Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

March 28, 2019
Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance for selecting us to undertake this important study. In particular we recognize the members of the Board of Directors for their time, assistance and guidance over the past year. We would also like to acknowledge the preservation efforts of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which provided partial funding for the project, in addition to funding and support provided by Preservation Maryland, the Arthur H. Kudner, Jr. Fund of the Mid-Shore Community Foundation, and the Kent County Commissioners (William Pickrum, Ronald Fithian, and Billy Short). Special additional thanks goes to Michael Bourne for architectural analysis, Gail Owings, Dr. John Seidel, current director of the CES, for his archaeological expertise, Tyler Campbell for his aerial photography, and Elizabeth Watson for her ever-present guidance and support of this project.

The Board of Directors of the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance:
Janet Christensen-Lewis, Chair; Pat Langenfelder, Vice-Chair; John Lysinger, Secretary; Frank Lewis, MD, Treasurer; and Directors: Judy Gifford; Francis J. Hickman; A. Elizabeth Watson, FAICP; and Doug West.

The following individuals carried out the work in this study:

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Preservation Maryland

The Six-to-Fix program allows Preservation Maryland to take direct action to fulfill its mission to protect the best of Maryland. As part of the program, the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance gratefully received a Heritage Fund grant from Preservation Maryland to conduct an assessment of the outstanding scenic and historical cultural landscape in Kent County that is currently threatened by energy sprawl.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation

This project has been financed in part with a Bartus Trew Providence Preservation Grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded nonprofit organization that works to save America’s historic places to enrich our future. The National Trust for Historic Preservation is committed to protecting America’s rich cultural legacy and helping build vibrant, sustainable communities that reflect our nation’s diversity. The contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the National Trust.

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**Directions:**

From Philadelphia and Wilmington to Galena and Chestertown:
I-95 south to 896 south (exit 1, Middletown, Delaware.) DE 896 turns into MD route 301. Right on MD 290 (exit for Galena/ Chestertown.) From Galena, follow MD 213 south and signs to Chestertown.

From Baltimore to Chestertown:
I-95 south to I-695 east to I-97 south to route 50 east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to MD 301 north. Exit MD 213 north (Centreville/Chestertown) to Chestertown.

From Washington and Annapolis to Chestertown:
Route 50 east across the Chesapeake Bay Bridge to MD 301 north. Exit MD 213 north (Centreville/Chestertown) to Chestertown.

From Chestertown to:
- Rock Hall: From Downtown, take MD 213 north, turn left on MD 291 and then right on Route 20. Follow Route 20 into Rock Hall.
- Betterton: MD 213 north. Left on MD 297. Right on MD 298, Left on 292 to Betterton.
- Millington: From Downtown, take MD 213 north, turn right on MD 291 east, cross over MD 301 to Millington.

All of Kent County’s historic landscape is within a 2-hour drive from Philadelphia, PA, Wilmington, DE, Baltimore, MD, Washington DC and Annapolis, MD.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Located only two hours from Philadelphia, Washington, DC, Annapolis and Northern Virginia, pastoral Kent County, Maryland comprises 413 square miles on a scenic peninsula, where the Chester and Sassafras Rivers flow into the Chesapeake Bay. The county seat, Chestertown, lies along the banks of the Chester River and is the oldest port of entry along the mid-Atlantic seaboard. Kent County is home to a picturesque rural and historic landscape containing a wealth of historic resources. The result of this inventory and documentation project are new databases to review geographic data, a review and compilation of available historic evaluations of the county’s resources, and a better understanding of the significance of the county’s timeless cultural landscape.

This preliminary cultural landscape assessment report was completed by an integrated planning team including an historical landscape architect (Rob McGinnis), an architectural historian (Michael Bourne), an historic architect and planner (Barton Ross), and GIS specialist (Washington College’s GIS Program). The team was led by Barton Ross & Partners (BRPA) with Robert McGinnis Landscape Architects (RMLA) serving as the cultural landscape specialist responsible for landscape documentation and analysis. BRPA administered the project and coordinated all consultants, prepared a historical overview of the project area, undertook fieldwork and documentation verification of buildings and structures within the project area, and compiled all work of the consultants to produce draft and final reports. Michael Bourne functioned as the architectural historian reader and assisted on research which contributed to the preliminary statement of significance. Washington College’s GIS Program undertook the collection of available data and developed the majority of maps for the project. RMLA produced the detailed “Cultural Landscape Analysis” map found at the end of Chapter 5.

Kent County is a valuable cultural landscape comprising not only the 700-plus historic resources individually identified in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) but also, and significantly, a substantially intact working landscape representing agricultural practices extending for over 300 years. The natural qualities of that landscape (geology, soils, topography, hydrology, climate) and its location within the Chesapeake Bay region governed the evolution of the cultural landscape and those historic resources remain important to this day in conveying Kent County’s identity and historical significance. The prime agricultural soils that extend across much of the county in particular make this landscape nearly unique and have contributed to the establishment of a vast fully integrated spatial matrix of historic sites and districts; road, rail, and maritime transportation systems; farmlands; and water and terrestrial natural systems found in Kent County.

This is a cultural landscape that was occupied by American Indians for thousands of years before European contact and has continuously evolved as an agricultural and maritime landscape since European exploration in the early 1600s. It is among the earliest landscapes settled in eastern North America by English colonists and African Americans. Maryland was pioneered on a site not far away by water from Kent County in 1634, Jamestown in 1606, Plymouth in 1620, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630.

The economic conditions that favored the agricultural and maritime settlements of the county since the early 1600s have remained virtually unchanged. This agricultural county and its small towns and villages have prospered through the good times and the hard times of American history while responding to evolving technological and architectural changes. It is possible to read that history in the individual historic resources as well as the larger landscape patterns associated with the matrix of highly connected landscape systems and features that survive.

A large agricultural landscape on the East Coast that has a high level of continuity of land use and surviving physical characteristics is among the rarest of the rare, especially one that was densely settled so early in the history of the nation and which has so many identified historic resources. The World Heritage Convention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has established a definition for an organically evolved landscape and, more specifically, a continuing landscape. The cultural landscape of Kent County can be defined as a continuing landscape, although without taking a more detailed account of the entire landscape of the Kent County, it is impossible to truly understand the hundreds of individual sites in the MIHP, the 23 districts and numerous buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and other discrete historically, culturally, and archaeologically significant resources.

Cultural landscape standards and guidelines developed by the National Park Service provided the framework for the project team’s approach to cultural landscape documentation, analysis, and assessment. These standards include A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports, Contents, Process, and Techniques and the US Department of Interior’s National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes.

Four interrelated methodologies were used in the process of compiling this report:

Documentary research
• Historic, cartographic, and programmatic information was gathered with an emphasis placed on assembling any data relevant to the crucial periods in the natural, cultural, and built landscape histories.
On-site physical investigation
• Field survey of the accessible physical fabric was conducted to obtain an understanding of the county’s cultural landscape and its physical condition.

Graphic documentation
• A comprehensive set of field photographs, aerial and historic images, and maps was compiled to document the historic and current states of the county’s evolving cultural landscape.

The Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment Report was required to include the following:

Field Investigations
After review of historic maps, landscape mapping, and aerial photography of existing conditions, the project team undertook a windshield survey of the project area. Private properties were not individually visited unless accessible by KCPA. Fieldwork was supported by a digital .PDF file of the most recent topographic survey of the entire project area. Color digital photographs were taken to document representative features and systems.

Historical Research
The project team established relevant historical contexts of the landscape during the historic period through an analysis of pertinent secondary sources. RMLA provided landscape-specific guidance and recommendations to support targeted site history research undertaken by BRPA and other team members.

Landscape Analysis and Assessment
Preliminary Significance Evaluation and Determination of the Period of Significance
The project team worked to prepare a preliminary statement and period of significance of the district based on criteria set by the National Register of Historic Places.

Overview-Level Description of the Historic Period and Current Landscape
Using existing conditions mapping and aerial photography provided by Washington College’s GIS Program, the project team prepared an overview-level description of the historic and current landscapes focusing on the broad patterns of topography and landform; spatial organization; vehicular circulation systems; notable individual buildings and clusters of buildings and structures; surface water; and vegetation. This section was illustrated using images of historic period maps, other available historic period images, and color digital photographs taken during fieldwork.

