

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT
January – December, 2018**



Photo # 1, part of the Historic Preservation Commission Cemetery Project; Photo #2 one of the existing Historic Roads; Photo #3 Scotland Post Office; and Photo #4 last double-overshot water-wheel in the State of Maryland located at Cecil's Mill.

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Glossary

CLG	Certified Local Government
CSMC	Commissioners of St. Mary's County
FY	Fiscal Year
HPC	Historic Preservation Commission
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HTE	St. Mary's County Government Database
MAHDC	Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions
MHT	Maryland Historical Trust
PM	Preservation Maryland
SMC	St. Mary's County
TDR	Transferable Development Rights

Executive Summary

Historic preservation goals are very much dependent on what occurs in the area of land planning and land preservation, therefore the Historic Preservation Commission emphasizes working with the Department of Land Use and Growth Management to monitor the impact of development on cultural resources.

In 2018 the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) made further strides toward implementing the goals of the adopted Historic Preservation Plan for St. Mary's County.

The programming goals were met by members attending the Maryland Statewide Historic Preservation Conference. Input was provided to the statewide Preservation Plan process to draft a new official statewide preservation planning document for Maryland by Maryland Historic Trust (MHT).

2018 Annual Report of the Historic Preservation Commission

1.0 Background

St. Mary's County is fortunate to have many residents who give their time and talents in the area of historic preservation. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County appoints seven county residents to serve on the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC). Their role is crucial in protecting and enhancing the county's historic resources and cultural heritage. Their advocacy helps to develop and implement effective preservation programs relying on the support of the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the strength of the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, federal, state and regional protective regulations.

1.1 The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC): Brief History

The St. Mary's County Historic District Commission was created on June 4, 1975 and was granted the authority to create historic districts in order to preserve historic resources and increase public awareness through education. The Commission succeeded in establishing St. Joseph's Manor, (SM-129) and Newtowne Manor House, (SM-058) as local historic districts. A historic district proposal by the Commission for the St. Mary's City area met with public opposition and, as a result, the Historic District Commission was disbanded in 1986.

As part of a requirement for a matching grant to St. Mary's County by the Maryland Historical Trust, the Commission was reestablished in 1993. The grant was a program designed in eight phases to develop an active historic preservation program and to add to the number of documented historic properties in St. Mary's County. The first phase of this project began in 1994 and resulted in the documentation of sites and structures in all election districts. Phases one through four covered the Chaptico, Mechanicsville, Valley Lee, St. George Island, Bay, Patuxent, Leonardtown, St. Inigoes and Milestown districts. The last phase ended with the publication of the **I'm Goin' Down County Book**.

1.2 COUNTY BOOKS

I'm Goin' Down County: An Architectural Journey through St. Mary's County, was published in 2010. Grace Mary Brady, Historic Preservation Planner worked with Dr. Ranzetta, Nicole Diehlmann at the Maryland Historic Trust and Pat Engles with United Book Press to publish the book in April, 2010. Copies of *I'm Goin' Down County: An Architectural Journey through St. Mary's County* can be checked out from all St. Mary's and Calvert County Library branches.

JUSTICE ROLLS DOWN BOOK, by Michael McCauley, was published in November 2014. This book tells the story of the St. Joseph's Parish Housing Project for the African American community in the Morganza and Loveville areas. This book can be checked out from all St. Mary's and Calvert County Library branches.

St. Mary's County Sheriffs, 375 Years, by Cindy Allen, Grace Mary Brady, Sheriff Tim Cameron, Tyler Mattingly (deceased), Carol Moody and Linda Reno was first published November, 2014 and then republished January, 2015. This is a published research document that proves 375 continuous years of Sheriffs in St. Mary's County.

The Blackstones of Maryland, "Do Well and Doubt Not," written by the late Dr. Gordon Blackistone Hughes and Mick Blackistone was published May, 2015. The research for this book was done by Grace Mary Brady, Carol Moody and Linda Reno. The full-color 172 page book contains local St. Mary's County history.

