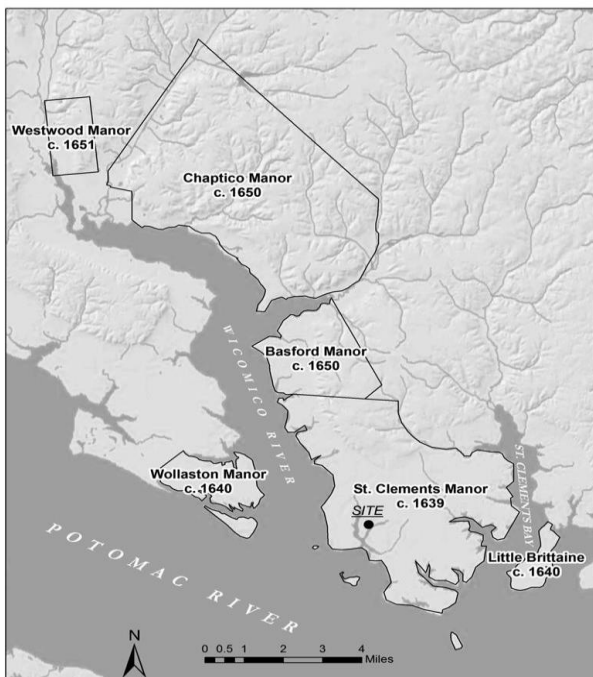


ST MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT

January – December 2019

A Certified Local Government



Prepared by Ben Cohen Planner III, Department of Land Use and Growth Management and the Historic Preservation Commission, January 31, 2020

Reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Commission on February 27, 2020:

Members:

Teresa Wilson, Chair

Eve Love, Vice Chair

Anibal Delgado

Kent Randell

Ginger Newman-Askew

Robert Hurry

Joshua Hughes

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Glossary

CLG	Certified Local Government
HPC	Historic Preservation Commission
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HTE	St. Mary's County Government Database
MAHDC	Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions
MHT	Maryland Historical Trust

Overview

The St. Mary's County Historic District Commission, later renamed the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Commission, was created on June 4, 1975 and was granted the authority to preserve historic resources and increase public awareness through education. HPC identifies and oversees the St. Mary's County's historic landmarks, districts, and sites. This annual report has been prepared in fulfillment of the annual reporting requirement under the Bylaws of Historic Preservation Commission of St. Mary's County and under the Maryland Historic Trust's and the National Park Service's Certified Local Government Program (CLG) established under the National Historic Preservation Act. 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. St. Mary's County has been a "Certified Local Government" since 2015 and the Certification was renewed in 2019. The Historic Preservation Commission enhances the quality of life in St. Mary's County by ensuring that the County's many historic resources are recognized, appreciated, and preserved. The Department of Land Use and Growth Management administers the HPC program.

Background

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.

Membership of HPC

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. 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. 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. All current members meet the Professional Qualification Standards contained in the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines.

1.0 Elections and Meetings of HPC Members

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.

The Commission members in 2019 were as follows:

Name	Position	Date of Appointment	Expiration Date
Teresa Wilson	Chair	January 2018	December 2020
Eve Love	Vice -Chair	July 2018	June 2021
Anibal Delgado	Member	July 2017	June 2020
Ginger Newman-Askew	Member	July 2018	June 2021
Joshua Hughes	Member	January 2019	June 2020
Kent Randell	Member	July 2018	June 2021
Robert Hurry	Member	January 2019	December 2021
Gabrielle Lawrence	Member	January 2019	Resigned September 2019

The Historic Preservation Commission members are supported by a Historic Preservation Planner 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. For 2019, the HPC set the following goals; to continue to monitor and collate properties earmarked for demolition; apply for a C.L.G. grant to conduct a survey; coordinate and attend regional conferences and lectures, review the purpose and use of urban conservation districts; sponsor a public Historic Preservation Commission lecture and update the rules of the St. Mary's County Historic Preservation Commission

2.0 Significant Activities in 2019

2.1 Historic Preservation Awards

HPC Service Awards were given to Silas Hurry and John Cook. Silas Hurry was awarded for writing the 52-page, illustrated book, "Our Town We Call St. Maries: Fifty years of research and archaeology at Maryland's first capital. This publication conveys the special history, archaeology and landscape represented by St. Mary's City, and the efforts to research, preserve, and interpret the site.

John Cook received the award for building the 20-foot-long, sailing log canoe, "Eve". John Cook is rekindling interest in the log canoe building process, and getting more people interested in building and racing these historic vessels.

