

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

**FREDERICK COUNTY
HISTORIC PRESERVATION**



Frederick County
Government *Maryland*



2025 Annual REPORT

This publication is the Annual Report for the Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) for the federal fiscal year October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025. It has been prepared according to the guidelines outlined in "Maryland Certified Local Government [CLG] Program Procedures Manual." CLG status is administered by the Maryland Historical Trust for the National Park Service. An annual report is one of the requirements for maintaining CLG status.

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mary Thompson, Chair
Jack Lynch, Vice-Chair
Mark Andros
Kelley Berliner
Virginia Crum
Peter Pearre
Grace Schofield



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Background

Created in 1998, the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) is a seven-member commission comprised of persons who possess a demonstrated interest, as well as professional experience and expertise, in historic preservation and related fields.

Appointments

The County Council confirmed the reappointments of Kelley Berliner and Virginia Crum, both having filled unexpired terms. They have been appointed to three year terms. Mary Thompson, Peter Pearre, and Mark Andros' terms expire June 2026. Jack Lynch and Grace Schofield's terms expire June 2027.

Certified Local Government

The Commission fulfills a key requirement for the County to be a Certified Local Government in cooperation with the Maryland Historical Trust (the State Historic Preservation Office) and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

HPC REVIEWS AT A GLANCE



7 Commission Reviews

11 Staff Reviews



3 Local Designations

6 Properties assisted with grants

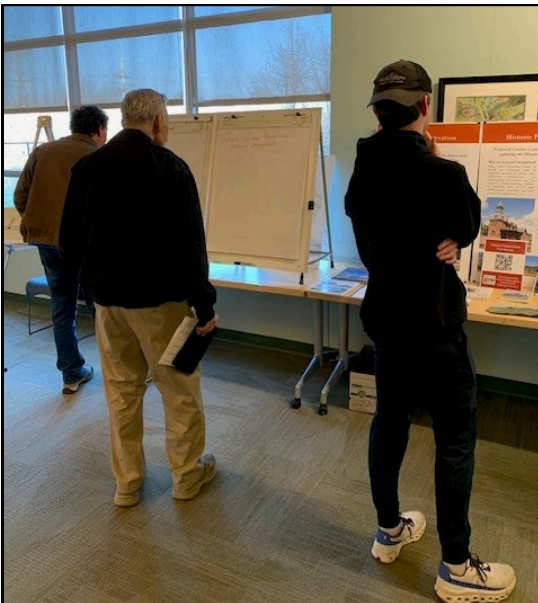




Plan

UPDATE

In early 2025, Historic Preservation staff began the process of updating the County's Historic Preservation Plan, last updated in 2007. Staff held open houses, attended community events, and hosted an online survey throughout the summer. Additionally, an advisory group has been formed to help shape the plan. Summer community engagement efforts concluded in September and the advisory group has developed a vision statement for the plan. Draft goals and initiatives will be drafted and presented for community feedback from October through mid-winter. A consultant will also be hired to continue community engagement and finalize the plan update.



Top left photograph: part of the advisory group meeting.

Bottom left: Thurmont Open house.

Bottom right: Brunswick Spring Fest.

Public

ARCHAEOLOGY

In June, Historic Preservation staff, County Parks and Recreation, and Maryland Historical Trust partnered to offer the County's first public archaeology event at Rose Hill Manor Park. For three days, over 20 volunteers helped County and State archaeologist with a shovel test pit survey of a precontact site. Volunteers ranged from high schoolers to retirees and offered people an experience to understand the archaeological process and get a tangible connection with history. Volunteers found artifacts related to both the historic and precontact occupation of the park. This was the first event of the public archaeology program that is being created in collaboration with County Parks and Recreation.



Designations

Judge William Stoner House

8118 Apples Church Road

Designation: October 1, 2024



The tract of land was purchased by John R. Stoner who built the house circa 1854. His son, Judge William Stone inherited the property in 1920. The Stoner House is a two and one-half story vernacular farmhouse with a mixture of European influences such as Greek Revival and German and Dutch accents.

Henry Smeltzer Farmstead

3231 Bidle Road

Designation: December 3, 2024



The first phase of the house was built circa 1832 with improvements made to the house and farm through 1960. It's a good representation of German house building and the agricultural transitions in the county from grain to "truck" farming. It is also locally significant to Middletown for being the processing farm of Main's Meats.

