). In addition to caring for physical collections, the MAC Lab also maintains critical documentation associated with those artifacts. This includes paper-based accession files (which track the legal and historical record of each collection), the associated field records that document the excavation of the collection, and the lab's growing volume of digital records – such as photographs, databases, and scanned field forms. In FY25, collections staff completed a full audit of all accession files and the related database entries to ensure accuracy and consistency in cataloging and metadata. At the same time, the MAC Lab's digital archivist conducted a large-scale inventory and software analysis of the lab's digital files to verify data integrity, organize storage, and prevent digital loss. These combined efforts support long-term preservation and accessibility of both physical and digital archaeological records.

MAC Lab conservators also contributed to several projects in FY25. Following a fire at the archaeology laboratory at James Madison's Montpelier, staff assisted with the recovery of affected artifacts, focusing on the stabilization of fire-damaged ceramics. This entailed carefully removing the artifacts from melted polyethylene bags while preserving associated context information – efforts essential to the long-term preservation and research value of the materials. Staff provided conservation treatment for ship components from the World Trade Center for the New York State Museum and conserved artifacts for MDOT from

Thompson Quarter and the Ben Ross site (Dorchester County), which are associated with Harriet Tubman's father. Additional conservation projects included work on artifacts from the mid-18th-century home of Declaration signer William Paca in Annapolis; the Poplar Island site (Talbot County), a long-occupied Chesapeake island settlement; the 18th-century inn, Reynolds Tavern, in Annapolis; and the Addison/Oxon Hill plantation site (Prince George's County), a colonial-era estate occupied into the 19th century. MAC Lab staff also responded to a preservation emergency involving a coffin eroding into the Chesapeake Bay and coordinated with law enforcement and other archaeologists to ensure a respectful reburial.

For the first time, staff archaeologists drafted a site-wide cultural resource management plan for JPPM, covering archaeological sites, standing structures, and landscape features on the 560-acre property.



## Success Story: Witnesses of Wallville Success Recognized

The *Witnesses of Wallville* project, funded by a Civil Rights grant from NPS, officially concluded in FY25, although research into the community continues. The project team produced a 60-page public-facing booklet [[bit.ly/3UAS7D7](https://bit.ly/3UAS7D7)] and a comprehensive two-volume technical report [[bit.ly/4m3AbwN](https://bit.ly/4m3AbwN)], which they distributed to project partners, local libraries, and repositories.

The project received two major awards this year. In January, it earned first place in the Mark E. Mack Community Engagement Awards from the Society of Historical Archaeology. This award recognizes exemplary community collaboration and outreach in historical archaeology and heritage preservation. In June, the American Association for State and Local History honored the project with a Leadership in History Award, celebrating innovative work in preserving and interpreting state and local history.

As part of their outreach efforts, project staff partnered with the Calvert Marine Museum to develop "Women of Wallville," a 50-square-foot exhibit featuring archaeological artifacts, oral histories, and historic photographs. Opened in April, the exhibit will remain on display for 18 months. Afterward, it will be incorporated into a larger exhibit on the Wallville community at the Exhibit Barn at JPPM.



## Success Story: Accessioning the Middle Plantation Site

In 1968, William P. Doepkens – an Anne Arundel County farmer – discovered artifacts on his Davidsonville farm. With his family’s help, he spent the next 22 years excavating the important 17th- and 18th-century Maren Duvall Middle Plantation site, consulting with archaeologists and historians to guide his work. Mr. Doepkens and his family eventually produced a final report, *Excavations at Maren Duvall’s Middle Plantation of South River Hundred*.

Maren Duvall, a French Huguenot who arrived in the Maryland colony around 1650 as an indentured servant, earned his freedom in 1659 and acquired thousands of acres of land, including Middle Plantation in Anne Arundel County in 1664. At his death in 1694, Duvall was one of the wealthiest individuals in the colony.

The Middle Plantation collection remained on the family farm until late 2024, when the Doepkens family offered it to the MAC Lab (see Preservation Award, p. 50). Staff worked with the family to assess and transport the collection in March 2025. Since then, the lab has been sorting and rehousing the artifacts in archival conditions. Honoring the family’s wish for the collection to be used for education, the MAC Lab has already featured artifacts in the Curator’s Choice series [[bit.ly/4fog5e5](https://bit.ly/4fog5e5)] and added them to the Diagnostic Artifact website [[bit.ly/MD-Artifacts](https://bit.ly/MD-Artifacts)]. A portion of the collection will be loaned to St. Mary’s College of Maryland this fall for use in an archaeology practicum course.

# Military Monuments



The Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments was created in 1989 to inventory approximately 477 military non-state-owned memorials honoring Maryland's veterans, secure funds for the preservation of those in need, and develop educational and tourism materials relating to their history. In FY17, MHT began to administer the Commission, which consists of up to 18 volunteer members who bring military, historical, business, and government expertise to the important work of safeguarding our state's military monuments.

In FY25, MHT engaged a conservator to perform cyclical maintenance on 16 monuments across the state and to continue work for the comprehensive surface treatment of approximately 45 bronze and copper monuments statewide. The final phase of this project, completed in June 2025, included treatment of the Baron de Kalb Monument on the State House Grounds in Annapolis and the World War I Monument at the Courthouse in Prince Frederick (Calvert County).