2.2 Historic Preservation Public Lecture July 10, 2019

The Historic Preservation Speaker was Craig Lukezic, a Cultural Resource Manager for Naval Air Station Patuxent River. His presentation traced the history of St. Mary's County's past settlers with the Dutch in Europe. The lecture was titled, *Archaeological Excavations at Ft. Casimir*, and it recounts the life of Augustine Herrman, who came from Manhattan via Fort Casimir to New Bohemia. He negotiated with Lord Baltimore and was commissioned to draft the map that has become the one of the best cartographic representations of late 17th century Maryland. Colonel Utie, who aggressively confronted the Dutch at Fort Casimir, owned Mattapany, which is located on PAX River Base. Van Sweingen, who ran a tavern that Saint Mary's City reconstructed, interestingly started by owning a warehouse in Manhattan. He moved to New Amstel or Fort Casimir and held an office in the government. When the English, under the Duke of York invaded, he immigrated to Maryland and started a tavern. Lord Talbot, who killed Rouseby, remarkably invaded Delaware and build a fort several miles away from Fort Casimir in an effort to intimidate the colony.

Herrman's 1673 Map



Figure 1: Augustine Herrman's 1673 Map from Craig Lukezic's presentation: *Archaeological Excavations at Ft. Casimir*

2.3 Historic Preservation LUGM Seminar Lecture on November 21, 2019

Scott Strickland presented, *In Search of Thomas Gerard: Archaeological Investigations at the Clifton Site Near Bushwood, Maryland*, to the HPC in November. The presentation was prepared by Julia A. King, Irene C. Baumler, Christopher L. Coogan, and Scott M. Strickland. Dr. Thomas Gerard was a wealthy Catholic who came to Maryland in 1636 and received St. Clement's Manor from Lord Baltimore. Gerard's home served as the political center of St. Clement's Manor, the only manorial holding in the colony that functioned as a true manor with tenants, a manor lord, and manor courts. Gerard also served as an advisor on Lord Baltimore's Council. HPC gave a recommendation to the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to provide a \$5000 grant for further research on the project.



Figure 1: Rhenish blue and gray stoneware fragments recovered from the Clifton Site from Julia A. King's presentation to HPC, "In Search of Thomas Gerard"



Figure 2: Excavating Unit 495400 at the Clifton Site from Julia A. King's presentation to HPC, "In Search of Thomas Gerard"

2.4 CLG Four Year Evaluation

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. The HPC met with Nell Ziehl, Chief, Office of Planning, Education and Outreach, Maryland Historical Trust on August 9, to discuss the process and evaluation of the CLG program. The meeting covered a review of guidelines, which included verification of HPC membership qualifications. During Ms. Ziehl's review, she recognized that St. Mary's County has made a special commitment to preservation and review of its historic properties. Ms. Ziehl completed her CLG evaluation and

notified the HPC of their continued status as a Certified Local Government on November 21, 2019. Please see the enclosed Attachment 2 for a copy of the CLG evaluation notice.

2.5 Maryland Association of Historic Districts Member Survey

Historic Planner completed a survey for the Maryland Association of Historic Districts.

2.6 LUGM Historic Planner Position Change

On August 22, 2019 the HPC planner accepted a position with the Department of Public Works. Mr. Kwasi Bosompem, a Senior Planner in LUGM and the LUGM Administrative staff coordinated activities until a new HPC Planner was hired in October 2019. Ben Cohen accepted the HPC planner position October 2019.

2.7 Cemetery Responsibility

Previous member, Mr. Robert Gibbs, had been given the responsibility of researching and compiling a database, specific to MHT cemetery project, for documenting any cemeteries adjacent to state highways. The database is accessible to the public on the St. Mary's County Library website. Mr. Anibal Delgado was nominated and accepted the responsibility to continue updating the cemetery database.

2.8 Historic Reviews in 2019

The number of demolitions for the year was 7.

There were 16 replacement structures in the reporting period.

2.9 Cases Reviewed

Reviewed a Concept Site Plan on the implication of a Farm Winery on a Historic Resource Site.

2.10 Surveys

No properties were surveyed in January 2019 – December 2019

2.11 National Register Nominations

There were no National Register Nominations.

2.12 Public Lectures, Trainings and Conferences Attended by HPC Members

January 24, 2019 – Eve Love, Ginger Newman-Askew, Robert Hurry, Teri Wilson, and Joshua Hughes attended HPC Board Member Training: HPC 201: Sustainability for Historic Preservation.