America's First, A History of America's Oldest Continuously Operating Sheriff's Office, written by Sheriff Timothy Cameron, Grace Mary Brady, Jeffrey McLane, Carol Moody, Linda Reno and MaryAnn Thompson. This full-color 384 page book was published December, 2016. (Hard-cover)

America's First, A History of America's Oldest Continuously Operating Sheriff's Office, 2nd printing. This new soft-cover version was written by Sheriff Timothy Cameron, Grace Mary Brady, Jeffrey McLane, Carol Moody, Linda Reno and MaryAnn Thompson. This full-color 300 page book was published December, 2017. (Soft-cover)

These books can be purchased in many locations throughout St. Mary's County, which truly reflects their popularity: from local eating establishments to Mennonite farm stands and grocery stores, from museums to the Department of Land Use and Growth Management and the Sheriff's Office. Book sales continue to be respectable.

2.0 Meetings and Memberships

2.1 Title 8 of the Land Use Article, contains the enabling legislation for historic preservation commissions, and allows the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to appoint seven volunteers to the Historic Preservation Commission for three-year terms, renewable for another three years. Those interested in serving for additional term(s) thereafter must wait a full year before they may re-apply. To qualify a candidate must (a) have special interest and knowledge or training in such fields as history, architecture, law, archaeology preservation, education, or urban design; (b) be a county resident; (c) fulfill the statutory rules and educational functions in a responsible and sensitive manner; and (d) have the ability to continue to provide leadership for the historic preservation movement.

2.2 The St. Mary’s County Historic Preservation Commission members elect the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary annually at the December meeting. The HPC meets regularly on the fourth Thursday of every month, except in November and December when the meetings are advanced to the third Thursday. The Chair may call other meetings when necessary.

"The meetings are conducted in compliance with the St. Mary's County Open Meetings Act located in §§9-501 through 9-516 of the *Local Government Article* of the Annotated Code of Maryland." Meetings are usually held at 4:00 p.m. at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management and are open to the public.

2.3 Commission Membership in 2018 was as follows:

<u>Name and Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Anibal Delgado (July, 2017)	June, 2020
Robert Gibbs (July, 2015)	June, 2018
Eve Love (July, 2018)	June, 2021
Carol Moody (July, 2017)	June, 2020 (Resigned Nov. 2018)
Ginger Newman-Askew (July 2018)	June 2021
Kent Randell (July, 2018)	June, 2021
Teresa Wilson (January, 2018)	December, 2020
Sean Wickers (January, 2016)	December, 2018 (Resigned Nov. 2018)

- **Carol Moody resigned before the end of her term, in November 2018.**
- **Sean Wickers resigned at the end of his term in December 2018.**
- **Vice chair, Teresa Wilson, took over as chair for Carol Moody in December 2018.**

Carol Moody served as Chair from July, 2017 through November 2018.

Grace Mary Brady served as the Historic Preservation Planner until her retirement in June 2018. Vanessa Price served as the Historic Preservation Planner from June – December in 2018.

3.0 Significant Activities in 2018

3.1 Cemetery Database Project Continues

The HPC continued its work on the cemetery database through its subcommittee consisting primarily of Robert Gibbs. This continues on with Anibal Delgado since Mr. Gibbs resignation due to term limits. The long term goal of this project is twofold. The first priority is to add the location of private cemeteries to the county database. The second priority is to educate the property owner/s on the importance of preserving grave sites and how state statute protects burial sites.

3.2 Annual Historic Preservation Awards

The Commissioners of St. Mary’s County and the HPC presented awards to the following individuals in 2018:

- a) Lower Notley Hall: **Jack and Cindy Pratt**, nominated by Kathy Bailey, for a preservation project award, for the restoration of the exterior and interior of Lower Notley Hall. Lower Notley Hall is a late 19th century home which was the childhood home of departed local author and historian, Robert E. T. Pogue.

- b) MedStar St. Mary's Hospital: **Christine Wray, Holly Myer, Linda Laegel, Nicky Strickland and Carole Nelson**, nominated by St. Mary's County Historical Society for a preservation service award for the creation of a history room called *Reflections*. This exhibit is open 24 hours a day to allow family and friends an opportunity to visit. The hospital was able to use the space between the chapel and cafeteria/dining area to attract the maximum number of visitors. More than 100 years of hospital history is displayed with photos and memorabilia.