Summary Description Comparing the Current Landscape and the Historic Period Landscape
Based on the existing-conditions documentation and the statement of significance, the project team compared the existing landscape with the landscape extant during the period of significance to determine and inventory landscape features and systems that contribute to the period of significance, landscape features that do not contribute to the period of significance, and identification of missing historic period landscape features. The project team provided the inventory information to Washington College’s GIS Program for its use in preparing the cartographic information.

Preliminary Assessment of Landscape Integrity
Based on the comparative analysis and evaluation of the landscape elements, the project team assessed the integrity of the landscape district in accordance with National Register of Historic Places criteria.

Discussion of National Register Eligibility of the District
The project team prepared preliminary information on the eligibility of the study area for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bibliography
Primary and secondary resources that were consulted in support of the study.
Report Administration
The Board of Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance (KCPA) works with concerned citizens and organizations to preserve the County's environment, history and character. KCPA is the nonprofit organization which commissioned the study; the contract was administered by A. Elizabeth Watson, FAICP, a nationally recognized heritage planner.

Barton Ross & Partners, LLC Architects is a practice focused in the field of historic preservation having consulted for numerous nonprofits, companies, and municipalities in the Mid-Atlantic region. Barton Ross, AIA, AICP, LEED AP, is a preservation architect who has contributed to master plans for the Virginia State Capitol, the United States Capitol and Princeton University. Through his work, he has been recognized by the Society of Architectural Historians, the Vernacular Architecture Forum and the Secretary of the Interior. Barton currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Kent County Historic Preservation Commission, the Chestertown Main Street Design Committee, and is the Chair of AIA Maryland’s Historic Resources Committee. He is a licensed historic architect per the Secretary of the Interior’s Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61.

Rob McGinnis, FASLA, is an award-winning landscape architect with thirty years of planning, design, and landscape preservation experience throughout the United States and abroad. His landscape expertise includes the planning and design of historic sites, museums, memorials, campuses, parks, civic spaces, and transportation systems. Rob has completed more than 150 projects including forty-four National Historic Landmarks and six World Heritage sites. He has contributed to the preservation and enhancement of the grounds of the Washington Monument, Jamestown Island, the University of Virginia, Valley Forge, Pearl Harbor, Mount Vernon, the National Gallery of Art, Grand Canyon Village, the Presidio of San Francisco, the Alhambra Hotel in Yosemite Valley, and Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The Washington College Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Program, a part of the Center for Environment and Society (CES), is an educational and technological hub tasked with the mission of providing experiential learning opportunities to its more than 80 student interns. Since its inception in 2007 under the direction of John Seidel, Ph.D., current director of the CES, the Washington College GIS Program has pursued an ongoing development and expansion strategy. After nine years, it has grown to become a valuable resource to the Eastern Shore providing analysis and support to partners of diverse scopes, cooperating on projects from criminal analysis to those environmental, cultural and historical in nature. As a non-profit educational organization, Washington College and its centers are committed to contributing to the overall success of the region through educational and technologically innovative approaches to cultural resource management.

Michael Bourne is the former Survey and Easement Coordinator for the Maryland Historical Trust, and a noted author of local architecture books. He previously worked for Colonial Williamsburg. He is a qualified architectural historian per the Secretary of the Interior’s Code of Federal Regulations, 36 CFR Part 61, with over 50 years of professional experience directing more than a thousand projects across the Mid-Atlantic region. Michael is extremely familiar with Kent County, having authored the Architectural History of Kent County, published by the Historical Society of Kent County in 1998. Mr. Bourne served as the architectural historian on this project, peer-reviewing portions of the Cultural Assessment Report.

We would like to thank the Board of Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance for selecting us to undertake this preliminary cultural landscape assessment. We hope the project has been illuminating and satisfactory for all involved and can serve as a valuable resource for the county to use in their future preservation planning efforts.

Sincerely,

Barton Ross & Partners, LLC Architects

Robert McGinnis Landscape Architects

Barton Ross, AIA, AICP, LEED AP BD+C
President & Project Manager

Rob McGinnis, FASLA
Principal & Cultural Landscape Specialist

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The Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway bisects Kent County east from west, rising up from Chestertown, a former colonial port on the Chester River, to a broad, nearly level agricultural plain incised with a few wooded stream valleys. In adjoining territory in Delaware, a part of this land formation was called “the Levels.” What drivers see along this route—one of only 150 found in the United States—is an American landscape as valuable in its own right as such beloved American landscapes as Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley or the Berkshires in Massachusetts.

Kent County is bounded by the Sassafras River to the north, the Chesapeake Bay to the west, the Chester River to the southeast and south, and the Mason-Dixon line to the east, dividing Maryland from Delaware and although an artificial boundary, a boundary that is historic in its own right. The county’s 279 square miles of land area, mingled with another 136 square miles of rivers and the Chesapeake Bay, comprise a significant cultural landscape. It was occupied by American Indians for thousands of years before European contact, and it has continuously evolved as an agricultural and maritime landscape since European exploration in the early 1600s.

As centuries have passed and others have failed across Maryland and the United States to protect similar places from sprawl-induced growth beginning after World War II, Kent County has grown even more special. Today, it is not just the landscape, but the protections pursued here that make Kent County unique. Outside the West, where much of the land is federally owned, only a few American landscapes have achieved the level of protection found here.

Because of such stewardship, the county has drawn talented farmers who moved to the area from other places where farming was not as valued, joining families who have farmed successfully in Kent County for generations. Investment in modern farming methods is high, and high land values reflect the county’s desirability for farming, not development. In 2008, Kent County was named #1 among “Best Rural Places to Live in America.” In recognizing the county, Progressive Farmer stated, “What makes Kent stand out is its residents’ resolve to maintain a solid rural heritage.”

A large agricultural landscape on the East Coast that has such a high level of continuity of land use and surviving physical characteristics is among the rarest of the rare, especially one that was densely settled so early in the history of the nation and which has so many identified historic resources. Unless a landscape is accounted for, it is impossible to truly understand the more than 700 known historic resources (districts and individual sites) shown on the map developed for the project described in the following pages. The known number includes the Chestertown National Historic Landmark District, the nation’s highest form of recognition for historic resources; fewer than six percent of the nation’s nearly 2,000 landmark recognitions have been granted to historic districts.

Kent County is a part of a larger cultural and natural landscape, the Delmarva Peninsula, which is just over 183 miles in length, and nearly 71 miles wide. Although there are many areas of towns and suburbs across this region, a glance at any map of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia showing population density, open space, wildlife habitat, or even the night sky will reveal how distinctive this region is compared to “the western shore.”

This region is, in fact, so distinctive that it has recently been dubbed the “Delmarva Oasis” by the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and noted writer Tony Hiss, author of The Experience of Place, who is now among those campaigning to save enough land worldwide to help avoid “the sixth extinction” – the accelerated, widespread extinctions of fauna and flora we are seeing now that is comparable to mass extinctions from deep time. Kent County demonstrates ways that humans have interacted with the landscape in such a way that we can hope to coexist with the wild kingdom that is so threatened.

I first encountered Maryland’s Eastern Shore nearly three decades ago, in the early 1990s, when the precursor organization working to protect the Chester River, now part of ShoreRivers, the clean water voice for this region, invited me to speak at their annual meeting. In 1989, I had co-authored a book, Saving America’s Countryside, and was in the process of a rewrite that Johns Hopkins University Press would publish for the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1996. At the time, I was also the member of the board of the Countryside Institute (now the Glynwood Center serving the Hudson River Valley in promoting local food), and deep into helping to organize the first national organization supporting the concept of heritage areas (succeeded by the Alliance of National Heritage Areas).

It was my Countryside Institute connection that soon led to my next involvement here – I encouraged Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties to sponsor an international exchange with American and British community planning experts. This would be the institute’s first venture with this exchange beyond New England. It led directly to interest here in creating a state-certified heritage area program in 1996. I worked with those leaders to conduct preliminary studies and write a grant application for the management plan, still
current, for what soon became the four-county Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, certified in 2005. I'll never forget the day that we learned that we had won that grant, for by that time, I was ready to move here and become the first paid staff for Eastern Shore Heritage, Inc. (ESHI), the heritage area's nonprofit coordinating entity.