May 18, 2019 – Teresa Wilson attended MAHDC Conference

July 10, 2019 – Anibal Delgado, Eve Love, Ginger Newman-Askew, Robert Hurry, Teri Wilson, Kent Randell, and Joshua Hughes attended Craig Lukezic's Presentation: *Archaeological Excavations at Ft. Casimir*

August 9, 2019 – HPC completed CLG training with Nell Ziehl, Chief, Office of Planning, Education and Outreach, Maryland Historical Trust

November 21, 2019 – Joshua Hughes, Kent Randell, Robert Hurry, Anibal Delgado, Ginger Newman-Askew, Teresa Wilson, and Eve Love attended Scott Strickland's presentation, *In Search of Thomas Gerard: Archaeological Investigations at the Clifton Site Near Bushwood, Maryland*.

December 12, 2019 – Teresa Wilson, Eve Love, and Ginger Newman-Askew attended a Historic Cemetery Documentation Workshop hosted by Preservation Maryland

3.0 Future Plans

The following are work programs planned for the Historic Preservation Commission in 2020:

- Continuing public education programs to raise awareness of historic preservation issues
- Continue to review 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.
- Protect small family cemeteries by creating a database and entering the locations into HTE. The integration of the database and HTE will identify when proposed projects are submitted on lands containing cemeteries.
- The HPC is interested in cooperating with MDOT to develop a cemetery database that is linked to GIS. The cemeteries can also be shown on the County GIS maps to allow easy access for our citizens and developers. This will help prevent inadvertent site desecration and may generate additional historic interest and research.
- Ensure that every HPC member receives training related to his/her duties every year. We encourage the HPC to apply for the non-competitive funds available for annual training and recommend that HPC members and staff consider attending the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' biennial Forums.
- HPC members to utilize opportunities for qualifying training available through the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Maryland and others.
- Apply for competitive CLG grants. A grant could support a local plan update and would give the Commission and planners an opportunity to revisit questions of potential new landmark designations, as well as integrate hazard mitigation planning and newer efforts into the overall local strategy.
- 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.
- Work with developers in early project application stages to craft preservation-friendly development plans.
- Follow up the work in IT as the Maryland Historic Site Files are being scanned so that they will be put on the County GIS for a quick reference with respect to floodplain.
- HPC members to start work on "Maryland Rediscovery 400."
- Members to work with the Historical Society with further research and information on the Old Stone Jail Certificate of Acceptance. Chris Haley, director of the study of legacy of slavery at

the Maryland State Archives has a copy of the entire packet on the underground railroad project in St Mary's County.

4.0 Conclusion

There is a determination to give the St. Mary's County historic preservation program the recognition it deserves as one of the four sites of the original English Colonies in the New World and the "Mother County" of Maryland. From its current work, HPC will 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. 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, Public Works and Transportation, and 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 Ben Cohen on January 31, 2020.

Adopted by the Historic Preservation Commission on February 27, 2020.

5.0 Attachments

- 1) Names of Historic Preservation Commission members and attendance records
- 2) CLG Documentation

Attachment 1: Historic Preservation Commission Member Attendance Record -January 2019 - December 2019

Commissioner	Position	Meeting 24	Meeting 28	Meeting 28	Meeting 25	Meeting 23	Meeting 27	Meeting 25	Meeting 29	Meeting 26	Meeting 24	Meeting 21	Meeting 19
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Quorum	Y/N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Cancelled
Teresa Wilson	Chair	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	
Eve Love	Vice-Chair	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	
Anibal Delgado	Member	N	Y		N	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	
Kent Randell	Member	N	Y		Y	Y		N	Y		Y	Y	
Ginger Newman-Askew	Member	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y		N	Y	
Robert Hurry	Member	Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	
Joshua Hughes	Member	Y	Y		N	N		N	N		N	Y	
Gabrielle Lawrence	Member(Resigned)	N	N		N	N		N	N		N	N	
LUGM Staff													
Vincent Turner	Intern	Y											
Margaret Oliver	Historic Planner		Y		Y	Y		Y					
Ben Cohen	Historic Planner										Y	Y	
Sheila Smith	Admin, Manager								Y				
Kwasi Bosompem	Senior Planner				Y	Y		Y	Y		Y	Y	

Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor



Robert S. McCord, Secretary
Sandy Schrader, Deputy Secretary

Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

November 21, 2019

Mr. Kwasi Bosompem
Senior Planner
St. Mary's County Department of Land Use & Growth Management
23150 Leonard Hall Dr.
Leonardtown, MD 20650

Dear Kwasi:

Thank you and Teri Wilson for taking the time to meet with me as part of the Certified Local Government (CLG) evaluation, which must be completed every four years as a requirement of ongoing participation in the CLG program. To conduct this evaluation, we review up to four years of the local government's most recent Annual Reports, go over documents pertaining to the Commission's authority and review (e.g., the ordinance, design guidelines, and a sampling of minutes), and discuss the individual performance standards with Commission staff in person.

