

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

ANNUAL REPORT

January – December 2023

A Certified Local Government



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Reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission on January 25, 2024.

Members: Jocelyn L. Copeland, Mary C. McKay, Teresa Wilson, Robert J. Hurry, Joi N. Lowe, and Eve Love

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Introduction

The Historical 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 Historic 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. Indigoes 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 Historical Trust.

Membership

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County appoint seven county residents to serve on the Commission. Members have a crucial role in protecting and enhancing the county's historic resources and cultural heritage. Through their advocacy, 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 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) 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, Vice-Chair, and Secretary 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 either held at the Department of Land Use & Growth Management, the Middle Conference Room in the Potomac Building, or by Zoom. The meetings are conducted in compliance with the St. Mary's County Open Meetings Act, in accordance with the Local Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland §§ 9-501 through 9-516.

2023 Commission Members

Name	Position	Date of Appointment	Expiration Date
Teresa Wilson	Chair	July 2021	June 2024
Robert Hurry	Vice Chair	January 2022	December 2024
Ginger Newman-Askew	Secretary	July 2021	June 2024
Anibal Delgado	Member	July 2020	June 2023
Craig Lukezic	Alternate	January 2021	December 2023
Christine McKay	Member	July 2021	June 2024
David G. Brown	Member	January 2023	December 2023
Timothy L. Norris Jr.	Member	July 2023	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 pertaining to 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 2023

- Continued monitoring and collation of historic properties identified for demolition
- Identified potential CLG grant opportunities
- Coordinated and attended regional conferences and lectures
- Developed tools to increase customer engagement and promotion of the Local Historic District program

Historic Preservation Awards

The Commissioners of St. Mary's County and the HPC presented the awards in May 2023.

- Michael Hewitt was honored with the Historic Preservation Project Award for the restoration of Tall Timbers Tavern.
- W.M. Davis, Inc. and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources were honored with the Historic Preservation Project Award for the restoration of Point Lookout Lighthouse.
- Peter Himmelheber was honored with the Historic Preservation Legacy Award for his 20 plus years of work to preserve the County's history.

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 8 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 2023 and is required to request CLG training funds. The HPC was granted \$1,000 for training opportunities through the CLG program.

Trainings and Projects

- HPC 204: Preservation Easements for Maryland Historic District Commissions was attended by the HPC on January 26, 2023.
- HPC 203: Archaeology for Historic District Commissions was attended by the HPC on February 23, 2023.
- HPC staff provided updates to the HPC about a passenger ferry feasibility study. This is to encourage further appreciation of our historic resources.

Demolitions

32 demolitions were reviewed and photographed in 2023.

Project Reviews

46 project reviews were conducted.

Surveys

No properties were surveyed from January 2023 to December 2023.

National Register Nominations

No National Register nominations.

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

No new entries to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Historical Lectures

- Kent Randall presented on March 16th about the Bloodless Revolution during the fall of the Third Lord Baltimore's government in Maryland (1689-1691).
- Sam Baldwin presented on April 20th about the John Hanson Briscoe Historical Project, detailing the lost grave of Maryland's 6th governor.
- Craig Lukezic presented on December 19th about archaeological investigations spanning over 40 years at NAS PAX.

2024 Outlook and Future Plans

- To continue public education programs to raise awareness about historic preservation.
- To hold public lectures regarding historic preservation.
- Present Historic Preservation Awards
- To ensure that every HPC member receives training related to their duties every year. The HPC is encouraged to apply for the non-competitive funds available for annual education and recommend that HPC members and staff consider attending the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' biennial Forums.
- 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.

Conclusion

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 it is important for the HPC to continue the comprehensive and successful programs that promote education about the historic and archaeological resources in Maryland's birthplace, St. Mary's County. In 2023, the HPC hosted three historical lectures that were attended by the public. Members attended two training courses from the MAHDC to maintain their knowledge for the HPC. 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

GLG Certified Local Government

The CLG Program is an initiative providing technical assistance and small grants to local governments seeking to preserve the important and significant aspects of their heritage.

HPC Historic Preservation Commission

GIS Geographical Information System

MAHDC Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions

MHT Maryland Historical Trust

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	CANCELED	CANCELED
Anibal Delgado	P	P	A	P	P	A						
David G. Brown	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P		
Eve Love	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Ginger A. Newman- Askew	A	P	A	P	A	A	A	A	A	P		
Mary C. McKay	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	A	P		
Robert J. Hurry	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P		
Teresa Wilson	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P		
Timothy L. Norris Jr.							A	A	A	A		
Craig R. Lukezic							A	P	A	P		