Standing Up for History

All across Maryland, the forces of demolition are on the march. Using the tired refrains of “urban renewal,” leaders have called for millions of dollars to be funneled into demolition projects that have the potential to eliminate thousands of historic structures.

RESERVATION MARYLAND’S PRAGMATIC and realistic approach to preservation recognizes we cannot nor should not save every historic structure. We also recognize that demolition alone is not an actual investment strategy. You simply cannot demolish your way to greatness—a lesson we hoped had been learned during the tragic “urban renewal” era of the 1960s and 1970s. Large-scale demolition proposals are currently being considered on either end of the state—in Baltimore and Cumberland—and Preservation Maryland is working hard to defend the state’s history and heritage in both cities.

In Cumberland, the City has proposed demolishing large portions of the Rolling Mill neighborhood—an historic community partially listed as a National Historic District. Phase one of the City’s demolition project takes aim at an area not currently listed—but likely eligible for inclusion in the larger historic district. Unlike many demolition efforts, this project does not focus on owner-scraped homes and carries with it the unspoken threat of eminent domain for homeowners unwilling to take the City’s offers. With the help of Preservation Maryland, those homeowners unwilling to sell have been connected with an attorney advising them of their rights and legal options. Critical details and funding information on the project remain unknown as this publication goes to print. This has forced Preservation Maryland to also secure legal representation to request that the City and the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation comply with the state’s Public Information Act and provide information on the project. The troubling lack of transparency and focus on demolishing owner-occupied historic homes make this a priority issue.

Two hours east of Cumberland in Baltimore City, the bulldozers have also leveled their blades. On January 5, with tremendous pomp and circumstance, the state announced a $700 million plan for demolitions across Baltimore City aimed at abandoned row houses that the governor called out as “hotbeds for crime.” However, the funding behind the plan has been called into question by Warren Deschenaux, Executive Director of the Maryland Department of Legislative Services, as having the ability to “displace funding for other state programs or projects” including funding for the Community Legacy program which often supports enhancing the City’s historic fabric. The work continues—and with your support of the Endangered Historic Structure Fund—Preservation Maryland will ensure an equitable result for all of Maryland’s history. Donate at presmd.org/endangered
On February 23, Preservation Maryland joined together advocates and partners from across the state to make the case to State decision-makers for the value of Maryland’s history.

AFTER-ACTION REPORT
History Advocacy Day

On February 23, Preservation Maryland joined together advocates and partners from across the state to make the case to State decision-makers for the value of Maryland’s history.

PEAKING WITH ONE VOICE, Marylanders joined together to let their state legislators know that our history is worth protecting and highlighted the specific policies, programs, and funding that makes preservation possible.

The Preservation Platform that our team of advocates used as the basis for their meetings calls for restored funding of $1.5 million for traditional history and preservation grant programs divided evenly between capital grants, museum grants, and survey-and-research grants—these grants have gone unfunded since 2010. It also calls for level funding of $1 million for the African-American Heritage Grant program.

In addition, the Platform calls for increasing funding to $30 million for the state’s historic rehabilitation tax credit, officially known as the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit. Advocates explained that the current $9 million available for historic rehabilitation tax credits in Maryland is simply not meeting demand—and pales in comparison to the $100 million Virginia invests annually. Those in attendance also advocated for Main Street Maryland, and the Department of Housing and Community Development’s Community Legacy, Community Investment Tax Credit and Neighborhood BusinessWorks programs—each a critical tool for enhancing economic prosperity in the state’s traditional communities and downtowns.

The day’s activities started with a morning briefing led by Preservation Maryland Executive Director Nicholas Redding and hosted by the Historic Annapolis Foundation at the James Brice House, just two blocks from the State House. After the training session, registrants spread out across the complex of House and Senate office buildings to carry the message in one-on-one meetings with their State Legislators. In total, over 80 meetings were held. Following a day of meetings, participants returned to the Brice House for a reception that entertained the advocates and elected officials who attended.

Ultimately, the real value of these efforts is in giving Maryland history a voice—and a seat at the table. The proof will come in the final budget—but the effort to enhance state support for preservation has been ignited anew and will not be quenched until the budget begins to address these critical issues.

Preservation Maryland’s outreach guided by the many organizations that joined the effort to co-sponsor the event, including The Maryland Association of Historic District Commissioners, The Campaign for Maryland History, The Maryland Heritage Ace Credit Coalition, The Maryland Heritage, The Maryland Heritage Alliance, The Historic Annapolis Foundation.

“It was impressive to see the support given by Preservation Maryland to advocates in attendance, and we were, in turn, successful in conveying our concerns for preservation.”

An Update on our Six-to-Fix Projects

We launched our innovative Six-to-Fix program in October, designed to focus funding, staff time, and expert volunteers to save threatened resources statewide. Less than six months old, the program is picking up steam.