What I learn when I get involved in a landscape to which I myself think I know well has never failed to astound me. It has happened with childhood landscapes – Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park and North Carolina's Outer Banks, where I helped nominate as a National Scenic Byway the road linking Cape Hatteras National Seashore across Albemarle Sound to Ocracoke Island and the Core Banks villages around Harkers Island. And my work helped me see my last home anew, the area now known as Maryland Milestones, a state heritage area that includes Greenbelt, University Park (home to the University of Maryland), and a dozen other small towns strung like jewels along US Route 1. Any Marylander knows this area as a sprawling urban landscape, whereas I now see layer after layer of a landscape that once was home to an Indian trail grooved into the landscape. That trail was so favorably located on the land – high ground between many rivers – that it became part of the King's Highway that King Charles II ordered in the seventeenth century running along much of the Atlantic seaboard. That highway then attracted, decade after decade, people who sought to make their lives and win their prosperity there, first from agriculture and then from the ferment of innovation that is the hallmark of that “milestone” area.

I have experienced the same learning process in a landscape to which I have returned again and again over many years, the Oley Valley of Pennsylvania, where in 1983 I was a part of the National Trust team working with the community when they decided to seek (and win) National Register of Historic Places recognition for a 25-square-mile township. It became one of the nation's first rural historic districts, a process described in Saving America's Countryside, and later a model for the analysis that led to the National Park Service's guidance on establishing rural historic districts in the National Register.

Here in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, I have learned even more. In the process of writing ESHI's management plan, we arrived at the idea of undertaking a unique study combining the methodologies developed over the years for examining cultural landscapes and scenic resources. That groundbreaking study – recognized by the National Trust by inviting us to present at one of its annual meetings – gave me new insights into the working landscape of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties. The study revealed the deep imprint of America's colonial past on this landscape, and other themes as well – African American heritage, agriculture, maritime heritage, nature, religion, small towns, and transportation. It also provided fascinating insights not only into the “where,” but equally important the “why” and “how” of this landscape's evolution. For example, the brick Episcopal churches far up silted-in streams (like St. Paul's here in Kent County) signified the water transport on which many early settlers relied – and clay soils close to Chesapeake Bay used for those bricks. Most of the later Methodist chapels built of sawn boards were scattered further east when roads (and Methodism) had spread further on the Eastern Shore.

I have made many friends here over the years and have thoroughly enjoyed living in Chestertown since 2002. We enjoy a good life here on the Eastern Shore and although we have our challenges, as most American rural communities do, the positives by far outweigh any negatives. Consulting in the last decade has taken me far from home and exposed me to many more landscapes and possibilities for their interpretation, protection, and access. But I always return home with that feeling many of us who live here know and remark upon often – the satisfaction of landing on the eastern side of the Chesapeake Bay bridge and knowing I’m home.

Often, the sun will be shining as I land – no accident, as the bay creates a sunnier climate here than elsewhere in Maryland. This is, undoubtedly, one contributor to the success of agriculture here, as we have more sunshine here than anywhere else on the East Coast outside of Florida. There is an undercurrent to this relationship to the landscape for all of us that seems as inescapable as the rumblings from Aberdeen Proving Ground that we occasionally experience in Chestertown. Perhaps I just get to sense it more because it is part of the rare world that I inhabit of people who have made a profession of reading landscapes.

So, yes, I have enjoyed living here and becoming an Eastern Shore resident in profound ways – but I confess I have taken it for granted for many years. It was not until we experienced a challenge to the long-settled order of this working landscape in the form of a proposal for massive windmills in Kent County's upland – an area east of Kentmuffl, 60' above sea level – that I reconnected to the longstanding efforts here to protect the farms and small communities that make this place so special, through the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance (KCPA). That experience brought me into touch with old friends and new – farmers, real estate experts, public officials, artists, business owners, and many more – and persuaded me that many here know and deeply value this landscape on their own terms. I thought, if only we could help them see that this is not simply a personal feeling they have: this is a rare place indeed. Its qualities deserve better, wider understanding and recognition. The people who have worked for decades toward its protection – private property owners, public officials and the planners who support them, advocates like the Farm Bureau and Kent Conservation, KCPA's precursor – deserve that recognition, too.

In 2016, when we had to argue against that windmill project – which had morphed into a massive solar proposal – we drew upon that pioneering cultural landscape study completed back in 2004 for the Stories of the Chesapeake’s management plan. The judge heard us and respected the arguments we were able to make, and we won thanks in part to those insights.
That study, however, as good as it was as an introduction to the themes and resources of Kent County’s remarkable landscape, was necessarily limited. After all, it is wise to undertake some preliminary work before making a deep dive.

Following our win before the Public Service Commission, KCPA sought support from several generous donors and foundations and we assembled an expert team from individuals I have known over many years. We were especially fortunate to recruit Rob McGinnis, FASLA, a nationally respected leader in cultural landscape analysis who first helped me see landscapes in wholly new dimensions more than twenty years ago in the Shenandoah Valley.

The next step, the study you are reading now, has been long overdue. This Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment for Kent County is another investigation that takes us to yet another level of understanding about this special place. Depending on the willingness of yet more donors, public officials, and private property owners, we hope the ultimate deep dive is ahead of us in the form of more studies, National Register nominations, and perhaps even a film to help us all visualize the knowledge revealed in the study you are about to read.

This study concludes that Kent County is home to a valuable cultural landscape comprising not only the hundreds of historic resources individually identified – generally speaking on a limited, preliminary basis – in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) but also, and significantly, a substantially intact working rural landscape. In fact, read between the lines and you will realize that it suggests that any amount of additional study will indeed reward us with yet more knowledge about Kent County.

The natural qualities of this landscape (soils, topography, water, climate) and its location within the Chesapeake Bay region (relating to geology, latitude, and water access) governed its evolution. The extent of its prime farmland and other agricultural soils of statewide importance in particular make this landscape unique.

The highly productive land led directly to the wealth of historic sites and districts found here. For reasons to do with the supreme access enjoyed by this region in the Age of Sail, especially in the 18th century, this region became wealthy quite early in the Colonial era. But as access declined across the 19th and early 20th centuries – sailing, steamboats, even the little railroad built in 1868 (and eligible in its own right for the National Register) – Kent County’s location meant that this landscape escaped the effects of industrialization and urbanization that have overtaken most cultural landscapes on the Atlantic seaboard. We are just “fifteen minutes too far” for Maryland’s excellent roadways from the mid-20th century onward to bring too much change. Like the Bay itself, where nutrients both nourish and pollute, the county has attracted just enough growth to sustain us as a community, but not too much to change us in radical ways that would overwhelm those early patterns of settlement.

The historical and natural qualities and resources here remain important to this day in conveying Kent County’s stories, identity, and significance. There are stories embedded in this landscape everywhere we turn, connecting us to the past, to the land and water that surrounds us, and to our communities. It is with great pleasure that I have participated in the study that you are about to read. I hope you will join with the members and directors of the Kent Conservation and Preservation Alliance in connecting to what we have learned and collaborating on building a future that recognizes and preserves such remarkable evidence of Kent County’s past.
I. PURPOSE & COUNTY OVERVIEW

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland
Introduction

This Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland, is an initial study that examines Kent County, which was assessed in the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area as one of the most scenic and historic areas in the entire four-county heritage area. As one of Maryland’s thirteen locally designated Heritage Areas, the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area encompasses Maryland’s four Eastern Shore counties of Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot. This heritage area is one of the longest-surviving and largest intact colonial and early American landscapes to be found anywhere. As one of the oldest working landscapes in North America, its “stories of colonization, agriculture, maritime industries, religious development, and Abolition and the Underground Railroad are especially strong and well-represented in the landscape, settlements, and buildings to be seen and experienced here.”

The first step in this preliminary assessment of Kent County is to understand the landscape and begin inventorying its primary elements, focusing on which buildings, resources (built, natural, maritime, and prime farmland) and views are most important, and how they might be altered, including changes in the use of the land. The influence of the Chesapeake Bay and patterns of human settlement of this region are revealed in its landscapes and architecture.

