

**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
ANNUAL REPORT  
January – December, 2016**



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 2016 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.

## **2016 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, 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 Blackstones of Maryland, "Do Well and Doubt Not,"* written by the late Dr. Gordon Blackstone Hughes and Mick Blackstone 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, Timothy McLane, Carol Moody, Linda Reno and MaryAnn Thompson. This full-color 384 page book was published December, 2016.

These books can be purchased in many locations throughout St. Mary's County, which truly reflects their popularity: 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 2016 was as follows:

| <u>Name</u>                        | <u>Term Expiration Date</u> |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Linda Reno, (July, 2014) Chair     | June, 2017                  |
| Rob Gibbs (July, 2015)             | July, 2018                  |
| Pete Himmelheber (January 1, 2015) | December, 2017              |
| Eve Love (July, 2015)              | July, 2018                  |
| Kent Rendell (July, 2015)          | July, 2018                  |
| Teresa Wilson (January 1, 2015)    | December, 2017              |
| Sean Wickers (January 1, 2016)     | December, 2018              |

Linda Reno served as Chair for 2016.

Teresa Wilson served as Vice-Chair for 2016.

Grace Mary Brady served as the Historic Preservation Planner for 2016.

## 3.0 Significant Activities in 2016

### 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 educating the property owner/s on the importance of preserving the 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 2016.

- a) Newtowne Manor Restoration Committee, nominated by Rob Gibbs, for a preservation project award for their continuing restoration to the Newtowne Neck Manor House.
- b) Scott Lawrence, nominated by Linda Reno and Jim Gibb, for a lifetime achievement award reflecting his devotion to identifying and preserving the resting places of those who have gone before us.
- c) Keith and Dauphine McGuire, nominated by Rob Gibbs for a preservation service award for their continued vigilance and commitment to an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Chapel of Ease and Cemetery and a historic site since 2007.
- d) Carol Moody, nominated by Grace Mary Brady, for a preservation service award for her service to the community, Newtowne Neck, Town of Leonardtown, St. Mary's County

Historical Society, Historic St. Mary's City, the Historic Preservation Commission, just to name a few.

- e) Historic St. Mary's City for its fifty years of service to St. Mary's County, nominated by Carol Moody, for a lifetime achievement award.

### **3.3 Public Outreach**

In 2016 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.
- (b) Participated with Greenplay LLC and the department of Recreation and Parks on the draft Land Preservation Parks and Recreation Plan and provided recommendations to Brian Loewe, Director.
- (c) Participation in the review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan and provided recommendations to Bob Kelly, Department of Public Safety;
- (d) Hosted a lecture **Buried in Lead: The Story of Three Lead Coffins Discovered at St. Mary's City**. Presenter was Dr. Henry Miller, a historical archaeologist, who was the co-director of the Lead Coffins project.
- (e) Historic Preservation Planner, Grace Mary Brady, was the guest speaker at numerous organizations throughout the year;
- (f) Historic Preservation Planner, Grace Mary Brady, created exhibits for various museum and organizations throughout the year (Calvert, Charles & St. Mary's).
- (g) Presentation of five historic preservation/service/project/lifetime awards;

## **4.0 Future Plans**

### **4.1 Advocacy for Legislation to protect cemetery burial sites.**

The Historic Preservation Commission learned, as a result of two complaints we made to the St. Mary's County Sheriff's Department, that burials located on private property are not protected by law. The state statute defines a "**Permanent cemetery**" means a cemetery that is owned by: (1) a cemetery company regulated under Title 5 of the Business Regulation Article; (2) a nonprofit organization; or (3) the State. Graves found on private property are considered "burial sites" and are not protected from destruction or vandalism.

The Historic Preservation Commission has requested that the state legislators and Commissioners of St. Mary's County amend the current cemetery statute to protect St. Mary's County cemeteries located on private property. This amendment would protect the 127 known cemeteries, and others not known, from destruction or vandalism.

The Historic Preservation Commission requested legislation to help protect cemeteries, located on privately owned properties, from vandalism and destruction. The Commissioners of St. Mary's County voted unanimously to allow the Commission to proceed with its request on November 15, 2016. Members of the Historic Preservation Commission appeared before a joint hearing of the local

legislators and county commissioners on December 6, 2016 to ask for support of its proposed legislation.

#### 4.2 Public Outreach

In 2016 the Historic Preservation Commission conducted public outreach activities by being involved in the development of Newtowne Neck State Park; work 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. The Historic Preservation Commission also wrote letters of support on behalf of the Newtowne Manor House for a Six to Fix Grant application, which was subsequently awarded to the Newtowne Neck restoration committee; St. Mary's county Historical Society to recommend exterior refurbishment of Tudor Hall, which was subsequently awarded. The Commission also supported the nomination of Historic St. Mary's City for a Maryland Preservation Award in the Category of Project Excellence: Preservation Partnerships for 2017 for its Lead Coffins Crypt Project. St. Mary's College of Maryland was recommended for a Maryland Historic Trust Preservation Award in the category of "Outstanding Stewardship by a Government Agency".

#### 4.3 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 affect on historic resources so that suggestions may be made to avoid these affects;
- 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;

#### 4.4 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 November 15, 2016.

Adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission on November 17, 2016.