- c) Drayden African-American School House: **Don Cropp**, nominated by Carol Moody for a preservation project award, for the complete restoration of the Drayden School House. Mr. Cropp donated time, expertise and funding. The schoolhouse has been given a new roof, stable foundation, a new door and has been completely repainted inside and out.

- d) Hen Coop Cemetery: **Maureen Norton**, nominated by Rob Gibbs, for a preservation service award. Ms. Norton worked with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources to get the Hen Coop cemetery cleaned up and protected.

- e) Historic Sotterley Plantation: **Nancy Easterling**, nominated by Eve Love for a preservation service award, for the creation of the Resurrection Manor house exhibit. This exhibit tells the story of the house from its construction c. 1750 and the families who lived in it until 1930 with its demolition in 2002. Resurrection Manor was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1970.

- f) St. Mary's County Historical Society: **Board of Directors**, nominated by Susan Wolfe for a preservation service award for creating an annual series of programs which focused on the 380 years of "Mother County" history. Series was entitled "Ordinary People ... Extraordinary Accomplishments". All the programs were filmed by David Taylor of Phocus Video and are available for viewing and purchase at the Historical Society.

3.3 Public Outreach

In 2018 the Historic Preservation Commission and staff increased its public outreach by:

- (a) Continued participation in the review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. The 2017 St. Mary's County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted in December, 2017. January 25, 2018: Presentation of Adopted Hazard Mitigation Plan by Gerald Gardiner, Emergency Manager of the Emergency Management Division of St. Mary's

County. Mr. Gardiner presented an overview of the mission of Emergency Management Division and its collaboration and cooperation with various other agencies in the Tri County area. He reviewed the 2017 St. Mary's County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan which had been distributed to HPC members earlier.

- (b) HPC board members recommended that St. Mary's County Land Use & Growth Management consider a public program on rising sea level to educate our community.
- (c) A bill is being considered by the Maryland Legislature, to insure family access to local cemeteries and to require local governments to note on deeds if a cemetery is located on a parcel, and the sale of burial grounds. At Ms. Eve Love's suggestion, the Commission members formally commented in support of a proposed bill to insure family access to local cemeteries and to require local governments to note on deeds if a cemetery is located on a parcel, and the sale of burial grounds.
- (d) Commission members attended and participated in Sotterley's program, Common Ground, Connected Heritage. Ms. Eve Love and Mr. Randell gave a presentation on genealogy research.
- (e) Ms. Eve Love attended a Maryland Preservation Planners meeting on May 23rd in Ellicott City, Maryland. A presentation was given by Dr. Alexander Keim on a new cemetery documentation tool to be used primarily by the State Highway Administration but will have other uses as well. Nell Ziehl of the Maryland Historical Trust presented an overview of the Preservation Plan process to draft a new official statewide preservation planning document for Maryland by MHT. Discussion questions for attendees were: top goals for historic preservation and cultural heritage over next 5 years and challenges to achieving them; Priorities for archeological or architectural research and survey; ways MHT and/or Preservation Maryland can help. Members attended a follow up meeting regarding updating Preservation Plan from Maryland Historic Trust.
- (f) Mr. Kent Randell was a guest lecturer to the St. Mary's County Genealogical Society on Monday, February 26, presenting his research on Susquehanna.
- (g) Board members participated in Maryland Day Activities: Saturday, March 24th, Historic St. Mary's City; Sunday, March 25th Drayden School House; Monday March 26th St. Clements Island.
- (h) Ms. Carol Moody continues her membership on the Newtowne Manor House project.
- (i) Ms. Eve Love: attended Maryland Statewide Preservation Conference that MAHDC is organizing with Preservation Maryland on June 16, at the UM School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, 3835 Campus Drive, College Park, MD.
- (j) Mr. Kent Randell attended on June 16th "Juneteenth" in Lancaster Park covering Genealogy.
- (k) Ms. Carol Moody: Received an award as a strong woman in the community for her role in protecting African American school records.