Purpose & County Overview

Kent County Overview

Located on Maryland’s Upper Eastern Shore, Kent County is directly across the Chesapeake Bay from Baltimore. Peninsular in shape, the County is bordered on the north by the Sassafras River, the Chester River on the south, with the Chesapeake Bay to the west, and the State of Delaware at the eastern boundary. Kent is Maryland’s second oldest county, dating back to 1642. The main connection from Kent County to the Baltimore-Washington area is by way of the William Preston Lane, Jr., Memorial (Chesapeake Bay) Bridge connecting the shores between Kent Island in Queen Anne’s County and Sandy Point in Anne Arundel County. Kent County, which does not include Kent Island, is north of Queen Anne’s County across the Chester River. Kent County is approximately 50 miles from Annapolis, 70 miles from Baltimore, and 50 miles from Wilmington, Delaware.
the Bay Bridge was completed in 1952 and the second span in 1973, the improved access to Annapolis and Baltimore dramatically accelerated growth for some Eastern Shore counties, such as Queen Anne’s; however, Kent County continued a slow growth rate.

The U.S. Census in 1900 recorded Kent County’s total population as 18,876 people, and then it declined over the next several decades during a national transition as people moved from rural to urban areas. The County’s population started to increase in the mid-twentieth century with the largest growth between 1950 and 1960. By the turn of the century, the 2000 Census recorded a population of 19,197. Over the next decade the County continued its slow growth with annual increases from 0.16 to 1.3%, such that the 2010 Census recorded Kent County’s total population as 20,197, an increase of 1,000 people from the 2000 Census. However, with the economic recession that started in 2008 the County’s population growth halted. Recent population projections reflect that the population will again decline, by about 410 or 2%, based on the American Community Survey’s estimate of a 2015 population of 19,787.

In 2010 the Census reflected that approximately 40% of the County’s population lived in the five incorporated towns of Betterton, Chestertown, Galena, Millington, and Rock Hall. Unincorporated villages also serve as small population centers, though the majority of the County’s population is distributed on farms, in small subdivisions, or on dispersed rural sites. The scattered pattern of rural non-farm residences is supplemented by a substantial number of dwellings along the waterfront.

Kent County consists of approximately 179,840 acres, of which 133,201 acres are in agricultural use (74%). Its local economy is still reliant on the farmland, forests, and fisheries that first attracted European exploration, settlement, and trade.

Purpose

This preliminary assessment examines the features that define the historic cultural landscape character of Kent County, including the integrity of resources and their significance. Key spatial organization, viewsheds and documented historic resources are identified, as well as other landscape elements which help convey the historic significance of this area. The purpose of this preliminary assessment is to catalogue existing documented resources, seek out undocumented historic sites and locations of African-American communities that have not previously been mapped, and to identify vulnerabilities such that loss of the most critical historic elements can be minimized through future planning. This preliminary assessment will serve as a resource for the next stages of planning and preservation to be undertaken by property owners, local governments, and nonprofit groups.

The landscape is not static, so the important viewsheds, buildings, and style and type of structures will have changed over time, which must be considered in documenting the landscape as it exists today, but more importantly in determining how land use changes will alter the landscape. Our goal is to determine the essential character-defining elements that remain unaltered. Through the comparative analysis of examining existing historic conditions overlays on historical maps we can see how the area developed, and note which features and elements survive from the historic period. What has changed? What has not changed?

Part of the purpose of this preliminary assessment is to identify spatial organization and important resources. Identifying existing conditions through mapping and aerial photography, as well as historic period maps and other secondary sources provided by others, this assessment provides an overview–level description of the 2018 landscape. This is accompanied by a description of the physical evolution and change over time of the landscape, focusing on its critical elements: the broad patterns of topography and landform; spatial organization; vehicular circulation systems; notable individual buildings and clusters of buildings and structures; surface water; and vegetation. A comparative analysis of the existing landscape with the landscape extent during the period of significance has enabled the identification of landscape features and systems that contribute to the period of significance, landscape features that do not contribute to the period of significance, and major missing historic period landscape features. Gaps in data and recommendations for future research are included, so that follow-up assessment can ensure that historic sites and defining heritage characteristics have not been missed.

Using this comparative analysis and evaluation of the landscape elements, the study provides an assessment of the integrity of the landscape, in accordance with the criteria of the National Register of Historic Places, and preliminary information on the possible eligibility of the project study area and/or districts for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Historical Overview

When founded in 1642, Kent County encompassed most of what are now the upper and mid-shore counties of Maryland. Over time Kent County was divided into other counties. In 1662, Talbot County was carved from the southern part of Kent, and in 1674 Cecil County was established from part of Baltimore County and the northern part of Kent. Kent County was further divided to create Queen Anne’s County in 1706. In an oversimplification of the process, Caroline County has roots in Kent following a statewide political compromise that resulted in the creation of a ninth county on the Eastern Shore, when Caroline was formed in 1773 from parts of both Queen Anne’s and Dorchester Counties.

It is generally assumed that humans first arrived on the Eastern Shore about 12,000 years ago after the last Ice Age when melting glaciers and rising seas formed the Chesapeake Bay. These native people lived off the Chesapeake’s abundant natural resources, developed an extensive network of trade thousands of years before the Europeans arrived, and began to practice agriculture sometime around 800 BC. Therefore, this region is rich with archaeological resources including sites from the Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic phase (15,000 BC – 6500 BC). In Kent County, concentrations of such archaeological sites are known to exist around Rock Hall, Betterton, and Still Pond, as well as near shorelines.
Contact and Settlement (1524-1750)

The first European to record an entrance into Chesapeake Bay appears to have been Giovanni da Verrazano in 1524, an Italian explorer sent by King Francis I of France to explore the Atlantic coast of North America for a route to the Pacific. However, it was Captain John Smith and his crew who in 1608 fully explored the Chesapeake Bay. Captain Smith mapped 3,000 miles of the Bay and its tributaries, and documented American Indian communities, providing a remarkable record of the 17th century Chesapeake region. Of the villages he documented, one was near the mouth of the Sassafras River (the Tockwogh), and the map of his voyage was utilized by subsequent European explorers and settlers in the Chesapeake region and was the “best depiction of the Bay until Augustine Herrman [sic] produced his map in 1670” for the Calverts.

The first European settlement in Maryland was established on Kent Island in 1631 by William Claiborne, an English pioneer who settled colonies around the Chesapeake Bay. In 1632, the Second Lord Baltimore, Cecilius Calvert, obtained a charter from King Charles I of England that granted feudal rights in the land north of the Potomac River. Lord Baltimore sent English colonists who arrived aboard the Ark and the Dove in 1634 to establish a colony, which is now St. Mary’s City, in southern Maryland. However, Kent Island was also within the Calvert proprietorship, and when “Kent County” was established in 1642 it included Kent Island.

In the 1650s, population on Kent Island had slowly expanded and colonists moved across the Kent Narrows and up the Chester River. Patents were granted for lands that are still identifiable in present-day Kent County, which include Eastern Neck, Grays Inn Creek, and Langford Creek. The Town of Chestertown, along the Chester River, was founded under the Act for the Advancement of Trade and the Erection of Ports and Towns in 1706. The act exempted skilled craftsmen from taxes for four years if they moved into the town, thus encouraging growth of the town. By the 1730s, Chestertown was thriving.

Kent County’s farmers were the first to transition from the soil-exhausting, labor-intensive tobacco to a grain-based, more diversified agricultural economy. Furthermore, the maritime industry flowing through Chestertown, where locally built single-masted sloops and two-masted schooners sailed to and from the harbor at the end of High Street, resulted in the construction of warehouses and commercial buildings, as well as the solid brick manor houses in the heart of downtown still in evidence today. The shortest route between Virginia and Philadelphia, and to points north, also passed through Kent County. A ferry brought travelers across the Bay from Annapolis into Rock Hall, where a stage would take them into Chestertown, and then on past Galena to cross on another ferry at Georgetown and on into Delaware. Records indicate that George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Patrick Henry all traveled through Kent County.

The County’s industries in the colonial era included mills to process local wheat into flour, since it shipped better than the grain, along with shipyards, ferries, and plantations. The labor force comprised hired free men and women as well as indentured servants, convicts, and slaves. Throughout the 1700s, more slaves were imported into Maryland and Virginia than any other mainland British colony. And, “of the 30,000 convicts who came to the North American mainland between 1718 and 1776, more than two-thirds came to the Chesapeake. Between 1746 and 1776, more than one-quarter of all immigrants to this area were convicts.”

