



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Jessica Fitzwater
County Executive

DIVISION OF PLANNING & PERMITTING
Livable Frederick Planning & Design Office

Deborah A. Carpenter, AICP, Division Director
Kimberly Gaines, Director

MEMORANDUM

TO: Historic Preservation Commission
FROM: Beau Lockard, Historic Preservation Planner
DATE: January 27, 2025
RE: CLG and MHT Grant Project Updates

Issue:

Frederick County Government (FCG) is engaged in multiple research grant projects through the Certified Local Government (CLG) Project Grant Program and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) Non-Capital Grant Program. Staff would like to update the Commission about the completed Historic Structure Report (HSR) on the George Markell Farmstead (4825 Buckeystown Pike), the ongoing HSR on the Griffith-Burrall Farm (11229 Fingerboard Rd), and ongoing Phase II of the Recovering Identity Project.

Background and Discussion:

As part of an ongoing effort to better understand and protect the built environment of Frederick County, the Livable Frederick Planning and Design Office has been awarded multiple grants over the past three years for historic research projects.

The George Markell Farmstead, located at 4825 Buckeystown Pike, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and has the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) number F-3-165. The County has owned the property since 1999. The farmhouse is in poor condition after remaining vacant for the last 25 years. FCG was awarded a CLG Project Grant in 2023 to complete a HSR on the George Markell Farmstead. The HSR is a comprehensive report on the property's history, context, and architecture and provides a condition assessment and treatment recommendations. The final HSR ([Attachment 1](#)) was submitted to the County in June 2024 and is being used to plan the next steps for the stabilization and rehabilitation of the George Markell Farmstead.

The Griffith-Burrall Farm is located at 11229 Fingerboard Rd and is on the MIHP as F-7-113. The property was recently purchased by the County and has multiple historic structures and features. As part of the initial planning phase for the property, a HSR was

recommended for the property, particularly focusing on the farmhouse and adjacent enslaved quarters. FCG was awarded a CLG Project Grant in 2024 to complete the report on the Griffith-Burrall Farm. This HSR is ongoing, and Staff expects a final version in Summer 2025.

Recovering Identity is a long-term project, in partnership with the African American Resources Cultural and Heritage (AARCH) Society and other local and regional organizations, to create a countywide African American Context Study and Cultural Resource Survey. Phase I was funded through the MHT's Non-Capital Grant program in 2021 and was spearheaded by Catoctin Furnace Historical Society (CFHS). It focused on African American history and resources in the northern region of Frederick County. This survey identified 15 previously undocumented African American sites and led to the expansion of the Emmitsburg National Register Historic District. The final report, along with all related documents, can be found on CFHS's website (catoctinfurnance.org/recovering-identity).

Phase II of Recovering Identity received MHT's Non-Capital Grant funding in 2023 and is focused on creating a historic context study of African American history and culture throughout Frederick County. This context study will be the basis for planning and organizing future phases of African American cultural resource surveys throughout the County. The study, being written by consultants, is currently in its second draft and is expected to be completed in Fall 2025.

As part of the Recovering Identity project, the FCG and AARCH Society has partnered with local colleges to create an oral history project about the African American experience in Frederick County. To date, eleven interviews have been conducted and recorded and the project plans to conduct four more interviews in the coming year. All the interviews and associated material will be archived with AARCH Society in their oral history collections.

Attachments:

Attachment 1: George Markell Farmstead Historic Structure Report