

FY 2024 Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly
on the
Financial Assistance Programs of the Division of Historical & Cultural Programs
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning

Includes required annual reports for the
Historic Preservation Grant Program
Museum Assistance Program
Historic Preservation Loan Fund

Submitted in accordance with the requirements of State Finance and Procurement Article
§§ 5A-327(m), 5A-328(l), and 5A-353(c)

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Introduction

The Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) are pleased to submit the FY24 Annual Report on the Financial Assistance Programs of the Division of Historical and Cultural Programs, including the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program, the Historic Preservation Grant Program, and the Capital Loan Program (Historic Preservation Loan Program). Managed by MHT, these programs promote the preservation and interpretation of historic resources and cultural traditions throughout the state, in support of the MHT's mission to "assist the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage."

Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (State Finance and Procurement Article §5A-353(c))

Maryland is home to more than 300 museums and heritage sites, which are open to the public. To encourage continued important contributions to education, research, conservation, and heritage tourism, the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program provides technical assistance, services, and financial aid in the form of grants. In FY24, the program did not receive general or capital fund appropriations.

Historic Preservation Grant Program (State Finance and Procurement Article §5A-328(I))

The Historic Preservation Grant Program is a state-appropriated source of funding to assist and encourage efforts to study, acquire, and preserve historic properties. The program provides grants for many types of preservation activities and is administered as two grant programs for different audiences: the Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program, which received an FY24 appropriation of \$600,000 and the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, which received \$300,000 via the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Fund.

Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program

MHT's Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program promotes the acquisition, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic properties in Maryland. Nonprofit organizations, government entities, business organizations, and individuals may apply for funds to rehabilitate, restore, or acquire historic buildings. Nonprofit organizations and government entities are also eligible to apply for pre-development costs that will lead to a construction project. To receive funds, properties must be listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as contributing structures within a district. A preservation easement is required for all assisted properties.

FY24 Grant Cycle

Application materials, including instructions and program guidelines for FY24 funding, were made available in December 2023. A series of two grant workshops were held in-person in December 2023 (Crownsville) and January 2024 (St. Leonard), in addition to four virtual webinars via the Google Meet platform in December 2023 and January and February 2024.

Applications were due May 18, 2024. Of the 37 applications requesting approximately \$3.1 million, MHT's Board and the Secretary of Planning approved seven projects for funding, totalling \$604,000, which includes \$4,000 in prior year funds.

FY24 Grant Awards

Cowdensville AME Church, Sulphur Spring Rd, Arbutus, Baltimore County

Sponsor: Friends of Cowdensville AME Church

Grant: \$100,000

Cowdensville AME Church, built between 1904 and 1907, has been rooted in the free Black community of Cowdensville since 1857. A hub for civil rights meetings, grief support, and community events, it last underwent rehabilitation in the late 1990s. Funds will support vital exterior repairs related to the drainage, roof, and foundation.

Allegany County Courthouse, Washington St, Cumberland, Allegany County

Sponsor: The Board of County Commissioners of Allegany County

Grant: \$85,000

Built in 1893 on the site of Fort Cumberland, the Allegany County Courthouse is a Richardsonian Romanesque-style structure in Cumberland's Washington Street Historic District. Allegany County will restore the building's 190 historic wood double-hung sash windows, enhancing its architectural and historical significance.

Brookeville Academy, High St, Brookeville, Montgomery County

Sponsor: Town of Brookeville

Grant: \$100,000

Brookeville Academy, a boys' school built in 1808 of stone and donated materials, became co-ed in 1819 and expanded to two stories by 1834. Now housing Brookeville's town offices, the building faces urgent masonry and window repairs due to water damage, which funding will help address.

Nathan House, High Street, Cambridge, Dorchester County

Sponsor: Dorchester Center for the Arts

Grant: \$86,000

This three-story brick commercial structure, built in the Cambridge Historic District in the 1880s, was remodeled in the 1930s for Nathan's Furniture Store. Today it hosts the Dorchester Center for the Arts, which will use project funds to rectify moisture problems, replace window lintels, and upgrade mechanical systems.

Ebenezer AME Church, W Montgomery St, Baltimore City

Sponsor: Ebenezer Kingdom Builders

Grant: \$100,000

Built in 1865 in the Gothic Revival style, Ebenezer AME Church is believed to be Baltimore's oldest church erected by African Americans and continuously used by the same congregation. The church will use grant funds to rehabilitate its historic bell tower, including repair of masonry and broken louvers, and address roof deterioration.