Agrarian Intensification (1680-1815)

A tobacco-based economy created a stratified society on the Eastern Shore, and an upper class of planters and merchants emerged. However, by the mid-eighteenth century, in response to an increased demand for grains for exportation, large planters shifted their crops to wheat and corn, and tobacco production on the Eastern Shore declined. The differences in cultivation between grain and tobacco gave rise to widespread changes to the landscape. Small plots of tobacco could generate a profit, while cultivation for wheat and corn necessitated wholesale clearing of expansive acreage for these crops. As a result, a “decentralized landscape of scattered tobacco barns, small field cultivation and isolated farm houses gave way to open expanses of grain fields and centralized farm complexes” on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

This eighteenth-century transition to small grains created the spacious fields that still span throughout Kent County today.

By the early nineteenth century, Kent County farmers, who had long given up their reliance upon tobacco, continued with a diversified, grain-based economy. However, primary travel routes no longer traversed Kent County as the extent of international trade on the Eastern Shore was not what it had been during the Colonial period. And, shipping was starting to transition from sail to steam. In 1813, the first steamboat crossed from Baltimore to Rock Hall, and by 1827 steamship service was available in Chestertown. This improvement in shipping “enormously enhanced the ability of the Eastern Shore farmers and merchants to send their produce west.” In the 1800s Kent County’s goods and produce were also “transported to Wilmington or shipped to Baltimore, by then the third largest and fastest growing city in the U.S.”

Figure 1-2: Historic Aerial of the Sassafras River, 1927

PURPOSE & COUNTY OVERVIEW

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)

Chestertown, Maryland

March 28, 2019

1.03

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Revolutionary War
During this era the Delmarva Peninsula earned the nickname “Breadbasket of the Revolution” by supplying as much as one-fifth of the wheat and flour and one-half of the corn received in Philadelphia in 1774. Shipments of wheat from the Chester River district was the equivalent of the amount from the entire western shore region north of Annapolis. Wheat exports from Chestertown were two and one-half times more than what was supplied from the remainder of the Eastern Shore.18

In response to the Tea Act, a group of prominent Kent County men assembled at a local tavern on May 13, 1774, six months after the Boston tea party. An anonymous report sent to the Maryland Gazette noted that those assembled condemned Great Britain noted that those assembled condemned Great Britain’s six times to give Washington time to withdraw his troops. Washington, in recognition of their gallant performance, included the remaining Maryland men in his rear guard where they covered the evacuation of the American force.

Colonel Donaldson Yeates of Knocks Folly, Turners Creek, served as the Eastern Shore’s Quartermaster. He and his neighbor General John Cadwalader of Shrewsbury Neck (present Kentmore Park) supplied provisions to the Continental Army, causing the region to earn the title, Breadbasket of the Revolution. Cadwalader later commanded the Philadelphia militia at the Battle of Princeton, and served on Washington’s staff at the Battles of Brandywine, Germantown and Monmouth, before retiring to Maryland in command of the local militia.

Thomas Ringgold helped draw up the Constitution for the new state of Maryland, along with Thomas Smyth, who served on the Maryland Council of Safety. Smyth financially supported the cause of Revolution at the expense of his own financial stability. He built the galley Chester, which became part of the Maryland State Navy in 1777, at his Lankford Bay shipyard, outfitting the vessel at his own cost. After the war, he was forced to sell Widewall, abandon the building of River House (both on Water Street in Chestertown) and move back to Trumpington, his family’s estate on Eastern Neck.

James Nicholson became the highest ranking captain in the newly established navy, only to procrastinate setting sail in his frigate Virginia for almost two years. When he finally did, he ran her aground, and she and her crew were captured by the British. Nevertheless, Nicholson went on to pilot the barges carrying Washington to the 1789 inauguration.

Alexander Murray was one of the more versatile leaders of the Revolution. As Captain of the 1st Maryland Regiment, he not only saw action in the Campaign of New York and New Jersey, but also became the master of several private vessels that marauded British ships. Another naval hero, Lambert Wickes of Eastern Neck escorted Benjamin Franklin on his diplomatic mission to France, becoming the first naval officer to carry the American flag into European waters. As captain of Repriyal, Wickes also captured 20 enemy vessels.

On the final day of the Revolution, Tench Tilghman of Queen Anne’s County, as Washington’s aide-de-camp, rode through Chestertown on his way to inform the Continental Congress in Philadelphia that Cornwallis had surrendered at Yorktown in October of 1781.20

The first college founded following America’s independence was Washington College in Chestertown. Although it was the 10th college in the country, but it was Maryland’s first institution of higher learning.21 Named for George Washington, who contributed 50 guineas to the College and joined the College’s Board of Governors in May of 1784, Washington College was incorporated in 1782 as the successor to the Kent County Free School.22

War of 1812
While war was declared on June 18, 1812, it was not until 1813 that the war reached Kent County with the British invasion of the Chesapeake. Under the command of Rear Admiral Sir George Cockburn, the British raids in Kent County started on Howell Point, just north of Still Pond Creek. Advancing up the Sassafras River, Georgetown in Kent County was the next destination, but “Cockburn was ‘frustrated by the intricacy of the river.’ His solution was to land at Turner’s Creek, an active village with a granary, store and wharf. There the British kidnapped local resident James Staveley, forcing him to pilot them up the Sassafras to Georgetown, a bustling village of 40 houses, school, Presbyterian church and shipyard.”23 In May 1813, the British burned the town, except for a church and two brick dwellings at the top of the hill. According to local legend these two dwellings were saved by Miss Kitty Knight, who challenged the British and managed to convince Admiral Cockburn not to burn the home of an elderly woman as well as the adjacent house as the fire could have easily spread to the elderly woman’s home. Even though Miss Kitty Knight did not own either of the houses, lore has it that she was doing her duty to protect the community, and that twice she stamped out the fire set by the British.

When Napoleon was defeated by the British and Russian allied forces in the spring of 1814, ending war in Europe, the British turned their attention to the primary targets of Washington and Baltimore, which was the home port of privateers that harassed British ships in both the Atlantic and Pacific before and during the war.24 The war again returned to Kent on the night of August 30, 1814, at the Battle of Caulk’s Field, which provided a rare victory of militia over British forces. The war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent on December 24, although not ratified by the U.S. Senate until February 16, 1815.25

Agricultural-Industrial Transition (1815-1870)
While the Industrial Revolution that began in the late 18th century in America changed the landscape of the more urban areas on Maryland’s Western Shore, much of the Eastern Shore remained in agriculture, though accompanied by change in techniques that encouraged the use of fertilizers, crop rotation,
and new equipment. This was accompanied by a reshaping of architectural features on the farm as the success of this “agricultural reform movement prompted a period of building and rebuilding, as farmers updated existing houses and outbuildings or constructed new ones.”26 Previously, kitchens were built as independent structures, away from the main house. However, in this era, “kitchens became integrated with the social function of the main house, usually joined to the more formal dining room.”27 There are very few remaining nineteenth century farm outbuildings in Kent County, and those that remain are still frequently lost to neglect or allowed to be demolished prior to documentation because the value of creating a record of these structures is not recognized. This “absence of surviving outbuildings from these farms reveals just how ephemeral farm buildings were in the early nineteenth century.”28 Even today outbuildings are frequently altered or demolished to make way for new agricultural structures to accommodate larger equipment or the changing farming practices on these working landscapes.

