

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

A Certified Local Government

January – December 2025



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Reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission on January 22, 2026.

Members: Eve Love, Patricia Samford, Christine McKay, Apryl Yates, Jocelyn Copeland, Matthew Riedel, and Jeremy Hanson.

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The cover photo is a picture of the HPC's exhibit during the 2025 Oyster Festival Event.

Introduction

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was granted the authority to preserve historic resources and increase public awareness through education. The HPC identifies and oversees the County's historic landmarks, districts, and sites. The Department of Land Use and Growth Management is responsible for the administration of the HPC program.

This annual report was prepared to fulfill the annual reporting requirement of the Historic Preservation Commission's bylaws. The Maryland Historic National Trust and the National Park Service's Certified Local Government Program (CLG) also require an annual report under the National Historic Preservation Act. The HPC's goal of enhancing the quality of life in the County is supported by recognizing, appreciating, and preserving historic places, events, and people.

Background

The St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Commission, originally named the St. Mary's County Historic District Commission, was created on June 4, 1975. A historic district proposal by the Commission for the St. Mary's City area was 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 Commission has succeeded in establishing many historic properties on the local, State, and National Historic Register, and continues to work with the State, Maryland Historical Trust, and several other agencies. The HPC continuously maintains its status as a CLG from the Maryland Historic Trust.

Membership

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County appoint seven members and an alternate who are county residents to serve on the Commission. Members are crucial in protecting and enhancing the county's historic resources and cultural heritage. Through their advocacy of preservation programs and historical reviews are implemented. The Commission is supported by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the St. Mary's County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, federal, state, and regional protective regulations.

Title 8 of the Maryland Code, 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. Citizens interested in serving for additional terms 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) can continue to provide leadership for the historic preservation movement.

Attendance is important for the HPC to function effectively. If a member does not attend meetings, necessary steps will be taken to have that member replaced.

Elections and Meetings

The offices of Chair and Vice Chair are elected annually during meetings. The HPC meets regularly at 4:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of every month, except in November and December, when the meetings are advanced to the second or third Thursday of the month. The Chair may call other meetings when necessary. Meetings were held at the Department of Land Use & Growth Management, the Middle Conference Room in the Potomac Building, and by Zoom. Meetings are conducted in compliance with the St. Mary's County Open Meetings Act, per the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland §§ 9-501 through 9-516.

2025 Commission Members

| Name | Position | Date of Appointment | Expiration Date |
|------------------|------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| Eve Love | Chair | January 2024 | December 2026 |
| Patricia Samford | Vice Chair | January 2025 | December 2027 |
| Teresa Wilson | Member | July 2024 | June 2027 |
| Christine McKay | Member | July 2024 | June 2027 |
| Jocelyn Copeland | Member | July 2024 | June 2027 |
| Apryl Yates | Member | July 2024 | June 2026 |
| Matthew Riedel | Member | April 2025 | June 2026 |
| Jeremy Hanson | Alternate | January 2025 | June 2026 |

The Historic Preservation Commission members are supported by a Historic Preservation Planner of the St. Mary's County Department of Land Use and Growth Management with a working knowledge of state and federal regulations of historic preservation, architectural history, and the cultural and landscape resources of historic preservation planning in St. Mary's County.

Work and Activities of the HPC in 2025

- Continued monitoring and documenting historic properties slated for demolition.
- Coordinated a historical lecture to educate and engage with the public.
- Tabled Maryland Day at St. Clements Island with information about the County's history.
- Curated a pop-up museum at the Oyster Festival with educational activities, a video about the Oyster Wars, and informational posters about oysters on loan from the Calvert Marine Museum. Many HPC members volunteered to interact with and educate the public.
- HPC members and supporting staff attended an MAHDC Training Session.

Historic Preservation Awards

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the HPC presented the annual awards and proclaimed May as Historic Preservation Month in 2025.

- Donald M. Barber and David G. Brown were honored with the Historic Preservation Service Award for their book, "The Barber Family: From Slavery, Through Segregation and The Civil Rights Movement".
- Robert "Bob" Crickenberger was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to preserving and teaching the American Civil War history at Point Lookout State Park.
- Nancy Easterling was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for her efforts in taking Historic Sotterley on a transformative journey to become the vibrant cornerstone of St. Mary's County that it is.