Overall, the performance of St. Mary's County meets the standards of the CLG program. We especially appreciate the educational programs and offerings that St. Mary's County has developed for the general public, which may serve as an inspiration for other Commissions more focused on design review.

As we discussed in the meeting, the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) hopes to produce guidance and/or training for local jurisdictions on common issues, including best practices for enforcement and demolition by neglect, as well as an updated model ordinance. We would be pleased to continue to work with St. Mary's County on issues related to hazard mitigation and preservation planning and encourage you to refer to the resources developed and made available via MHT's Weather It Together program as you move forward: <https://mht.maryland.gov/weatherit.shtml>.

I have attached the evaluation worksheet, which includes a few key comments, for your reference. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns about any of the rankings. To build on your success and improve performance over the next four years, we recommend the following actions.

- Ensure that the Commission has at least two members that meet the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards, outlined here: https://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/arch_stnds_9.htm. Based on the information that you supplied, I have determined that Kent Randell and Teri Wilson likely qualify for the purposes of this evaluation. Going forward, I ask that you review the standards and ensure that the Commission qualifications are reviewed and accurately reported in the CLG Annual Report each year.

Maryland Historical Trust • 100 Community Place • Crownsville • Maryland • 21032

Tel: 410.697.9591 • toll free 877.767.6272 • TTY users: Maryland Relay • MHT.Maryland.gov

Rectangular Snip

- Ensure that every Commissioner receives training related to his/her duties every year. We encourage you to apply for the non-competitive funds available for annual training and recommend that Commissioners and staff consider attending the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' biennial Forum (to be held July 2020 in Tacoma, WA). There are also opportunities for qualifying training available through the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Maryland and others. Please continue to note your compliance with training requirements in your Annual Report each year.
- We applaud St. Mary's County for its development of an historic preservation plan, which is above and beyond the requirements of the CLG program, and encourage the County to consider applying for a competitive CLG grant to update it. A local plan update would give the Commission and planners an opportunity to revisit questions of potential new landmark designations, as well as integrate hazard mitigation planning and newer efforts into the overall local strategy.
- On its page for the Historic Preservation Commission (<https://www.stmarysmd.com/boards/groups/default.aspx?board=37>), we recommend that St.

Rectangular Snip

- Ensure that every Commissioner receives training related to his/her duties every year. We encourage you to apply for the non-competitive funds available for annual training and recommend that Commissioners and staff consider attending the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions' biennial Forum (to be held July 2020 in Tacoma, WA). There are also opportunities for qualifying training available through the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Maryland and others. Please continue to note your compliance with training requirements in your Annual Report each year.
- We applaud St. Mary's County for its development of an historic preservation plan, which is above and beyond the requirements of the CLG program, and encourage the County to consider applying for a competitive CLG grant to update it. A local plan update would give the Commission and planners an opportunity to revisit questions of potential new landmark designations, as well as integrate hazard mitigation planning and newer efforts into the overall local strategy.
- On its page for the Historic Preservation Commission (<https://www.stmarysmd.com/boards/groups/default.aspx?board=37>), we recommend that St. Mary's County include a direct link to its preservation code or ordinance, as well as the preservation plan and information for historic property who may wish to nominate a property for local landmark status.

Finally, given the staffing transitions in your office, we recommend a follow-up meeting, either in Leonardtown or in Crownsville, with Ben Cohen and MHT program leads who typically work with local preservation planners. At this meeting, I can provide a new orientation to the CLG program and we can address any questions St. Mary's County staff may have about the state of historic and cultural resources entered into the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Thank you for your participation in the CLG program and for your time in this important process. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at nell.ziehl@maryland.gov or (410) 697-9592.

Sincerely,



Nell Ziehl
Chief, Office of Planning, Education and Outreach

cc: Teri Wilson, St. Mary's Historic Preservation Commission
Ben Cohen, Department of Land Use & Growth Management

encl.