HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION
ANNUAL REPORT
January – December, 2012

Photo #1, part of the Historic Preservation Commission Cemetery Project; Photo #2 one of the existing Historic Roads; Photo #3 Scotland Post Office; Photo #4 measuring a tree for the Maryland Big Tree Program; and Photo #5 last double-overshot water-wheel in the State of Maryland located at Cecil’s Mill.

Prepared by Grace Mary Brady, Historic Preservation Planner II, Department of Land Use and Growth Management. Reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission: Carol Moody, Chair; Scott Lawrence, Vice-Chair; George Donely, Mary Farrar, Robert Gibbs, Linda Reno and Michael Smolek.
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### Glossary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AICUZ</td>
<td>Air Installation Compatible Use Zone</td>
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<tr>
<td>BCC</td>
<td>Board of County Commissioners</td>
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<tr>
<td>CFR</td>
<td>Code of Federal Regulations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CLG</td>
<td>Certified Local Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>FY</td>
<td>Fiscal Year</td>
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<tr>
<td>HPC</td>
<td>Historic Preservation Commission</td>
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<tr>
<td>GIS</td>
<td>Geographical Information Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>HTE</td>
<td>St. Mary’s County Government Database</td>
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<tr>
<td>LPDD</td>
<td>Lexington Park Development District</td>
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<tr>
<td>MAHDC</td>
<td>Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions</td>
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<tr>
<td>MALP</td>
<td>Maryland Agriculture Land Preservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDP</td>
<td>Maryland Department of Planning</td>
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<td>MHT</td>
<td>Maryland Historical Trust</td>
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<td>PAX</td>
<td>Patuxent River Naval Air Station</td>
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<tr>
<td>PM</td>
<td>Preservation Maryland</td>
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<tr>
<td>RCL</td>
<td>Rural Limited Commercial District</td>
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<tr>
<td>RPD</td>
<td>Rural Preservation Districts</td>
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<tr>
<td>RSC</td>
<td>Rural Service Center District</td>
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<tr>
<td>SMC</td>
<td>St. Mary’s County</td>
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<tr>
<td>TDR</td>
<td>Transferable Development Rights</td>
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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 dedicate its efforts in the coming year to working with the Department of Land Use and Growth Management to monitor the impact of development on cultural resources.

In 2012 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:

(a) Presentation at Annual conference for Society for Historical Archaeology, Baltimore on Investigating the main 18th century Plantation in St. Mary’s City, given by Ruth Mitchell;
(b) Dr. Ralph Eshelman on the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake – open to the public;
(c) Archaeology digs at St. Francis Xavier throughout 2012;
(d) Participation in the Lexington Park Development District Master Plan process;
(e) Going Green Expo hosted by Land Use and Growth Management…displays created for War of 1812, Religious Freedom Byway and St. Mary’s County Rural Roads;
(f) Presentation on Archaeological Workshop by Dr. Julia King – open to the public, filmed and rebroadcasted;
(g) Education and outreach at Maryland State House and Garden Pilgrimage – very well attended;
(h) Presentation of five historic preservation/service awards – filmed and rebroadcasted;
(i) Workshop by Ray Cannetti about restoring bricks and mortar on the Colonial Homes of Maryland and Virginia – opened to the public;
(j) First Military Railroad (Civil War) presentation by Art Candenquist – open to the public – standing room only
(k) War of 1812 Workshops sponsored by the Maryland Historical Trust and National Park Service in Edgewater;
(l) Share your Stuff sponsored by the College of Southern Maryland, Southern Maryland Studies Center, Historical Society – theme was farming and water-related activities.
(m) Oyster Festival – annual outreach featuring War of 1812, Civil War, Historic and Rural Roads, Religious Freedom Byway and Preservation Guidelines;
(n) Section 106 Training provided by the Maryland Historical Trust; and
(o) Sponsored Lost Towns project, 10,000 years of Prehistory at Pig Point lecture, given by Dr. Al Luckenback (Lead Archaeologist) – open to the public, filed and rebroadcasted.
Background

St. Mary’s County is fortunate to have so many citizens who give their time and talents in the area of historic preservation. The Board of St. Mary’s County Commissioners 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 strength of the St. Mary’s County Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance, Comprehensive Plan, federal, state and regional protective regulations.

Information resources used by the St. Mary’s Historic Preservation Commission are the Comprehensive Plan Quality of Life in St. Mary’s County—Strategy for the 21st Century adopted on September 14, 2010 in accordance with Article 66B of the Annotated Code of Maryland; the supplement to the Comprehensive Plan Painting a Self Portrait: A Historic Preservation Plan for St. Mary’s County approved on March 7, 2000; and the Maryland Historic Preservation Commissions Handbook prepared by the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC), a basic resource widely used in the State of Maryland.

