

**GOVERNOR'S CONSULTING COMMITTEE ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF
HISTORIC PLACES**

100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD 21032

Tuesday, February 24, 2026

MINUTES

Members present: In Person -- Nancy Shamu, Damie Stillman; Virtual -- W. Peter Pearre;
Phone -- Jean Russo

Staff present: Jessica French, Jacqueline Shin, Heather Barrett

Guests present: In Person -- Linda Garoute, Allison Luthern; Virtual -- Daria Gasparini,
Neale Grisham, Alan Hess, Catherine Lavoie, Molly Ricks, Alyssa Stein, Tom Vitanza, Mayor
Noah Waters

Call to Order: 10:04am by Chair Nancy Shamu

Approval of Minutes: Motion: Peter Pearre; Second: Damie Stillman; No discussion, all in
favor

BUSINESS ITEMS

BALTIMORE CITY, Laurel Cemetery, B-5381

W. Peter Pearre noted that the nomination needs some more information on James Belden, who designed quite a few cemeteries in Baltimore, as well as Mount Olivet Cemetery in Frederick. Belden was an Englishman who ended up in Baltimore and followed the idea of the cemetery as more than a place to be buried.

Damie Stillman motioned to approve the nomination (including additional information on the cemetery architect), seconded by W. Peter Pearre. All voted in favor, with none opposed or abstaining.

**KENT COUNTY, Chestertown Historic District (Additional Documentation and
Boundary Increase), K-602**

One of the nomination preparers, Alyssa Stein, noted how much community support this nomination has received; this project has been helped a lot by those living in Chestertown as well as individuals at Chesapeake Heartland.

W. Peter Pearre observed that this is a great nomination that the GCC should move ahead with. Damie Stillman agreed, noting that the nomination is very thorough.

Chair Nancy Shamu asked for the rewording of a phrase in Section 8 about the women of Chestertown not being "permitted to obtain higher education." Neale Grisham said that making this change would not be difficult.

Heather Barrett noted that this project was funded through an Underrepresented Communities Grant awarded by the National Park Service.

Damie Stillman motioned to approve the nomination; W. Peter Pearre seconded, and all voted in favor, with none opposed or abstaining.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, Cedar Haven Historic District, PG:87B-039

Linda Garoute, a community historian and leader, thanked MHT and Jessica French for their support with this project. As a retired Washington, D.C. teacher, Ms. Garoute was pleased to discover that Cedar Haven had been impacted so much by D.C. teachers, and plans to carry on with her research, helping to bring teachers back to Cedar Haven again.

Jessica French noted that the project was funded by an MHT non-capital grant.

Daria Gasparini, one of the preparers of the nomination, reiterated how exciting it was to have been able to work on nominating both Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven districts to the National Register. She pointed out some examples in these communities where multiple generations of families owned the same or adjacent properties.

Damie Stillman observed that the nomination was very well done. W. Peter Pearre asked for clarification on two points. The first was a reference to the nineteenth century, which should have been to the twentieth century. Second, he asked whether a mention of the "Daniel family" referred to the descendants of the original founder of the Cedar Haven community, or to a different family. Daria Gasparini clarified that the reference was to descendants of the original founder, and W. Peter Pearre advised highlighting this important fact in the nomination.

W. Peter Pearre motioned to approve the nomination with minor edits as suggested; Damie Stillman seconded, and all voted in favor with no opposed or abstaining.

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Herald Mail Building, WA-HAG-244

Catherine LaVoie, one of the preparers of the nomination, noted how unique the Herald Mail Building is to this area of Maryland, and how the architects did an amazing job using local materials and putting a wonderful face to the community. Apparently, Schwartz himself said that the building was a physical manifestation of transparency, which is what all news organizations strive for.

Tom Vitanza, another preparer of the nomination, introduced Alan Hess, who is a scholar of modernist architecture currently writing a book about William Pereira. Mr. Hess observed how significant Pereira was as a leader in creating the post-war American city and its modern architecture, taking this architecture to a new era, not just repeating the International Style. Pereira introduced new technology, new ways of life, and reflected those in architecture, and the Herald Mail Building is a very good example of this. Not only did Pereira design city plans, jet ports, university campuses, early TV studios, and well-known buildings in California, he also worked on the master plan for Irvine, California, and was even given an Academy Award. Mr. Hess noted that the Herald Mail Building is an excellent example of the quality of Pereira's work, creating a dramatic public display showing the major function of the building behind its glass section. Many of Pereira's buildings have been lost recently, making it more important than ever to recognize his legacy and the exceptional significance of this building in particular.

Tom Vitanza noted that even though a couple of surveys of modern architecture in Maryland have been conducted, this one has been overlooked, meaning that the Herald Mail Building has been undocumented thus far, with people in Maryland not yet recognizing its importance. Mr. Vitanza thanked Arthur Golding for sharing the original architectural drawings with him for the nomination.

Jessica French noted that the building has been documented by Catherine Lavoie through a HABS/HAER report. She also stated for the record that the property owner of the building has objected to National Register listing. Chair Nancy Shamu noted that the role of the GCC is to give an opinion on National Register significance.

Damie Stillman motioned to approve the nomination; W. Peter Pearre seconded, and all voted in favor with none opposed or abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

GCC Membership

Jessica French stated that we hope in May to have news of new GCC appointments.

With no other business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 11:21am, in a motion made by Damie Stillman; the motion was seconded by W. Peter Pearre and unanimously approved.