1. Antietam Battlefield: A Clean-Up Campaign
   - Staff Meeting with Antietam National Battlefield representatives to plan our April 16 work day. Our team is working to identify additional funding sources to enhance the scope and scale of the project to restore and reinterpret the field and other resources, including the Park’s Mission 66 Visitor Center, which is historic in its own right. To date, Preservation Maryland has secured over $13,000 in funding—largely from the generosity of the Hagerstown Garden Club, which is underwriting the effort.

2. Baltimore’s Historic Storefronts
   - In November, the Hogan Administration made the decision to fund a $650,000 large-scale façade improvement program for Baltimore’s historic storefronts—a result of intense advocacy by Preservation Maryland and our partners, like Living Classrooms Foundation, Civic Works, and the Neighborhood Design Center. Applications were accepted in December, and work will start in Spring 2016. Our role is to bring attention to this positive development and to advocate for continued funding for preservation from the State.

3. Dorchester County: High Tides of Change
   - Preservation Maryland staff has been working closely with our Eastern Shore colleagues and are awaiting a decision on grant funding from the National Park Service’s Hurricane Sandy relief program. In the meantime, we have started work on a homeowner’s historic documentation kit—to include information necessary to document a home that could be lost in a disaster. The idea is to put the power of preservation and documentation in the hands of everyday citizens.

4. Glenn Dale Hospital: Breathing New Life
   - Just Before Thanksgiving, Preservation Maryland joined representatives of three community groups who nominated Glenn Dale for a kick-off meeting to discuss the long history of this site. The focus was on what has happened, what is current law, and what could be accomplished. Following this initial meeting, during which a series of action items were developed, a meeting with the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, who owns the site, was held in February to get all sides moving towards finding a suitable redevelopment plan. There is still much to be accomplished—but we are moving in a positive direction.

5. Holly Hall: Grand Dame of Elkton
   - A Team from Preservation Maryland joined representatives of the City of Elkton and the property’s owners, Cordish Development, to talk big-picture strategy and concepts for redevelopment. Everything was on the table—from tax credits to tax increment financing. A site visit followed, with a promise from Cordish to address immediate structural needs. Additionally, Preservation Maryland has begun to review the legal documentation on the property that binds current and future use in certain unique ways.

6. Pleasant View: Civil War to Civil Rights
   - Preservation Maryland has held several on-site meetings with the Pleasant View Historic Association since October. Working with an engineering firm, the site will receive a qualified Engineer’s opinion on what needs to be addressed and how to tackle stabilization. Then, a qualified contractor will provide an estimate for this work to provide a timeline and framework for fundraising.

To learn more or to volunteer, go to sixtofix.org.
Preservation Maryland Leadership

OVER 80 YEARS OF PROTECTING THE BEST OF MARYLAND
presmd.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Anthony Azola
PRESIDENT
Tulie Tate, Ph.D., LEID AP
VICE PRESIDENT
Mary C. Gregory
VICE PRESIDENT
Teresa F. Michel
SECRETARY
Samuel K. Himmelrich, Jr.
TREASURER
Thomas S. Spencer, Esq.
SUPERVISING ATTORNEY
Diane L. Caslow
ASSISTANT TREASURER
Thomas S. Spencer, Esq.
TREASURER
Samuel K. Himmelrich, Jr.
SECRETARY
Teresa T. Michel
ASSISTANT TREASURER

Sponsorship
Partner with Us

Thanks to the support of our organizational and corporate partners, Preservation Maryland has a robust program of events, gatherings, and media offerings that keep our supporters engaged all year long.

More than three dozen corporations, foundations, and institutions partnered with us in 2015 to underwrite our programs. All our sponsors deserve a special thank you, and they also deserve your support and patronage. So, next time you are in need of an architect or an attorney, an insurance company or an investment advisor, a roofer or a realtor, please remember to look first at our impressive list of preservation supporting businesses at presmd.org/partners.

If you are interested in sponsorship, please contact Doug Harbit, and he will be glad to discuss your options and opportunities in confidence.

You can reach him at (410) 685-2886 x307 or dharbit@presmd.org.

We have also added three dynamic Directors representing a new diversity. Get to know them all at presmd.org/team.

Dynamic Leadership
Meet Anthony Azola

Anthony Azola is an established leader in historic preservation, and we’re pleased to announce his leadership of the Board of Directors as a newly elected Board President.

Preservation has been a part of my family for three generations, so you could say I’ve always been a preservationist. I truly understood this when I started working for my father, Marty Azola, nearly 18 years ago. I now live and breathe preservation daily as President of Azola Building Rehab., Inc.

“The past is the gateway to the future.”