Brodbeck Hall, Brodbeck Dr, Frederick, Frederick County

Sponsor: Hood College of Frederick, Maryland

Grant: \$99,000

Brodbeck Hall, in the Hood College Historic District, was built in 1868 with Greek Revival and Italianate details. Owned by Hood College since 1897, it served various functions, including use as a German club. Funding will repair damage from a fire in 2021, preserving the Hall's historical significance and preserving the Hall's historical significance and opening it up for a variety of uses again.

Baldwin Hall, Millersville Rd, Millersville, Anne Arundel County

Sponsor: Severn Cross Roads Foundation

Grant: \$34,000

Built for Severn Crossroads Methodist Episcopal Church in 1861 and moved twice in the 20th century, Baldwin Hall showcases rural Italianate architecture and is now used as a community center. Grant funds will target water issues and repair 21 historic wood windows, preserving its historical integrity.

FY25 Grant Cycle

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY 2025 funding will be made available in November 2024. Grant workshops will be held virtually and in-person beginning in December 2024 and continue in January and February 2025. Applications are due March 2025.

Grant Project Highlights

F. W. Fraley Store, Catoctin Furnace Rd, Frederick County

Sponsor: Catoctin Furnace Historical Society

The Catoctin Furnace Historical Society received funds for the rehabilitation of the exterior of the F. W. Fraley General Merchandise Store, located in the Catoctin Furnace National Register Historic District. The store originally operated as the Catoctin Iron Company store from the early 19th century until the beginning of the 20th century, selling food, clothing, and other necessities to resident employees. The grant-funded rehabilitation work included painting and repairing windows, as well as repainting the historic window signage. To determine the historic color palette, an expert in historic paint finishes studied the remaining layers of paint and identified the original color scheme. The historical society plans to turn its attention to the interior now that the exterior has been completed, with the goal of complementing the rest of the historic village with a general store and educational site.

Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program

MHT's Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program supports a wide variety of research, survey, planning, and educational activities involving architectural, archaeological, or cultural resources. Eligible activities may include preservation plans, historic and cultural resource surveys, educational outreach programs, and National Register of Historic Places nominations. Nonprofit organizations (including state agencies) and local jurisdictions are eligible to apply.

FY24 Grant Cycle

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY24 funding were made available in May 2023. A virtual workshop recording was released via MHT's YouTube channel in May 2023, and promoted via Facebook and MHT's website. Intent to Apply forms were due June 30, 2023, and full applications were due August 1, 2023. In FY24, MHT received 24 applications for archaeological and architectural non-capital projects, totaling more than \$1.4 million in requests. Upon the recommendation of the MHT Board of Trustees, the Secretary of Planning approved funding for eight projects throughout the state.

FY24 Grant Awards

The Early 17th-Century Jesuit Mission at Potapaco Town, Charles County

Sponsor: St. Mary's College of Maryland

Grant: \$33,000

St. Mary's College of Maryland, the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, and the Maryland Park Service will conduct archaeological testing at Potapaco I, an early historic Indigenous settlement and possible Jesuit mission at Chapel Point State Park. This project will document climate change threats, offer planning recommendations, and develop interpretive materials.

Tracking Native American Cultural Heritage of Maryland's Upper Eastern Shore, Caroline County

Sponsor: Washington College

Grant: \$40,000

The Washington College Archaeology Lab will conduct archaeological surveys in the Upper Choptank watershed to document Native American sites threatened by climate-induced sea-level rise, erosion, and subsidence. The project will produce new MIHP Archaeology Site Forms to identify sites in the most urgent need of mitigation and/or preservation.

Curating the Mayr Collection: Artifacts and Records of Archaeological Site, Anne Arundel County

Sponsor: Lost Towns Project

Grant: \$40,000

The Lost Towns Project helps steward the recently acquired Thomas Mayr collection, gathered over 50 years in central and southern Maryland. Funds will aid an interdisciplinary team in ensuring compliance with state curation standards, creating a digital catalog, updating or creating MIHP Archaeology Site Forms, and producing a technical report.

Queen Anne's County Architectural Heritage Book Project, Queen Anne's County

Sponsor: Kent Island Heritage Society

Grant: \$62,000

This project is Phase I of a book on Queen Anne's County's early architectural heritage. The Kent Island Heritage Society will use research, fieldwork, and essays to explore building and landscape changes from European settlement to the industrial era, enriching our understanding of the county's architectural evolution.

Documenting Dairy Farms in Maryland, Phase III, Baltimore and Howard Counties

Sponsor: University of Delaware

Grant: \$30,000

The University of Delaware's Center for Historic Architecture and Design will conduct a cultural resource survey of historic dairy farms in Baltimore and Howard counties, involving roughly ten MIHP Architecture Forms, measured drawings, and brief historic contexts on dairy farming in each county.