Starting in 1860 a daily steamship service across the Bay operated by Henry B. Slaughter of Crumpton offered reliable transportation between the Chester River and Baltimore. In 1865 Col. B.S. Ford purchased the service from Slaughter and formed Crumpton Steamboat Company. This new company added steamships that stopped at “Chestertown, Rolphs Wharf, Quaker Neck, Cliffs, Spaniards Point, Spry’s Landing, Buckingham, Round Top, and Deep Landing” so that local farmers and watermen could send perishable produce, rockfish, crabs and oysters west, while merchandise was shipped east into the “thriving town of Chestertown.”29

The economic continuity of the nineteenth century was briefly interrupted during the Civil War. And, during the Civil War, steamboats were confiscated by both the Union and Confederate armies when they were needed for transporting troops and supplies. After the war, steamboats continued to connect Eastern Shore farmers and residents with Western Shore markets.30

African Americans

The existence of the Underground Railroad is documented in the upper Eastern Shore, specifically Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties. Research by Albin Kowalewski was sponsored by the Stories of the Chesapeake for nominations of specific sites to the National Park Service’s National Network to Freedom with the goal “to find one site per Heritage District with sufficient evidence to be nominated... with the possibility of placing markers and interpretive signs at the designated location.” His “Final Report: The Underground Railroad, Nominations to the Network to Freedom Program,” in 2007, includes six documented references to successful operation of the Underground Railroad in Kent County. He cites that more research is needed to identify specific locations for most of these, noting that:

While the Underground Railroad is often romanticized and therefore problematic, the major trouble encountered during research was correlating incidents of escape with the exact location of its occurrence. The inherent secrecy of the Underground Railroad protected its participants and makes for difficult research, and some cases require additional research in county land records to pinpoint exact locations.

Due to the transition in agricultural crops from tobacco to grains, such as wheat and corn, that are less labor intensive, between 1790 and 1860 the number of enslaved people in Kent County decreased by more than fifty percent. Nevertheless, in 1860, almost half the county’s population were African-American and of those residents, half, or an estimated 2,500 people, were enslaved.31

On June 24, 1864, at the Maryland Constitutional Convention, adoption of the “Declaration of Rights” freed the 87,000 slaves in Maryland who had remained enslaved under Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 because they did not live in a Confederate state.32

Following the adoption of the Fifteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which guaranteed voting rights to all men regardless of race, only landowners could vote. Thus, “James Jones and Isaac Anderson, African American businessmen in Chestertown, sold square foot lots in Chestertown to black men, so they could meet the property ownership requirements and vote.”33

The May 1870 election for Chestertown commissioner was the first time that blacks on the Eastern Shore were able to enjoy the benefits of the Fifteenth Amendment which granted them the right to vote. African Americans in Chestertown were ready for their chance to be heard politically, and so many turned out that the black vote was the deciding factor in the election.34

On South Queen Street in Chestertown is one of the last two remaining Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R) posts constructed by African Americans. Founded by Union veterans on April 6, 1866, the purpose of the G.A.R. was “to strengthen fellowship (Fraternity), provide care for soldiers and their dependents (Charity), and to celebrate and uphold the Constitution (Loyalty).”35 At its peak Maryland had 56 G.A.R. posts, of which 22 were African American.

The Charles Sumner Post #25 was formed in 1882 by Kent County’s black Civil War veterans. They named their post after a United States senator from Massachusetts, Charles Sumner, who in 1856 was beaten and nearly killed in the U.S. Capitol by a fellow senator who opposed Sumner’s support for Abolition. This was a noteworthy choice since the senator from Kent County, George Vickers, opposed passage of the Fifteenth Amendment and had argued against Senator Sumner, who was also an advocate of emancipation during the Civil War and voting rights afterward for African Americans.

After meeting in several places around the county, the G.A.R. post constructed the current building on Queen Street around 1908. It was a center of African American social and cultural life for six decades.

**PURPOSE & COUNTY OVERVIEW**

American and of those residents, half, or an estimated 2,500 people, were enslaved.31
The building was sold in 1950 to the Centennial Beneficial Association and then over time it was owned by others until it fell into disrepair in the 1970s. Impending demolition brought together a coalition of preservationists, foundations, and philanthropic citizens to accurately restore this historic building. It was reopened to the public in June of 2014. Sumner Hall is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition to serving as a museum for the African American experience on the Eastern Shore, it also offers entertainment and education space to all members of the community.

Before the 1800s, free blacks started forming their own communities in Kent County. After the Civil War, free African Americans and emancipated slaves established their own neighborhoods with churches and schools. Such Reconstruction-era communities in Kent County relied primarily on the church, “both physically and as the center of community life,” where it was a place of worship as well as the place for community meetings and gatherings.

Kent County’s historical African-American communities are geographically spread throughout the County, and the properties have been sold to family through generations. However, in the twenty-first century, whites have been buying these legacy properties and moving into these communities, according to an interview with Mrs. Linda Blake, who is an African-American resident of Kent County who resides on her great-grandfather’s property.

The following list of historical African-American communities was obtained from interviews, and further research is necessary to ascertain the dates established, since they include communities established into the mid-twentieth century: Millington, Chesterville, Olivet Hill, Morgnec, Dutchtown; scattered around Still Pond, Blackmon Road, Coleman, Big Woods, Butlertown, Worton Point, Fairlee, Georgetown, Melitota, Sandy Bottom, Edesville; and scattered throughout Rock Hall, Quaker Neck Estates, Quaker Neck, Sassafras, Golts, Smithfield, Washington Park subdivision (late 1960’s and early 1970’s) outside Chestertown, and Woods Edge Apartments near Fairlee that are now known as Bay Woods Apartments. And in the Town of Chestertown from the lower half of Cannon Street up to Mill Street; Broadwalk, uptown on Calvert Street to the railroad tracks, starting at Mill Street; Calvert Heights Apartments; Broadwalk, uptown on Calvert Street to the railroad tracks, starting at Mill Street; Calvert Heights Apartments; Cove Apartments; and apartments near the Amy Lynn Ferris Senior Center.

Churches acted as the focal point of the community, also serving a dual function as the first schools. And, when “building materials became available, schools were built on land owned by the church and the black community.” These schools were initially organized and built throughout Maryland by the Baltimore Association for the Moral and Educational Improvement of the Colored People, known simply as the Baltimore Association, which was a philanthropic organization formed in 1864 by prominent white men and women.

Of the 18 schools formed in the counties of Maryland during the Baltimore Association’s first year, 13 were located on the Eastern Shore, thus illustrating the significant influence of the Association in that region of the state. Even more significantly, six of these schools, and a third of the students, were located in Kent County.

The number of “colored schools in Kent County” had increased to nine by the year 1866, “all taught by colored teachers.” That same year the state established the Freedmen’s Bureau that assumed responsibility for the construction and maintenance of schools for African Americans that were not supported by local and state governments. A thesis written in 2008 by Elizabeth Clay, an undergraduate student at Washington College, documented these nine colored schools that were in existence in 1866. See Table 1 below.

Reports by the Freedmen’s Bureau reflected that eight additional schools were built in Kent County between 1867 and 1870. These new schools were established at Mt. Zion at Still Pond Cross Roads, Union at Still Pond, Galena, Chesterville, Morgan Creek, Head of Sassafras, Douglas, and Davis Church. However after 1870, both the Freedmen’s Bureau and the Baltimore Association started to lose money and support leaving the schools to essentially fend for themselves.

Industrial/Urban Dominance (1870–1930)

With the collapse of plantations after the Civil War, when many large landowners sold off portions of their estates, the Eastern Shore saw an increase in the number of farms, which of course meant the average size of farms decreased. “While the nature of farming changed, the spatial layout of the farmstead did not.”

The economy and landscape of Kent County was transformed by the major changes in transportation and technology in the era between the end of the Civil War and the Great Depression. Though the Kent County Railroad Company was chartered in 1856, with George Vickers as president, it did not arrive in the County until 1872, having been delayed by the Civil War and lack of investors. The line into Kent County came off the main line at Townsend, Delaware. There were stops at Massey, Kennedayville and Worton before reaching Chestertown. Extending the tracks to Chesapeake Bay was eventually abandoned, and in 1900 the line was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

While steamboats allowed farmers to send their produce across the Bay to Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, the arrival of the railroad expanded their reach into the northeast. New technology was also presented in America’s canning industry, which started as early as the 1830’s and was soon centered in Baltimore. Local farmers diversified as fields of grain gave way to orchards, and after a peach blight in the second half of the nineteenth century, then to vegetables to support the new canneries that soon opened and flourished on the Eastern Shore. The first cannery in Kent County did not open until late in the century, in 1889 in Still Pond, and “the industry would never dominate the economy here as it did on the lower shore.”

A local cannery established in 1903, S.E.W. FRIEL, is still in operation in Queenstown, in Queen Anne's County.

