

# Maryland Historical Trust Non-Capital Grant Program

## Talking Points for Advocates

### Ask the Governor and Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management to restore critical funding for Maryland architectural, archeological and cultural resources by funding the MHT Grant Fund for Non-Capital Grants

#### What is it?

The Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Program is one of three grant programs funded through the MHT Grant Fund. Non-Capital Grants provide support for research, survey, planning and educational activities involving architectural, archeological or cultural resources. The primary goal of the Non-Capital Grant program is to fund broad-based, comprehensive historic site surveys to identify and document previously unknown historic sites.

#### How is funding appropriated?

The Non-Capital Grant Program receives an annual appropriation through the two-step State budget process. The first step is inclusion of an appropriation amount in the budget developed by the Governor and the Department of Budget and Management. This budget is introduced to the Maryland General Assembly during the legislative session. The General Assembly may approve the amount in the Governor's budget or reduce or eliminate it, but the General Assembly cannot increase the amount. Therefore, it is critical that the Governor include an appropriation in his budget. **No funding was included in the Governor's FY2013 budget.**

**Start laying the foundation for funding in FY2014 today by letting you legislators and the Governor know the importance of the Non-Capital Grant program.**

*Historic properties—the tangible remains of our past—cannot be preserved, enhanced or interpreted until they have first been identified.*

The average annual appropriation for the fund between FY 2005 and FY 2010 was approximately \$400,000. The average annual funding request for the same period was approximately \$680,000. In FY2011, funding was eliminated and then restored to a modest \$40,000 in FY2012. Funding was again eliminated in FY2013. In FY2012 program demand as measured through Intention to Apply forms was \$395,000.

#### Why is the program important?

- **Currently, only 21% of standing structures built before 1960 have been documented. It is estimated that only 2.6% of potential archeological sites have been identified.** Without this information, many important historical sites may vanish without an opportunity for Maryland's citizens' to understand the important part they played in the growth and development of our State.
- **Survey data is critical to local and statewide comprehensive planning and development efforts.** The data generated by Non-Capital Grant projects is available to Trust staff, local government planners, preservation professionals and the general public for various uses, including local government planning and zoning and mandatory compliance review for State and federally funded or licensed projects.

- **Rapid access to survey data created under Non-Capital grant funds ensures that federal and State undertakings are reviewed without experiencing costly delays for gathering documentation.** Anytime a federal or State agency funds, licenses or permits a project affecting historic properties the agency must identify historic properties that may be impacted by the project. Such review is much more efficient for all parties when the affected area has previously been professionally surveyed to identify properties. If the area has not been previously surveyed, the agency must conduct a professional documentary and field survey to identify historic properties. This process can be costly and cause substantial delays to the project. These limited-area compliance surveys completed by professional preservation consultants are far less efficient and much more expensive for State and federal agencies to complete than broad-based comprehensive surveys conducted by qualified local government employees hired, in part, with MHT Non-Capital Grant funds. With the passage of the federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, MHT anticipates reviewing well in excess of 6,000 undertakings annually, the majority of which are projects being carried out by State agencies or local governments using federal money or federal permits.
- **Non-Capital Grant Funds impact revitalization efforts in local communities.** Preservation Maryland matched MHT Non-Capital grant funds with funds from the Abell Foundation and local sponsors to provide a total of \$314,204 to 34 communities to list historic districts in the National Register of Historic Places, making preservation incentives available to over 21,000 contributing properties. As a result of National Register listing, property owners became eligible for the Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit. As of August 2010, 645 tax credit applications were approved in these districts totaling \$89,254,612 in anticipated rehabilitation expenditures. Without the National Register listing obtained through Non-Capital Grants, it is unlikely that these communities would have seen such investment.

### Examples of Projects Funded

- **Historic Sites Surveys in Dorchester, Howard and Queen Anne’s Counties.** These survey projects were undertaken in partnership with county planning and heritage area agencies. The survey of Dorchester represents the first systematic survey of the county since the inception of MHT’s survey program in 1961. To date, funds have paid for the documentation of 160 historic resources. The Howard and Queen Anne surveys are updates of work conducted in the late 1960s and 1970s. These updates are providing valuable information on the state of known resources and documenting previously unknown ones, especially resources from the late-19<sup>th</sup> and early-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. *Survey results provide invaluable data for planning and development and capture information about resources that will be lost to demolition, especially in these rapidly-growing counties.*
- **Remote Sensing of Western Maryland Landscapes.** A pilot project by Towson University to test the capabilities of magnetometer surveys to locate archeological sites and features demonstrated that archeological features could be detected with a high degree of accuracy. This technique has subsequently been used by the State Highway Administration and the National Park Service to better understand and manage their cultural resources. *This method, when used in conjunction with other archeological testing techniques, has the potential to significantly reduce costs and increase reliability of archeological testing.*
- **Pine Street Historic District National Register nomination.** This project will secure National Register recognition for Cambridge’s premier African-American neighborhood. The Pine Street community was established as early as 1801, and was a focus of African-American culture, entertainment, and entrepreneurship through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. *Listing in the Register will help revitalize the neighborhood and encourage rehabilitation through eligibility for rehabilitation tax credits.*

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