

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT
January – December, 2017**



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

AICUZ	Air Installation Compatible Use Zone
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
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
LPDD	Lexington Park Development District
MAHDC	Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions
MALP	Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation
MDP	Maryland Department of Planning
MHT	Maryland Historical Trust
PAX	Naval Air Station, Patuxent River
PM	Preservation Maryland
RCL	Rural Limited Commercial District
RPD	Rural Preservation District
RSC	Rural Service Center District
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 will emphasize working with the Department of Land Use and Growth Management to monitor the impact of development on cultural resources.

In 2017 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 various training programs provided by the Maryland Association of Historic District Commission. Members attended training in Calvert County, as well as offering training for other members in St. Mary's County. Members also attended the Keeping History Above Water Conference held in Annapolis, Maryland.

2017 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 and the book was published 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.

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 Blackistones 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, book was revised by Grace Mary Brady. 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 2017 was as follows:

<u>Name and Date of Appointment</u>	<u>Term Expiration Date</u>
Linda Reno, (July, 2014)	June, 2017
Anibal Delgado (July, 2017)	June, 2020
Rob Gibbs (July, 2015)	June, 2018
*Pete Himmelheber (January, 2015)	December, 2017/2018 resigned 1 year early
Carol Moody (July, 2017)	June, 2020
Eve Love (July, 2015)	June, 2018
Kent Randell (July, 2015)	June, 2018
*Teresa Wilson (January 1, 2015)	December, 2017 filled a vacancy mid-term
Sean Wickers (January 1, 2016)	December, 2018

- Linda Reno did not seek reappointment. Anibal Delgado was appointed July, 2017.
- Pete Himmelheber resigned before the end of his term.
- Carol Moody was appointed to Mr. Himmelheber’s slot on July, 2017.
- Teresa Wilson was re-appointed on January, 2018 for a 3-year term.

*Linda Reno was technically Chair from January, 2017 through June 30, 2017. Carol Moody served as Chair from July, 2017 through December 2017.

*Teresa Wilson served as Vice-Chair for 2017. (Teresa also served as Chair for part of Linda Reno’s term)

Grace Mary Brady served as the Historic Preservation Planner for 2017.

3.0 Significant Activities in 2017

3.1 Cemetery Database Project Continues

The HPC continued its work on the cemetery database through its subcommittee consisting primarily of Robert Gibbs. 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 2017.

- a) Historic Sotterley, nominated by Eve Love, for a preservation service award, for the creation of an unusual exhibit using its 19th century Corn Crib entitled “Land, Lives and Labor.” This exhibit tells the stories of the people who labored at Sotterley over the centuries to include primarily the enslaved, but also those who continued to work the land and property past emancipation.
- b) Bachelor’s Hope, nominated by Kathy Bailey, for a preservation project award for the renovation and preservation of the 1749 Georgian style home. Note: Bachelor’s Hope has been owned by many notable families including: Lord Baltimore, Dr. Thomas Gerard, Governor Thomas Notley, Dr. John Turner and Colonel Walter Simpson.
- c) John Richard Knott and Shawn Knott, nominated by Grace Mary Brady, for a preservation service award for their 353 page book entitled *The Good Old Days on the Patuxent*. Their book covers oystering, crabbing, fishing and clamming on the Patuxent.
- d) Sheriff Timothy Cameron, Grace Mary Brady, Carol Moody, Linda Reno, Maryann Thompson and Jeffrey MacLane, nominated by Rob Gibbs, for a preservation service award for their authorship of *AMERICA’S FIRST, A history of America’s Oldest Continuously Operating Sheriff’s Office*. This 385 page book covers the history of the Sheriff’s from 1637 to present.
- e) Town of Leonardtown, nominated by St. Mary’s County Historical Society, for a preservation project award for saving the top of the water tower roof. The water tower on Church Street had been built in 1924. When it was demolished, the Town of Leonardtown saved it and used it to build the Pavilion roof at the Port of Leonardtown Public Park.

3.3 Public Outreach

In 2017 the Historic Preservation Commission and staff increased its public outreach by:

- (a) Numerous articles in the local newspapers (*County Times* and *Enterprise*) about cemeteries and the importance of protection of burial sites located on private property from vandalism and destruction. Additional articles were published in support of upcoming lecture series and the Maryland Big Tree Program.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Hosted a lecture: **Want to Improve Fish Habitat? Join CBF (Chesapeake Bay Foundation) Anglers for Clean Water**. Presented by John Page Williams, Senior Naturalist with the CBF. February 22, 2017
- (d) Hosted a lecture: **America’s Railroads 1941 to 1945, The Military Railway Service (MRS)**. Presented by Vince Turner, Military Railway Service during WW II. April 26, 2017.

- (e) Hosted a lecture: **Haunted House in St. Mary's County**. Presented by Kent Randall on the Susquehanna House as a Cursed Estate. October 25, 2017.
- (f) Hosted a lecture: **Empowerment and African American Genealogy**. Presented by Chris Haley, Director for Legacy of Slavery at the Maryland State Archives. November 15, 2017.
- (g) Robert Gibbs gave a presentation on **St. Mary's County Cemeteries** with a profile of the St. Andrew's Cemetery on December 2, 2017.
- (h) Historic Preservation Planner, Grace Mary Brady, was the guest speaker at numerous organizations throughout the year: **In the Blink of An Eye** was presented to Citizens Academy for St. Mary's County Government and the Major William Thomas Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution of St. Mary's City. **Boarding Houses and Hotels** was part of a collaborative lecture series with the Calvert Marine Museum, Calvert Library, Bayside History Museum, Chesapeake Beach Railway Museum and members of the Historic Preservation Commission.
- (i) Historic Preservation Planner, Grace Mary Brady, created exhibits for various museums and organizations throughout the year (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's). Ms. Brady worked with Sotterley Plantation in helping to create the new Resurrection Manor Exhibit.
- (j) Presentation of five historic preservation/service/project/lifetime awards;

4.0 Future Plans

4.1 Public Outreach

In 2017 the Historic Preservation Commission conducted public outreach activities by being involved in the development of Newtowne Neck State Park; working with the Archdiocese of Washington in restoring the Newtowne Manor House; sponsoring educational forums about the importance of archaeology in St. Mary's County, worked with county attorney and local deputies on various cemetery issues.

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 Grace Mary Brady on January 16, 2018.

Adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission on January 25, 2018.