The market for seafood was also expanding during this era. The Town of Rock Hall became known as “The Rockfish Capital of the World” and was “one of the major centers of the Chesapeake fish and seafood industry” with numerous related industries where an “estimated 80% of the residents worked in the maritime trades.”

**PURPOSE & COUNTY OVERVIEW**

March 28, 2019

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)

Chestertown, Maryland

**Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland**

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland
Resorts and canning industries supported a thriving economy for the County well into the 1900’s, resulting in a miniature railroad.

In 1877 by the father and son team of Calvin and E.B. Taggart. This resort boasted a roller coaster and Chesapeake” with hotels and guest cottages, all with a breathtaking view of the Bay.

Betterton became the “Jewel of the County” and technology in the era between the end of the Civil War and the Great Depression. Though the Kent County Railroad Company was charted in 1856, with George Vickers as president, it did not arrive in the County until 1872, having been delayed by the Civil War and lack of investors. The line into Kent County came off the main line at Townsend, Delaware. There were stops at Massey, Kennedyville and Worton before reaching Chestertown. Extending the tracks to Chesapeake Bay was eventually abandoned, and in 1900 the line was purchased by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

During this era the seafood business also soared, and the “beauty and bounty of the Bay’s shores” drew tourists to the “new and more easily-accessible resorts at Betterton and Tolchester.” BETTERTON had been a vacation destination since the 1850’s when a steamship wharf was built by Richard Turner. The resulting community was named after his wife, Elizabeth Betterton. Betterton became the “Jewel of the Chesapeake” with hotels and guest cottages, all with a breathtaking view of the Bay.” Tolchester was also established as a vacation spot accessible by the Tolchester Line Steamboat Company of Baltimore, begun in 1877 by the father and son team of Calvin and E.B. Taggart. This resort boasted a roller coaster and a miniature railroad.

Resorts and canning industries supported a thriving economy for the County well into the 1900’s, but when “Tolchester and the Bay Belle, the last steamboat in the Bay with a regular schedule, were surrendered to mortgage holders in 1962, service to Betterton also stopped, and an era came to a close.”

Modern Period (1930–present) Kent County was also affected by the Great Depression. Some farmers went bankrupt and wealthy individuals from outside the area purchased the farms, some of whom were able to restore the old homes, reflecting the nation’s changing appreciation for saving Early-American buildings. The County continued to see the decline in population that had started at the turn of the century, and did not expand again until after World War II.

As local canneries closed, agriculture transitioned again from fruits and vegetables back to small grain crops such as corn and soybeans. Seafood continued to be a significant industry both for local watermen as well as a recreational activity, though over-harvesting combined with rising levels of pollution after 1950 began to threaten watermen’s livelihood throughout the Chesapeake Bay.

Today, Kent County retains its agricultural roots and remains predominantly rural. Kent County is blessed with large, open expanses of fertile soil that blanket the County. The County has some of the best agricultural land in the United States, and the highest percentage of prime agricultural soils in Maryland. Its proximity to a variety of markets makes Kent County an ideal location for agribusiness to thrive. In addition to its prominence in the local economy, agriculture also provides a picturesque landscape that contributes to the tourism industry and defines the character of life in Kent County. Hunting and fishing are important recreational industries also supported by this landscape.

There are 268 miles of tidal shoreline in the County, most of which is wooded. The marinas, wildlife areas, state lands, and county parks provide recreational opportunities that attract tourists and new residents. The County is a desired location for second homes, as seasonal homes represent a significant percentage (13.2%) of the County’s housing supply. In Maryland, only Worcester and Garrett Counties have a greater percent of seasonal housing than Kent County. However, most of the new residents are reflected in the growth of the retired population. An increasing portion of the County’s population is age 45 and older and the median age is higher and growing at a faster rate than the rest of the state. More than 50% of the total population is over the age of 45, and almost 30% is over the age of 60. This change in demographics is also accompanied by an actual decline in the under-45 population that reflects lower birth rates and out-migration of young adults after completing their education.

Outside of agriculture, fisheries, and forestry, the County’s economy is composed of services, retail and wholesale trades, health care, educational institutions that include Washington College and the County Board of Education, and local government. As reflected in the 2010 Census these comprised...
The County continued to see the decline in population that had started at the turn of the century, and the community, its culture, heritage, historic small towns, natural resources, significant acreage of preserved lands, scenic vistas, riparian access, and recreational opportunities have made the county attractive to tourists and are key characteristics to quality of life for its residents.

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### Historic Preservation in Kent County

Historic preservation transcends preservation of just historic buildings and structures; it is also the preservation of the context in which they are found and the landscape as a whole. Kent County’s history is reflected as much in the working landscapes of farms as it is in its towns, villages, and maritime industries, as it is in its archeological sites and architecture of individual buildings.

Initial preservation efforts in Kent County can be traced to the Historic American Buildings Survey, known as HABS, which was created by Congress in 1933 to utilize out-of-work architects as part of the New Deal during the Great Depression. During this period, 28 structures in the County were documented through HABS with photographs and architectural floor plan and elevation drawings.

The next significant documentation of historic structures was the result of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 that created the National Register of Historic Places. The Act also led to the formation of state historic preservation offices (SHPOs), and it continues to provide the intergovernmental framework for local-state-federal historic preservation efforts nationwide. The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), founded in 1961, is the SHPO. MHT provides technical assistance to local governments across the state, including Kent County.

In Kent County, there are a total of 45 listings on the National Register of Historic Places, of which 37 are individual properties. Of these individual sites, 27 are not within incorporated municipalities but rather on farms or within the County’s villages, crossroads, and hamlets. In addition, National Register Historic Districts have been established in the incorporated towns of Chestertown and Betterton, as well as the unincorporated village of Still Pond. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places does not restrict what the owner may do to the property or prevent the demolition of a historic building, but the designation offers the ability to seek generous Federal tax credits for rehabilitation or restoration of these historically or architecturally significant structures.

MHT is also the repository for the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). The MIHP is solely an instrument for research and documentation of structures, properties, and resources for historical and architectural significance. Being listed in the MIHP involves no regulatory restrictions or controls. (As discussed below, Maryland state law provides enabling legislation granting both the state and local jurisdictions the authority to regulate appropriately designated historic resources.) Since the creation of the MIHP shortly after MHT was founded in 1961, more than 700 properties and structures have been surveyed in Kent County, including the railroad and the Massey Crossroads Survey District. These MIHP listings, most of which were completed in the 1970s and 1980s, only reflect approximately 17% of the historic structures in the County. The vast majority of historic structures remain undocumented.

Kent County’s MIHP inventory contains 11 historic districts, three of which are also the aforementioned National Register districts of Chestertown, Betterton, and Still Pond. There is also the Chestertown National Historic Landmark District which is also on the National Register, as well as the Chestertown Rural Historic Landscape District which encompasses the immediate exurban area adjacent to and surrounding the Town in both Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties. The “downtown” core in the municipalities of Galena, Millington, and Rock Hall are also MIHP Historic Districts. And, the unincorporated villages of Kennedyville, Still Pond, and Georgetown are also listed as Historic Districts on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places. See Appendix for further information.

Easements on historic sites and structures may also be donated to the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). Any modifications to the historic features under the easement will be evaluated by MHT staff. The Maryland Historical Trust currently holds easements on 25 properties in Kent County. See Appendix A for further information.

Local historic preservation districts have been created by the incorporated towns of Chestertown and Betterton, each of which has a historic district commission that reviews exterior alterations to all buildings within the district to ensure high standards for contributing buildings’ treatments within their respective communities. The Chestertown Historic District Commission is currently the only Certified Local Government (CLG) in Kent County. This designation by the Maryland Historical Trust and

### Table 2: Kent Co. Population 1900-2015

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</table>

Source: Census of Population and the American Community Survey, Maryland State Data Center

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[17] www.mht.dcr.state.md.us

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the National Park Service offers opportunities for grant funding and technical assistance for historic documentation, outreach, and education.

