Rehabilitation Tax Credits Invest in Important Projects across the State

At the Annapolis State House on December 16, 2016, Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford announced $9 million in state rehabilitation tax credits.

Since its creation, the Maryland Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit program has invested over $380 million in projects resulting in the rehabilitation of more than 4,000 residential structures and nearly 700 large commercial historic structures. That investment has resulted in over $3 billion worth of economic activity and the creation of nearly 30,000 jobs. The tax credit program itself was re-authorized last legislative session for an additional five years, thanks in large part to the advocacy of Preservation Maryland and its members and supporters.

At the December announcement, Lt. Governor Boyd Rutherford noted the power of the historic tax credit in Maryland’s local economies, saying, “The Historic Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit is one of the most effective investment tools for strengthening Maryland’s local economies. When we rehabilitate historic sites, we create jobs for more Marylanders across our state. We give new life to important parts of our past that provide opportunities for economic growth into the future.”

Included in this year’s selection of exciting projects is a catalytic effort on the Eastern Shore to reuse the iconic Phillips Packing Plant in Cambridge, a long-term goal of community leaders and activists alike. Equally exciting is an ambitious project across the state in Hagerstown that will create a multi-use facility in a currently vacant Art Deco building in the heart of downtown. Among Baltimore City’s many important projects is a plan to restore South Baltimore’s former National Enameling & Stamping Company building for use as residences and providing accessible space for units that meet the needs of the visually impaired.

Moving forward, Preservation Maryland’s primary goal is to increase the annual appropriation for this program from its current level of $9 million. By contrast, Virginia invests a staggering $100 million annually in their rehabilitation program which fuels an equally robust preservation industry.

In addition to concerns about funding for the state program, Preservation Maryland also remains extremely concerned about the future of the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credit—a program which could be eliminated or severely curtailed as a component of upcoming comprehensive federal tax reform. For more information on all of these issues and programs, please visit: presmd.org/advocacy.

“When we rehabilitate historic sites, we create jobs for more Marylanders across our state.”

Nicholas A. Redding
**The Great Maryland Preservation Road Trip**

Organized annually to highlight non-profit projects, Giving Tuesday is an occasion to support deserving causes. We hit the road to support our cause!

**OUR LEGISLATIVE FUNDING PRIORITIES**

**Maryland’s History Needs You**

Maryland’s state legislative session began on January 11, and Preservation Maryland has hit the ground running.

**WE ARE WORKING HARD** to ensure that preservation and history programs receive the funding that they need and deserve in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget.

**PLEASE FIND OUT MORE AT:** presmd.org/sign

**PreserveCast**

**Reaching New Audiences with a Podcast**

Preservation Maryland is pleased to announce a new initiative and program for the 86-year-old organization: PreserveCast, a weekly preservation podcast.

**LISTEN NOW:** Download the podcast at preservecast.org, or from iTunes and the Google Play store.

**WE WILL ALSO** be seeking to raise the cap for this program from $3 million to $6 million.

**THE FEDERAL REHABILITATION TAX CREDIT** is responsible for saving hundreds of historic buildings in Maryland and, thousands more nationwide. With a new Congress poised to take up comprehensive tax reform, signals now point to a battle to save the tax credit from repeal. Fortunately, there is still time to save this program.

**HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

Preservation Maryland needs you to contact your local elected officials and have them sign on to a letter in support of the historic tax credit that will be sent to Congress. We’ve made it as simple yet effective as we can. Please find out more at: presmd.org/support

**THE PHOENIX in Ellicott City.**

While a new frontier for Preservation Maryland, podcasts are one of the fastest-growing sources of news, stories, entertainment for many Americans. Unlike most of the organization’s other programs, which are confined to the Free State’s borders, the podcast will discuss topics and issues from around the nation and the entire globe with the goal of reaching and engaging new audiences.

The first season of weekly episodes was made possible through a partnership with Maryland Milestones Heritage Area and a grant provided by the National Center for Preservation Training and Technology. Additional funding from the National Trust for Historic Preservation will support a 10-episode mini-series on historic Antietam.

The Maryland Heritage Structures Rehabilitation Tax Credit’s Competitive Commercial Credit has been proven to have one of the strongest returns on investment for the state. Unfortunately, the current funding at $9 million is woefully low to be spread across all of Maryland, especially when Virginia invests $100 million into their Historic Tax Credit. We are asking that the Heritage Rehabilitation Tax Credit be funded at $80 million, which reflects the total number of projects that applied for the credit last year.