- (l) MHT Listening Session: Attended by Ms. Love and Ms. Moody, the MHT meeting was held in Prince Fredrick.
- (m) Cemetery Responsibility: Previous member Mr. Robert Gibbs had been given responsibility of researching and compiling a database specific to MHT cemetery project documenting any cemeteries adjacent to state highways. Completed in Leonardtown. Mr. Anibal Delgado was nominated and accepted to continue on the cemetery documentation.
- (n) The Commission continued discussion its at-risk inventory properties studied on eroding shoreline and rising tides. HPC members studied a draft map provided by GIS County Staff, highlighting St. Mary's County Historic Sites in the floodplain.
- (o) Hosted a lecture: Sinking Lands and Rising Seas: Climate Change and Evolution of Chesapeake Bay. Presented by Dr. Eshelman on October 24, 2018.

4.0 Future Plans

4.1 Public Outreach

In 2018 the Historic Preservation Commission conducted public outreach activities by being involved in the development of Newtowne Neck State Park; and sponsoring educational forums about the importance of archaeology in St. Mary's County.

4.2 Accomplishments/Issues and Challenges

The following are benchmarks of the Historic Preservation Plan that have been met:

- 1) Continuing public education programs to raise awareness of historic preservation issues;
- 2) Reviewing of items on the Technical Evaluation Committee (TEC) Agenda by the historic preservation planner to determine if proposed projects will have an adverse effect on historic resources so that suggestions may be made to avoid these effects;
- 3) Maintaining Certified Local Government status from the Maryland Historical Trust by continually improving the level of historic preservation initiatives, thereby qualifying for grants from MHT;
- 4) Applying for and managing one CLG educational grant received from the Maryland Historical Trust; applied for a Hazard Mitigation Grant to rank the 170 properties that had previously been identified. We were not successful in obtaining this grant.

4.3 Goals and Strategies that are on-going

- 1) Protect small family cemeteries by creating a database and entering the locations into HTE so they can be identified when proposed projects are submitted on lands containing cemeteries.

Continue work to find the locations of all small cemeteries listed in Janet Tice's 1991 book *Burials from Tombstones, Grave Markers and Church Registers of St. Mary's County, Maryland (1634-1994)* and other sources, so they too may be protected. **(accomplished – on going)**

- 2) Continue to apply for CLG educational grants, hazard mitigation grants or archaeology grant opportunities to further document archaeology sites that are impacted by flooding, erosion, development and storm surge. **(CLG educational grant – on going)**
- 3) Work with developers in early project application stages to craft preservation-friendly development plans. **(accomplished, on-going)**

Conclusion

There is still much work to be done to give St. Mary's County the historic preservation program it deserves as one of the four sites of the original English Colonies in the New World and the 'mother' county of Maryland. Now that some of the groundwork has been laid, it is time to move on to goals that will require vision on the part of elected officials, planners, and volunteers. A larger financial commitment reflecting the economic benefits to the county from tourism and education is desired.

There is no single approach to preservation efforts. Land preservation and retention of lands exhibiting rural character is fundamental to retaining a high quality of life here in St. Mary's County and ensuring a successful historic preservation program. The Historic Preservation Commission fully supports the county's efforts to increase funding for agricultural land preservation. Without a strong land preservation program there cannot be a strong historic preservation program. The TDR program should help to increase the land in agricultural preservation, but no one approach will save enough of the rural fabric of the county.

The Historic Preservation Commission looks forward to strengthening relationships with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, county departments of Economic Development, Recreation and Parks, Land Use and Growth Management, and Public Works and Transportation, Preservation Maryland, and the Maryland Historical Trust to continue the comprehensive and successful program for historic preservation in St. Mary's County. The Historic Preservation Commission will continue its efforts in the upcoming year in working with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, County Administrator's office, DECD, and DLUGM, archaeology groups, and local museums to promote education regarding the historic and archaeological resources in Maryland's Birthplace.

Written by Vanessa Price on December 17, 2018.

Adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission on January 24, 2019.