Chapter II of the MAHDC handbook provides detailed information on the qualifications and responsibilities of Historic Preservation Commission members, and outlines the procedures necessary to conduct the business of historic preservation in an efficient and legal manner. The remaining chapters provide information on a range of topics including historic preservation, planning, designation, and project review to name a few. Other references are the legal handbook, and standards and guidelines from the Maryland Historical Trust and the Department of the Interior.

1.0 The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC): Brief History

1.01 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 New Towne Manor House, SM-058 as local historic districts. A historic districts proposal by the Commission for the St. Mary’s City area met with public disagreement. 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 the first multi-phased program designed 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 eventually resulting 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.

Phase 5 began in 1999 with work done by historic sites surveyor Kirk Ranzetta, focused on organizing all data from the previous survey work and developing Painting a Self Portrait: A Historic
Preservation Plan for St. Mary’s County, which was adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on March 7, 2000.

Phase 5 also resulted in the preparation of a multiple property documentation form for a group of thematically related properties. Phases 1 through 5 resulted in the addition of 250 buildings, structures, districts, objects and sites to the Maryland Inventory. In addition to this effort, information in 65 previously documented resources was updated.

Though these were significant additions to state and county inventories, the project designers realized they had underestimated the number of resources that needed to be documented. To address this need, Phase 6 of the grant was initiated on October 4, 1999 and concluded on October 3, 2000. During this phase 182 buildings were added to the Inventory. As of December 31, 2011, there are 926 documented historic sites in St. Mary’s County.

Another component of this phase involved obtaining up-to-date photographs of standing structures previously listed in the Maryland Inventory. The historic sites surveyor also prepared an outline for a book to be published about the county’s historic resources in an upcoming phase. Also during Phase 6, initial steps were taken to link historic data to maps of historic resources using the capacity of geographic information system (GIS). This technology has proven very effective in other jurisdictions and is expected to save time and greatly enhance protection of the county’s historical and archaeological resources. The term historic site refers to standing structures, and does not include other resources such as archaeological sites which are documented separately by the Maryland Historical Trust.

1.02 Work on Phase 7 involved building upon previous efforts by implementing components of the historic preservation plan as well as organizing a manuscript about the county’s historic resources for publication.

In Phase 8, architectural historian Kirk Ranzetta, who surveyed many of St. Mary’s historic properties, assembled a manuscript titled I’m Goin’ Down County: An Architectural Journey through Saint Mary’s County. An architectural draftsman was hired to complete some of the illustrations. Phase 8 was concluded when work for the publication of the manuscript was completed by Grace Mary Brady 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 can be checked out free at any of the St. Mary’s and Calvert County Library branches.

The book can be purchased in many unusual locations throughout St. Mary’s County, which truly reflects its popularity (local eating establishments to Mennonite farm stands and grocery stores, from museums to public libraries).

This book was a well-documented collaborative effort, with acknowledgments to many individuals on pages v and vi. It could not have been completed without the assistance of hundreds of property owners, preservation advocates, and county employees.
2.0 Meetings and Memberships

2.01 As required by Article 66B of the Maryland Code, enabling legislation for historic preservation commissions, allows the St. Mary’s County Board of County Commissioners 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, 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.

2.02 The St. Mary’s County Historic Preservation Commission members select their respective Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary annually at the December meeting. They meet 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 as deemed necessary. In compliance with the Open Meetings Act of 1985 (Article 24, Section 4-201), these meetings are conducted following Roberts’ Rules of Order, as amended. Meetings are usually held at 4:00 p.m. at the Department of Land Use and Growth Management and are open to the public.

2.03 Commission Membership in 2012 was as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Expiration Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>George Donely</td>
<td>December, 2014</td>
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<td>Mary Farrar</td>
<td>June, 2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robert Gibbs</td>
<td>June, 2013</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scott Lawrence</td>
<td>June, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Reno</td>
<td>June, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Moody</td>
<td>June, 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael Smolek</td>
<td>June, 2015</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Carol Moody served as Chair for all of 2012.
Scott Lawrence served as Vice Chair for all of 2012.
Mary Farrar served as Secretary since July 2012.

2.04 Grace Mary Brady served as the Historic Preservation Planner for all of 2012.

3.0 Significant Activities in 2012

3.1 Cemetery Database Project Continues
The HPC continued its work on the cemetery database through its subcommittee consisting of Carol Moody, Scott Lawrence, and Robert Gibbs, Chair.
The long-term goal of this project is two-fold. The first priority is to add the location of private cemeteries to the county database. The second priority is educating the property owner on the importance of preserving the grave sites and how state statute protects burial sites.