Anthony Azola
PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Funding Worthwhile Projects
Heritage Fund Highlights

Since 1997, the Heritage Fund grant program—a joint effort between Preservation Maryland and our public partners the Maryland Historic Trust—has granted $987,062 to provide direct and much needed financial assistance to worthwhile projects statewide.

Providing these grants is certainly one of the more fun parts of our work, and we’re incredibly proud of the grant awardees for their persistence in preserving the Maryland structures and stories that are important to their communities and the state as a whole. We’d like to share just a couple of these successes:

Repair of Ceres Bethel Church
FREDERICK COUNTY • AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCES CULTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY

The CA. 1870 church building and cemetery are intact examples of post-Civil War African American rural religious properties, but since 1984, the building has stood vacant and suffered at the hand of vandals and the elements. The Heritage Society was granted $5,000 to repair the roof and stabilize the building; Anthony Owens Remodeling and Repair donated additional labor and materials.

Collection Planning and Preservation of Tribal Artifacts
EASTERN SHORE • ACCOHANNOCK INDIAN TRIBE

The Accohannock Indian Tribe received $4,000 from the Heritage Fund to hire a consultant to draft a plan for the conservation and organization of the materials in the collection.

Please note: the next Heritage Fund grant application deadline will be August 15, 2016.

Heritage Fund monies covered material expenses to secure open fenestration at Ceres Bethel Church in Summer 2015.
Maryland History Advocacy Day

MARYLANDERS ARE WORKING HARD to restore and increase funding for history and preservation programs! With Preservation Maryland leading the way, 100+ advocates had in-person meetings with 80+ legislators in Annapolis for Maryland History Advocacy Day. Thank you to all of those advocates that showed up in the rain, to share why preservation matters to Maryland!

-hotwire for better views-

MARYLAND HOUSE & GARDEN PILGRIMAGE Founded 85 years ago as the Federated Garden Clubs of Maryland, the Pilgrimage is a premiere multi-county historic house and garden tour. True to their founding tenets, proceeds from the tour are granted to architecturally and historically significant properties for their preservation and restoration throughout the state. Don’t miss this great event that gives back to Maryland! Find out more at: mphp.org

SAVE THE DATES FOR YOUR PILGRIMAGE Saturdays in Spring 2016 —
• APR 30 Queen Anne’s County
• MAY 7 Harford County
• MAY 14 Talbot County
• MAY 15 Baltimore County
• MAY 28 Charles County

(right) A SCENE FROM THE GARDEN at Hard Bargain Farm, part of the environmental and educational resources operated by the Alva Ferguson Foundation in Accokeek.

VINTAGE VIEWS | Historic Gardens of Maryland

Think Spring

AS WE BEGIN TO THAW FROM WINTER, let your mind spring ahead to warmer days spent wandering and reveling in all that Maryland’s historic sites have to offer—including wonderful, colorful gardens.

MARYLAND PUBLIC GARDEN CONSORTIUM The Consortium is a partnership of Maryland’s public gardens that advocates for the support and recognition of Maryland’s public gardens as significant community resources and seeks to broaden visitation to the gardens through promotional and educational opportunities. A mix of the most-well-known as well as some hidden gems are to be found in the fifteen participating gardens, like Virginia Gent Decker Arboretum at Washington College in Chestertown and the native Chesapeake Garden at Adkins Arboretum in Ridgely. Find out more at: mdpahillgardens.org

PRESERVATION MARYLAND 3600 Clipper Mill Road · Suite 248 Baltimore, Maryland 21211

Upcoming Events

Here’s a sample of the interesting and important events Maryland has planned for you this spring! Many more can be found at – presmd.org/events.

MAR 30
BEST OF MARYLAND AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE Nominate preservation’s best places, people, and projects at: bestofmaryland.org

APR 16
SIX-TO-FIX VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY A work day to rehabilitate a portion of the Antietam Battlefield. Sign-up at presmd.org/fix-antietam

APR 21-24
FORT FREDERICK 18TH CENTURY MARKET FAIR A staff favorite! Historic wares, food, and entertainment

MAY 12
BEST OF MARYLAND AWARDS PARTY Celebrate with the whole Maryland preservation gang in Annapolis

Perpetual Reflections

Maryland House & Garden Pilgrimage

PRESERVATION MARYLAND’S GOAL IN 2015 was straightforward: to be the unquestionable statewide leader for saving the best of Maryland. Our Board and staff take our responsibility to protect the historic and cultural resources of Maryland very seriously. We’re proud to report that with your support, in 2015 we enhanced our preservation programs, increased our grant-giving, and set strong advocacy goals. An annual report detailing our work is now available online at: presmd.org/publications

Maryland’s loveliest and most historic doors open for you . . .