Oliver P. Harding Farmstead Peace & Plenty Historic District

6509 Green Valley Road

Designation: January, 7, 2025



The property was added to the Peace and Plenty Rural Historic District and dates to circa 1780 with interior renovations in 1820s. The property contributes to the district for its masonry construction and association with agricultural history.

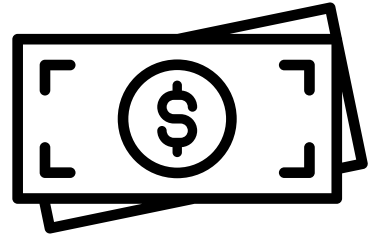
Trainings

TA requirement of Certified Local Governments is that the Historic Preservation Commission attend at least one training annually. In October and November 2024, we hosted two CAMP trainings provided by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC). These trainings covered Legal Basics, Meeting Procedures, and Standards and Guidelines for Design Review. Additionally, individual Commission members attended other training and development programs throughout the year including the Annual Conference of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, NAPC's Virtual courses such as Through the Pane: Historic Window Assessment, Repair and Replacement and Conservation Districts, Easements, Zoning and Other Tools.



Photo courtesy of NAPC. CAMP Trainer Sharon Bradley, upper left corner, led presentations on Legal Basics and Meeting Procedures

Tax CREDITS



The County's new historic preservation tax credit went into effect in September 2024. This new credit allows a 25% property tax credit based on qualified rehabilitation expenses for properties located in a locally designated historic district or individually locally designated. Applications were due by April 1, 2025. A total of **\$235,059** of county property tax credits were applied during this first year.



Grant PROJECTS

CLG GRANTS: In June 2025, MCWB Architects completed a historic structures report (HSR) on a County-owned property that includes a historic farmhouse and slave quarter. Livable Frederick received \$19,927 from FY24 CLG Project grant funds to complete the project. The HSR informs county staff on preservation and stabilization priorities and recommendations for areas of further research.

In May 2025, Livable Frederick was conditionally awarded \$22,062 in grant funds to hire a consultant to assist in the update of the County Historic Preservation Plan. As of this report, the funds have officially been released. The plan update will be completed by June 2026.

Livable Frederick also applied for and received CLG Education and Training Grant. In July 2024, the CLG education and training grant sent a commissioner and staff to the National NAPC Forum Conference. The CLG education and training grant is also used for professional memberships and for group training workshops.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST NON-CAPITAL GRANT: In FY2023, Livable Frederick staff applied for a grant through the Maryland Historical Trust's Non-Capital Grant program to hire a consultant to write a Frederick County African American Historic Context. This is the second phase of a larger project. Previously, Livable Frederick partnered with Catocin Furnace Historical Society and AARCH Society to complete an African American Historic Context study of northern Frederick County and to complete or update 15 Maryland Inventory of Historic Places forms. The Consultant originally selected to complete the project, did not perform their duties. Therefore, a new search for an individual to complete the project will be undertaken.

FREDERICK COUNTY RURAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS: Frederick County awarded \$250,000 in grants to support six historic preservation projects at County Register properties.

Permits & Design

REVIEW

The Frederick County Historic Preservation Ordinance requires the HPC and Preservation Planning staff to review alterations to locally designated properties. Additionally, the ordinance requires Preservation Planning staff to review all demolition permits with structures 50 years old or older prior to issuance by the County to determine whether the property has historical or architectural significance. If staff determines that the property has significance, the demolition requires review by the HPC. The ordinance also requires Preservation Planning staff to review plans for archaeological resources.

CERTIFICATES OF APPROVAL

The HPC reviewed **7** Certificate of Approval applications. All applications were approved as submitted or with conditions.

APPEAL OF THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION

There were no appeals of the Historic Preservation Commission.

CERTIFICATES OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL

Preservation Planning staff administratively reviewed **12** Certificate of Administrative Approval applications for minor alterations that did not change the historic integrity or characteristics of the property.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL REVIEWS

Preservation Planning staff reviewed **22** site plans for archaeological potential. Eighteen resulted in low archaeological potential and required no additional assessment. Four reviews resulted in Phase I assessments.

DEMOLITION OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

The HPC reviewed **4** applications for demolition of a historic resource that Preservation Planning staff determined had architectural or historical significance. The HPC approved the demolitions since they did not have unusual historic value with the condition that two resources receive further documentation prior to demolition.