The Commission also sponsored two prizes at Maryland History Day, presenting awards for Excellence in United States Military History. National History Day recognized the Senior Prize winner, Christopher Hill of Oxon Hill High School, for his documentary "The Fight for the Right of Flight: The Tuskegee Airmen," and the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture selected his film for their Documentary Showcase.



# Maryland Preservation Awards



In FY25, the MHT Board selected ten projects, individuals, and organizations throughout the state to receive the 50th annual Maryland Preservation Awards. Tying into May's Preservation Month, MHT staff presented the awards locally and live-streamed the events on Facebook, celebrating noteworthy accomplishments in the preservation field, outstanding community programming, revitalization projects, and individual leadership. The following people, places, and programs received awards in 2025.

## FY25 Preservation Awards



### Outstanding Individual Leadership at the Local Level – Ruth Davis-Rogers (Allegany County)

Ruth Davis-Rogers, Cumberland's Historic Preservation Planner, has long championed historic preservation as a tool for community and economic growth. Launching a new preservation plan and assisting on key projects like the Choose Cumberland Relocation Package and the Baltimore Street Redevelopment Project, her collaborative leadership continues to revitalize and celebrate the city's historic core.

### Outstanding Stewardship of a Cultural Site – The William P. and Marjorie Doepkens Family (Anne Arundel County)

Over decades, the Doepkens family carefully stewarded more than 50,000 artifacts from the 17th-century Mareen Duvall Plantation, one of Maryland's most significant sites, and ultimately donated them to MHT's MAC Lab. Through this donation, the Doepkens family ensures public access, research, and education—honoring both the Duvall legacy and the family's dedication to Maryland's heritage.



### Excellence in Preservation Partnerships – M-NCPPC Montgomery Parks, Montgomery County Technology and Enterprise Business Solutions (TEBS), and the UMD Historic Preservation Department for the Oakley Cabin AR Experience (Montgomery County)

Launched in 2023 by Montgomery Parks, TEBS, and UMD, the Oakley Cabin AR Experience uses cutting-edge technology to share African American history. Featuring 3D models, audio, and virtual reconstructions in seven languages, this year-round digital project expands access and showcases the power of collaboration in preserving cultural heritage.



**Excellence in Community Impact – Evergreen Heritage Center for the Appalachian Time Travel Program (Allegany County)**  
Evergreen Heritage

Center's *Appalachian Time Travel* program immerses Allegany County 4th graders in 200 years of local history across three museums, boosting history literacy by 29%. Through school and community partnerships, it fosters cultural pride, strengthens ties, and promotes heritage tourism, ensuring Appalachian traditions shape the region's identity and future.

**Excellence in Restoration – The Historic Façade at the Flower Theater (Montgomery County)**

Montgomery Housing Partnership restored the Flower Theater's 1950 Streamline-Moderne façade in Silver Spring's Long Branch neighborhood, reviving its neon sign, marquee, and ticket booth using original materials. Designed by architects John Jacob Zink and Frederick Moehle, the project revitalized this cultural landmark in time for its 75th anniversary and renewed community pride.



**Excellence in Media and Research – "Recovering Identity: Northern Frederick County Cultural Resource Survey" (Frederick County)**  
This groundbreaking study by Catocin

Furnace Historical Society, AARCH Society, and Frederick County Government identified 21 historic African American structures and mapped 83 "memory landscapes" in northern Frederick County in addition to expanding the Emmitsburg Historic District. Combining research, oral histories, and analysis, it highlights African American contributions and lays the groundwork for broader preservation efforts.

**Excellence in Rehabilitation – The Claggett Center (Frederick County)**

In 2021, the Claggett Center rehabilitated its 1898 Pennsylvania bank barn, preserving historic features like the timber frame and rare wood shingle roof while adding modern amenities. This adaptive reuse honors the barn's agricultural heritage, transforming it into a four-season event space for community gatherings, youth programs, and educational events.



**Excellence in Sustainable Design – Montebello Elementary and Middle School (Baltimore City)**  
Part of the 21st Century Schools Initiative, Baltimore

City Public Schools, the Maryland Stadium Authority, and Crabtree, Rohrbaugh Associates, transformed Montebello Elementary/Middle School into a LEED Gold-certified model of sustainable design. They preserved historic façades, added a 20,000 sq ft wing, and incorporated daylighting and energy-efficient systems to blend sustainability with heritage for students and the community.

**Excellence in Public Programming and Exhibits – Beach to Bay Heritage Area for the African American Heritage Project (Wicomico County)**

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area's African American Heritage Project features 14 interpretive signs, three community-inspired murals, and five radio segments. The project team developed these initiatives with community input, sharing underrepresented stories, honoring local Black history, and celebrating the enduring contributions of African American communities on the Lower Eastern Shore.



**Outstanding Stewardship by a Government Agency – U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration (MARAD) for the N.S. Savannah (Baltimore City)**

Since 2008, MARAD has carefully preserved the N.S. *Savannah*, the world's first nuclear-powered merchant ship and a National Historic Landmark. Balancing decommissioning with innovation, MARAD restored public spaces, improved accessibility, and advanced education – setting a precedent for preserving historic nuclear sites and honoring maritime and technological heritage.



Maryland Historical Trust

100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032

[mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)

(410) 697-9591

MARYLAND  
HISTORICAL



TRUST



**Maryland**

**DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING**

Report activities undertaken under:

Wes Moore, Governor

Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor

Rebecca L. Flora, AICP, Secretary of Planning

Elizabeth Hughes, Director of MHT and  
State Historic Preservation Officer