3.3 Annual Historic Preservation Awards
The Board of County Commissioners and the HPC presented awards to the following individuals in 2012.

**Service Awards**

Five individuals received two historic preservation **service** awards.

1) Silas Hurry (Historic St. Mary’s City), Nancy Dodge (Cremona), Bill Cullins (Cullins Trucking and Mount Chance Farm) and Wayne Guy and sons (Guy’s Firewood) received service wards for their contribution to the “Historic Barns of Maryland” public television show.

2) Father Brian Sanderfoot received a service award for the restoration of the historic oil painting of St. Francis Xavier and other preservation efforts.

**Project Awards**

Two entities received historic preservation **project** awards.

1) Mrs. Francis (Tiny) Taylor and the parishioners of St. Ignatius Church for a preservation project award for restoration work performed by the Society for the Preservation of St. Ignatius Church.

2) John Sothoron and the Charlotte Hall School Alumni Association for interpreting the story of the Charlotte Hall School and preserving the artifacts which are displayed at the White House in Charlotte Hall.

**Lifetime Achievement Award**

1) Robert Aldidge and the Sotterley Garden Guild for planning, preparing and maintaining the historic gardens and sundry horticulture features that make Sotterley a premier plantation on the Patuxent watershed since 1976.

**3.4 Public Outreach**

In 2012 the Historic Preservation Commission and staff increased its public outreach by:

(a) recommendation to Land Use and Growth Management for language in the Lexington Park Development District Master Plan;
(b) education and outreach at Oyster Festival;
(c) education and outreach at local county fair;
(d) public presentation by cemetery sub-committee;
(e) Current staff, Grace Mary Brady, was the guest speaker at numerous organizations throughout the year;
(f) events hosted by the Maryland Historic Trust;
(g) presentation of five historic preservation/service/project/lifetime awards; and
(h) Participation and assistance in the Share Your History (Southern Maryland outreach), which was held in Calvert County featuring, “Farming and Watermen Life.”
4.0 Future Plans

4.1 Advocacy for Family Cemeteries
The HPC plans to document local family owned cemeteries to enhance the county’s database of cemeteries in St. Mary’s County. See 3.2 above – on-going project by the Historic Preservation Cemetery sub-committee.

4.2 Public Outreach
In 2013 the Historic Preservation Commission will continue to conduct public outreach activities by bringing in expert speakers from the preservation community. These speakers will be recorded and televised on Channel 95.

4.1 Accomplishments/Issues and Challenges

The following are benchmarks of the Historic Preservation Plan that have been met since the adoption of the plan in 2000:

1) Hiring of a full time professional historic preservation planner;

2) Continuing public education programs to raise awareness of historic preservation issues;

3) Reviewing of items on the Technical Committee (TEC) Agenda by the historic planner to determine if proposed projects will have an adverse affect on historic resources so that suggestions may be made to avoid these affects;

4) Obtaining Certified Local Government status from the Maryland Historical Trust by maintaining and continually improving the level of historic preservation initiatives, thereby qualifying for grants from MHT;

5) Working with the Department of Economic and Community Development, Tourism Manager Carolyn Laray on promoting scenic roadways.

6) Developing a closer working relationship with the Maryland Historical Trust, Preservation Maryland, and other state-wide advocacy groups;
   The HPC and Ms. Brady have worked with Preservation Maryland, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and preservation planners in neighboring counties to craft a more regional approach to preservation planning.

The following are goals and strategies that are on-going in nature; or that need to be implemented in the future; or noted for long-range planning.

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) Increase coordination with Southern Maryland Heritage Area. (accomplished – on going)

3) Write, advocate and facilitate the adoption of an Archaeological Ordinance by the Board of County Commissioners; (proposed, but not considered)

4) Work with developers in early project application stages to craft preservation-friendly development plans. (accomplished, but more needs to be done)

**Conclusion**

It is clear that 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. Now that some of the ground work 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 will also be required.

As noted in reports from previous years there is no single approach to preservation efforts. Land preservation and retention of 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 Board of County Commissioners, 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 in an effort to create a comprehensive and successful program for historic preservation in St. Mary’s County. The Historic Preservation Commission will continue its efforts in the up-coming year in working with the Board of county Commissioners, County Administrator’s office, DECD, DLUGM to promote education regarding the historic and archaeological resources in Maryland’s Birthplace.

Written by Grace Mary Brady June 12, 2013
Adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission June 26, 2013