**FEDERAL HISTORIC TAX CREDIT THREATENED**

**THE PHOENIX in Ellicott City.**

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WILLIAM D. WAXTER, III

His passion for preservation lives on through a legacy gift.

What will be your legacy?

MARYLAND

WILLIAM D. WAXTER, III, served on the Preservation Maryland Board of Directors for many years. In addition to the invaluable time, expertise, and leadership shared with the organization, he was also a generous financial contributor. Bill's legacy gift underwrites the training and teaching of the next generation of preservationists through the Waxter Memorial Internship program.

WHAT WILL BE YOUR LEGACY?

CONTACT US ABOUT ESTABLISHING YOUR LEGACY: Development. Direct: 410-685-2886, ext. 307 or dbharbit@presmd.org

More information: presmd.org/support

ABOUT

Eighty years of protecting the best of Maryland.

Preservation Maryland

OVER 80 YEARS OF PROTECTING THE BEST OF MARYLAND

presmd.org

SIX-TO-FIX UPDATE

Ellicott City Recovery

Responding to the devastating July 30 flood in historic Ellicott City, Maryland has not only provided assistance to residents and property owners in Ellicott City, but it is also helping us develop internal policies, procedures, and an emergency response playbook which will make us better prepared for the next disaster, wherever and whenever that may occur.

Since establishing our temporary field office—the Ellicott City Preservation Resource Center—in late August, we have provided support and technical assistance to over 80,000 square feet of historic buildings in the Ellicott City National Historic District. This support includes a wide variety of services, including hands-on tax credit application counseling, rehabilitation recommendations, and connecting property owners with preservation consultants and contractors.

Additionally, we’ve involved ourselves with the long-term recovery and rebuilding process which is being led by county leadership and non-profit organizations. The value of this has been to keep preservation a priority for all concerned. Across the United States, preservationists sorely remember examples of historic resources falling victim to well-intentioned natural disaster recovery efforts. Fortunately, thanks to our involvement, the assistance of many local partners, and the firm support of Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman, we have largely avoided those pitfalls in Ellicott City.

Nevertheless, there is much work still to be accomplished—and our team will remain in Ellicott City until the early Summer 2017 to be a part of the ongoing efforts. While Ellicott City’s main business district has received exceptional attention and support, other portions of the historic district, including the residential West End, still require more hands-on assistance and financial support. Plans to accomplish that task for this portion of the district are currently in progress, with Preservation Maryland leading the effort as the project begins.

More information: presmd.org/support

SIX-TO-FIX UPDATE

Saving Shafer Farm

A true confluence of efforts at the Civil War-era farmstead

One of the major tenants of the Six-to-Fix program is the investment of time and energy of the nominating organization.

In the case of the William Shafer Farm complex in Frederick County, we’re working closely with the Burkittsville Preservation Association, a local nonprofit and new owner of the Civil War-era property. On a bitterly cold and windy day in November, Preservation Maryland arranged a site visit from leading professional preservation firms. Quinn Evans Architects, Keast & Hood Structural Engineers, and the Durable Slate Company. Working through the biting wind, these experts offered on the spot recommendations for immediate treatments that were quickly taken on by the Association.

These partnering companies also assisted with the creation of long-term estimates and plans for future work that are being considered and will be used to assist in needed fundraising efforts. Preservation Maryland is also working on a grant application to the American Battlefield Protection Program on behalf of the Burkittsville Preservation Alliance to assist with master interpretive planning for the South Mountain Battlefield—of which the Shafer Farm plays a prominent role.

Preservation Maryland was also on-site during a walk through of the property, specifically the barn, with representatives from the National Park Service’s Historic Preservation Training Center.

MORE INFORMATION

Donate at: presmd.org/Donate

ARTICLES FROM LEFT

Preservation Maryland

THE PHOENIX

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GREAT THANKS to our sponsors, attendees, partners, and volunteers who made the recent Six-to-Fix reveal party a great event. On October 13, Preservation Maryland announced six new major preservation, conservation, and revitalization projects across the state. Find out more about the projects and the program, and how you can be part of the fix at sixtofix.org.