Architectural Survey of US Route 1, Phase II, Baltimore, Cecil, & Harford Counties

Sponsor: Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

Grant: \$50,000

This survey by the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area will cover US Route 1 from southwestern Baltimore City to the Pennsylvania border and will include a literature review, supplemental research report, reconnaissance-level survey, and completion of five to eight MIHP Architecture Forms for selected properties.

Architectural and Archaeological Survey of the Westminster Historic District, Carroll County

Sponsor: City of Westminster

Grant: \$30,000

The City of Westminster will produce an updated National Register nomination and supporting documentation for the Westminster Historic District (listed 1980). This work will expand on topics like the rural free delivery system, the U.S. Post Office program to deliver mail directly to rural homes and business, and underrepresented histories of Westminster's African American, Irish, and Greek communities.

Condition Assessment for the Lemuel Wallace House, Calvert County

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust

Grant: \$15,000

The Lemuel Wallace House, a well-preserved cultural site on American Chestnut Land Trust trails, commemorates an African American farmer and landowner. This project will generate a condition assessment report outlining urgent preservation needs, treatment strategies, and cost estimates for recommended actions.

FY25 Grant Cycle

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY25 funding were made available in May 2024. A workshop recording was released via MHT's YouTube channel in May 2024, and promoted via Facebook and MHT's website. Intent to Apply forms for Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants were due on July 1, 2024. The deadline for completed applications was August 1, 2024. Grant awards will be announced in November 2024.

Grant Project Highlights

Documenting Dairy Farms in Maryland, Harford, Montgomery, & Washington Counties

Sponsor: University of Delaware

Historic properties associated with dairy farming in Maryland are threatened as the industry continues to decline and owners of historic dairy farmsteads struggle to maintain their sites. In May 2024, the University of Delaware's Center for Historic Architecture and Design completed Phase II of a multi-year effort, where they produced 12 MIHP Architecture Forms for farm complexes in Harford, Montgomery, and Washington counties, plus a brief historic context of dairy farming for each county. The complex at Indian Spring Farm in Darlington (Harford County) is a unique example from the project, featuring state-of-the-art, purpose-built buildings, including five long barns, a milk house, and a feed barn with turreted corner silos. Phase I documented farms in Carroll, Cecil, and Frederick counties, while Phase III of the project, currently underway, is focusing on Baltimore and Howard counties. MHT plans to continue these efforts until each county is represented in the survey.

Shipwreck Tagging Archaeological Management Program (STAMP)

Recently, MHT maritime archaeologists launched STAMP, a program focused on documenting and monitoring shipwreck sites and following the movement of shipwreck timbers along coastlines. STAMP is part of a multistate program in which the public can participate as citizen scientists to help better understand the movement and condition of shipwreck timbers by attaching permanent tags to shipwreck timbers on Maryland's shores. These tags can be scanned to learn when and where the timber was tagged as well as for historical information. MHT staff co-hosted two workshops with DNR at the Assateague State Park (Worcester County) to teach constituents how to document and tag the shipwreck timbers. Both workshops were filled to capacity and resulted in tagging nearly 20 new timbers. STAMP and the efforts around this program have been highlighted via interviews with the *Chesapeake Bay Weekly* and the *Baltimore Banner*, as well as at the Society for Historical Archaeology's annual conference.

Historic Preservation Loan Fund

State Finance and Procurement Article §5A-327(m) provides for the Historic Preservation Loan Fund, which offers low-interest loans to nonprofit organizations, business and government entities, and individuals. Borrowers may use loan funds to refinance, acquire, or rehabilitate a property that is listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. MHT can also expend funds to rehabilitate historic property owned by MHT. In addition, pursuant to SB425 of the 2023 General Assembly session, certain nonprofits are now eligible to apply for a non-repayable transfer of funds from the program.

This component of the program is only available to a “qualified cooperating nonprofit organization,” meaning a nonprofit organization that is based in the state, operates statewide, and has demonstrated experience rehabilitating historic structures, managing preservation funds, and holding preservation easements. Eligible costs under the transfer program are limited to acquiring, rehabilitating, or restoring historic properties for resale or lease; providing loans to other nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and businesses to acquire, rehabilitate, restore, or refinance historic properties; providing loans to individuals to rehabilitate or restore National Historic Landmarks; and certain administrative costs and programmatic expenses.

For FY24, the program implemented a change from a rolling deadline for loan applications to a single annual deadline for both loan and transfer applications. MHT awarded \$300,000 to Preservation Maryland, a statewide nonprofit, to make loans to other nonprofit organizations, local governments, and business entities to acquire, rehabilitate, restore, or refinance historic properties, and to cover eligible administrative and programmatic expenses.

Information regarding applications for FY25 funds for loans or transfers is available on MHT’s website. Applications will open in November 2024 and are due in January 2025.