Certified Local Government Status and Training Grant

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program recognizes counties and municipalities that have made a special commitment to preservation. This commitment includes but is not limited to establishing a qualified historic preservation commission to designate and review historic properties. Maryland's CLG program is administered by the National Park Service and the Maryland Historical Trust. St. Mary's County has continued compliance with the CLG program and its reporting requirements through 2025 and is required to request CLG training funds. The HPC was granted \$1,500 for training opportunities through the CLG program. Every four years the Maryland Department of Planning Maryland Historical Trust conducts CLG evaluations, the most recent evaluation was on September 27, 2024, and the HPC passed the evaluation.

Training and Projects

- HPC 202: Modernism for Maryland's Historic District Commissions was attended by the HPC on July 24, 2025.

Demolitions

16 demolitions were reviewed and photographed in 2025.

Project Reviews

33 project reviews were conducted.

Surveys

No properties were surveyed from January 2025 to December 2025.

National Register Nominations

No National Register Nominations.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

2 properties are pending approval from the Maryland Department of Planning.

- SM-357-85, U.S. Naval Air Station Patuxent River; Research, Design, Test and Evaluation Lab (RDT&E Lab); Building 1403. The Navy initiated the Determination of Eligibility form and will be submitting documentation.
- SM-935, Buck Park Subdivision. The State Highway Administration initiated the Determination of Eligibility form and will be submitting documentation.

Historical Lectures

- Lucille W. Walker presented about The Impact of Heritage Tourism in Southern Maryland on March 19, 2025.

2026 Outlook and Future Plans

- To continue public education outreach to raise awareness about historic preservation.
- To hold public lectures regarding historic preservation.
- To present Historic Preservation Awards in May 2026.
- To ensure that every HPC member receives training related to their duties each year.
- To apply for non-competitive funds for annual training by the MAHDC.
- To apply for competitive funds to complete a historical survey.
- HPC members will utilize opportunities for qualified training available through the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Maryland, and others.
- Work with developers in early project application stages to craft preservation-friendly development plans.
- HPC members are encouraged to participate in the Comprehensive Plan update – St. Mary’s 2050.
- To participate in the Oyster Festival again with another pop-up museum and find other events the HPC can have a table or an exhibit.

Conclusion

St. Mary’s County was home to the Piscataway Tribe until English and European contact was made in the 1600s. Colonization transformed the land that is now known as Maryland. St. Mary’s County is one of the four sites of the original English Colonies in the New World and the “Mother County” of Maryland, which is why the HPC continues comprehensive and successful programs that promote education about the historic and archaeological resources and documents

how the county is changing. The Historic Preservation Commission looks forward to strengthening relationships and working with the Commissioners of St. Mary's County, County Departments, Preservation Maryland, Maryland Historical Trust, archaeology groups, and local museums.

Glossary

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| CLG | Certified Local Government The CLG Program is an initiative providing technical assistance and small grants to local governments seeking to preserve significant aspects of their heritage. |
| HPC | Historic Preservation Commission The group created by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to represent the geographical, social, economic, and cultural concerns of the residents of the County. |
| GIS | Geographical Information System GIS is a computer system that captures, stores, and displays geographic data. This tool can be used to layer information and create maps. |
| MAHDC | Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions This organization provides advocacy, training, and program support for historic districts and preservation commissions across Maryland. |
| MHT | Maryland Historical Trust This is the state agency responsible for preserving and interpreting Maryland's historical and cultural heritage. |

Attachments

Historic Preservation Commission Members and Attendance

Attachments

Historic Preservation Commission Members and Attendance

| Member | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | Jun. | Jul. | Aug. | Sep. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Quorum (Y/N) | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y |
| Eve Love | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | A | P |
| Patricia Samford | P | P | P | A | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P |
| Teresa Wilson | P | A | P | P | A | P | P | P | P | A | P | P |
| Mary C. McKay | P | P | P | P | P | A | A | A | A | P | A | A |
| Jocelyn Copeland | A | P | A | P | A | P | P | P | P | P | P | A |
| Apryl Yates | P | P | A | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | A |
| Matthew Riedel | | | | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | P | A |
| Jeremy Hanson | P | A | P | A | P | P | P | P | P | A | A | P |