

2026 Historic Preservation Plan Update

Project Outline

PURPOSE

Frederick County's Historic Preservation Program is undertaking an update to its *Historic Preservation Plan (HPP)*, first adopted by the Frederick County Board of Commissioners in February 1997 and updated in June 2007. The *HPP* is a functional planning document intended to assist the County in addressing important issues related to historic preservation.

It is estimated the *HPP* update will be completed within 16 months. The first portion of the project, consisting of existing analysis, updating historic development, education, and community engagement, will be completed within approximately six months (February – July 2025). The second portion, consisting of additional community engagement, recommendations, and plan updates, will be completed within approximately eleven months (August – June 2026).

BACKGROUND

The *HPP* includes a description of the historical development of Frederick County, the historic preservation program in the County, and goals, objectives, and strategies to support and advance the County's historic preservation program. The 1997 *HPP* guided the key work and programmatic activities to establish and grow the program while the 2007 *HPP* update retained the same goals but included new objectives.

The 2019 *Livable Frederick Master Plan* includes new goals and initiatives toward preservation and preserving the County's heritage which have made strides in reinvigorating the historic preservation program. Historic Preservation-related issues and conditions have evolved considerably in the past two decades. With the 2007 *HPP* update nearing 18 years, the County is pursuing an update to better support the current and future goals, policies, and activities related to historic preservation planning in Frederick County. The 2007 *HPP* update is on the County website here:

<https://frederickcountymd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3638/Historic-Preservation-Plan-2007>

APPROACH AND GOALS

The project will consist of:

- 1) An analysis of the existing *HPP* document to include:
 - a. A review of successes and challenges since the 2007 update; and

- b. Updating goal progress and noting unfulfilled goals;
- 2) Targeted outreach to stakeholder groups and the general community to solicit and gather feedback on historic preservation in Frederick County generally, as well as on the proposed goals and recommendations of the *HPP* update. The engagement will include a variety of outreach methods, which may include online surveys, community meetings, interviews with targeted stakeholders, and tabling at community events.

Based on the analysis and community input, the *HPP* update will consider new and/or revised historic preservation goals and recommendations for how those goals will be implemented. The plan will also include a vision for historic preservation in Frederick County based on community input.

A consultant will utilize the community engagement feedback to generate proposed goals and implementation strategies. They will collaborate with staff, a stakeholder working group, and the Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission to determine the appropriateness of all proposed goals and strategies. The consultant will incorporate the recommended goals and implementation strategies into an updated *HPP*.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

A range of community engagement opportunities will be implemented to garner public input from a diverse representation of County citizens. Community engagement will involve:

- 1) A **working group** comprised of:
 - a. Historic Preservation Commission member(s)
 - b. Historians
 - c. Design Professionals
 - d. Agriculture
 - e. Representatives from: AARCH Society, Asian American Center of Frederick, Frederick Center, Piscataway-Conoy, Centro Hispano de Frederick or Spanish Speaking Community of Maryland, deaf/hard of hearing community
 - f. Youth representation: college / high school

They will meet to hear updates on the project from the consultants and staff, be updated on community input, review key deliverables, and provide feedback on deliverables. Additionally, they will assist with engaging their community circles to participate in surveys and attend community meetings.

- 2) **Focus groups** to provide advice and feedback to the working group on the draft goals and strategies. Focus groups will be comprised of cultural/heritage

organizations, agricultural community, development community, and historic property owners.

- 3) A variety of **community meetings** to include:
 - a. Kick-Off Meeting to introduce the process, educate the public on what historic preservation is and what a historic preservation plan does, and provide an opportunity for community feedback on topics to include in the plan and methods of engagement.
 - b. Open Houses such as a Strategies and Priorities Open house to gather input on proposed strategies and goals and objectives and/or a Draft Plan Open house to share the final draft and get feedback from the public before taking it to public hearings.
 - c. Public Hearings with HPC, Planning Commission, and County Council.
- 4) **Online engagement** via surveys, social media, and website.
- 5) **Tabling events** around the community to bring engagement into the community in order to gain feedback.

PLAN SPECIFICS

The following elements will be updates or new additions to the *HPP*:

- 1) Include the Land Acknowledgement statement.
- 2) Revise the Executive Summary to include a vision or value statement, a brief history of the process to create and update the original plan and the 2007 update, and a summary of the goals.
- 3) Revise the Introduction Chapter to include the plan purpose, historic preservation trends/the changing field of historic preservation, challenges and successes analysis of the existing plan, how to use the updated plan, and the planning process.
- 4) Update Historical Development of Frederick County Chapter to incorporate new research findings since the 2007 update and to increase the timeline to include more 1970s history and trends.
- 5) Revise and update Chapter Two with a brief summary of the County's historic preservation program and efforts, include an illustrative timeline, a brief summary of

the County's survey history, an illustration of the cultural distribution of survey work to date, maps of existing NR districts, MIHP sites, and CR sites.

- 6) Eliminate Chapters Three and Four. Chapter Four becomes an appendix of resources to the updated *HPP* that would need to be updated.
- 7) Revise and/or new specific goals and objectives.
- 8) Revise and/or new implementation strategies and include a timeline and identify potential partnerships.
- 9) New photographs and graphics throughout the document.
- 10) Include new appendices that include a list of historic resources/organizations, glossary/acronyms, list of plans with preservation components, and community engagement summary.

TIMELINE

Part 1: Existing Conditions/Education/Engagement

Milestone	Date
Apply for CLG Project Grant	February 2025
Analysis of current goals	February 2025
Analyze successes and challenges	February – March 2025
Develop Community Engagement Plan	February – March 2025
Update historical development chapter	April – July 2025
Working Group Members Confirmed	March 2025
CLG Award Notification	May 2025
First Working Group Meeting	April 2025
RFP Process	May-July 2025
Community Engagement Plan Begins	May 2025
Community Kick-Off Meeting	June 2025
Consultant Selected	July 2025
Community Engagement Continues	June – August 2025

Part 2: Plan Update/Community Engagement/Recommendations

Milestone	Date
Initial Consultant Meeting with Working Group	August 2025
First Draft of Goals Shared with Working Group	End Sept/Early Oct 2025
Focus Groups Review of Working Group goals	November 2025

First Draft of Plan to Working Group & Funder	December 2025
Open House on Goals	Dec/Jan 2026
Revised Draft to Working Group	February 2026
HPC Public Hearing on Recommended Plan	March 2026
PC Public Hearing	April 2026
CC Meetings	May – June 2026
Plan adopted	June 2026