The earliest documented buildings in Kent County date from the late Seventeenth Century, and included courthouses and churches as well as homes. The oldest documented residence which survives is Carvill Hall, built ca. 1695. Carvill Hall is a 2-1/2 story brick house, laid in Flemish bond above a stepped water table, utilizing stringcourses on all four sides. There are exterior corbeled brick chimneys at each gable end. Glazed headers were used throughout the Flemish bond, and a three-brick stringcourse was located on each of the four sides. Carvill Hall is a unique architectural structure for the late 17th century as it is the only Maryland building known to have had a central chimney at that time. In light of this original design and construction, it is vitally important to the study of early Maryland architecture, and to the broader colonial phase of American architecture. Carvill Hall is privately owned and inaccessible to the public. For more information, see National Register Ref. #73000930 and MIHP K-241.

Another notable structure is Knock’s Folly located on Turners Creek and within walking distance of the Sassafras River. The juxtaposition of form found at the dwelling is quite unusual, as the material for lower 1-1/2 story mid-18th century section of the house is log construction on a stone foundation that was built more than thirty years prior to the adjoining three-story brick home completed in 1796. The brick Federal style portion is more architecturally significant and is “a reflection of the economic situation and social status of the men who built the two structures” as it is “probable that log portion of Knock’s Folly was built by a tenant farmer” while the “brick house, on the other hand, was constructed by the family of a very wealthy merchant, and its Federal style reflects their prosperity.” Knock’s Folly was restored in the 1990s and is currently owned and operated as a visitor center for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources. For more information, see National Register Ref. #76001006 and MIHP K-114.

For further study, an architectural history conducted by Michael Bourne in the 1990’s for the Historic Society of Kent County, Inc. was published in his book Historic Houses of Kent County, An Architectural History: 1642 – 1860, which revealed that most of the buildings from this period in time were in the category
of vernacular architecture, which are “buildings whose construction was not driven by style alone, but are instead products of the period and region, the inhabitants’ needs, the builders of the area and availability of materials.” For more information, see Michael Owen Bourne, Historic Houses of Kent County, An Architectural History: 1642-1860, The Historical Society of Kent County, Inc., editor: Eugene Hall Johnstone, 1998.

Kent County Historic Preservation Ordinance and Commission
Kent County’s local historic preservation ordinance was adopted by the County Commissioners on November 14, 2006, and is codified in Chapter 187 of the Kent County Code of Public Local Laws. This chapter provides that the “voluntary preservation of sites, structures, and districts of historical, architectural, or cultural significance, together with their appurtenances and environmental settings, is a public purpose in the County.”

Completely voluntary, the ordinance allows individual property owners to petition the County to designate their property as historic, resulting in its listing in the Kent County Register of Historic Places. However, since it is voluntary, the ordinance does not allow the County to designate any property without permission of the property owner, who must initiate the request.

To be designated, the Kent County Historic Preservation Commission must determine that the respective structure or resource is of historic, archeological, and cultural significance, and submit its findings to both the Kent County Planning Commission and the Board of County Commissioners. The Board of County Commissioners has final authority to designate structures, resources or properties and list them in this register.

As of 2018, there are seven properties listed on the Kent County Register of Historic Places. If designated and listed in the County register, a perpetual easement is placed upon the property and/or structure which is recorded in the County land records. Those properties on the County register are subject to the administrative review and approval from the Kent County Historic Preservation Commission for all exterior alterations to the structure or property through an application of a “certificate of appropriateness.” The Commission is required by the County Code to use the Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Rehabilitation of Historic Structures, as appropriate, as the basis for their review and approval of exterior alterations. State tax credits are available to the owners of these listed buildings for certified rehabilitation projects.

The Kent County Historic Preservation Commission, created concurrently in 2006 with the County Historic Preservation Ordinance, comprises seven members serving three-year terms, six of whom must be residents of Kent County. As required by the County Code, all members must possess an interest or background in historic preservation or related field, and at least two members must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards.

The Historic Preservation Commission is also empowered by the County Code (under the Maryland Land Use Article, Title 8, “as presently codified and as may be amended from time to time”) to:

- Conduct an ongoing survey to identify historically and architecturally significant sites, properties, structures and areas that exemplify the cultural, social, economic, political or architectural history of the nation, state and County;
- Determine an appropriate system of markers and make recommendations for the design and implementation of specific markings of the street and routes leading from one site, landmark, or historic district to another; may confer recognition upon the owners of landmarks, sites or property structures within historic districts by means of certificates, plaques or markers;
- Advise and assist owners of landmarks, sites, historic properties or structures within historic districts on physical and financial aspects of preservation, reconstruction, restoration, renovation, rehabilitation, and reuse, and on procedures for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places;
- May, with the written permission of the property owner(s), nominate landmarks, sites and historic districts to the National Register of Historic Places and review and comment on any National Register nomination submitted to the Commission for review;
- Research sources of funding for historic preservation projects and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the acceptance of any grant, loan or aid, in any form, from federal, state or private sources on behalf of the County; and
- May, at the request of an owner or applicant, offer consultation with respect to changes to interior features.

Kent County has also adopted delay of demolition provisions as part of its Land Use Ordinance, Article XII (Section 3.5.5), creating a tiered set of demolition permits for historic structures. The first tier is a determination by county staff as to whether the structure meets the definition of being historic (more than 75 years old or otherwise thought to be of historic significance, such as being listed in the County Register of Historic Properties, MIHP, or National Register of Historic Properties). If historic, then “Tier 2” documentation is completed, which requires the applicant to provide a basic floor plan that includes interior and exterior dimensions of the structure. Also, as part of the Tier 2 documentation, the County Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)
Chesertown, Maryland

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

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county staff is required to conduct a site inspection and obtain interior and exterior photographs. This
documentation is then reviewed with the Chair of the Kent County Historic Preservation Commission,
or the Chair’s designee, to determine if Tier 3 review and documentation is required. Tier 3 review and
documentation consists of the following:

- Photographs of exterior details, including but not limited to features such as chimneys, wall
  coverings, windows, and doors;
- Photographs of any outbuildings;
- Access to the interior in order to obtain detailed photographs of the interior spaces to capture
  any unique elements in the rooms that may help date the structure, including but not limited to
  woodwork, window surrounds, fireplaces, stairways, mantels, doors, and newel posts; and
- Overall measurements of the structure.

The Historic Preservation Commission reviews the Tier 3 documentation, which may result in completion
of a Maryland Inventory of Historic Places form developed by the Maryland Historical Trust, allowing
for a permanent historical record of the demolished structure through photographs, a scale drawing of
the floor plan, and possible material salvage alternatives.

Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway
In 1991, as part of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, Congress created the National
Scenic Byways Program (NSBP). Locally, the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway was
established as a partnership among Cecil, Kent, and Queen Anne’s Counties and the Maryland State
Highway Administration (SHA). It was designated as a Maryland scenic byway in 1998 and a National
Scenic Byway in 2002. Stretching from Chesapeake City in Cecil County to Stevensville in Queen
Anne’s County, the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway on the Upper Eastern Shore includes
all of MD Route 213 through Kent County. The Byway, as originally mapped, also included a spur along
MD Route 20 and MD Route 445 to Rock Hall and Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. Linked
along the byway are the region’s working landscapes and waterfronts, historic town centers, recreation
sites, and pristine natural areas. Tourists and residents alike enjoy and learn about the area’s culture,
history, and traditions.

The rural landscapes, historic townscapes, and natural and working waterfronts found along the
Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway exhibit high levels of integrity and coherence, and are
representative of the region’s unique heritage and culture. The experience of this scenic byway may be
described as:

“traveling through wide, open landscape spaces (agricultural uplands) alternating with brief periods
of traveling through enclosed corridor-like spaces (forested lowlands/stream crossings). Punctuating
this overall experience of the landscape are distinct or special scenic episodes which contrast with
the overall pastoral quality of the agricultural uplands. These areas, which give the Byway much of
its scenic quality, include:

- Places of historic and contemporary human settlement, such as larger towns and smaller
crossroads communities
- Zones of distinctive natural scenery, such as broad viewsheds of river or Bay.
- Signs of typical human interaction with the landscape, such as large farmsteads or fishing
wharves.

Along the byway through Kent County are landscapes predominantly of level or gently rolling agricultural
fields, mostly tilled for grain such as corn, soybeans, and wheat. In some areas, such as the agricultural
uplands north of Chestertown, the views extend seemingly to the horizon. In light of this, intrusions on
the landscape such as communication towers and new development are visibly prominent.

Farms are a recurrent element that heighten the scenic quality of the byway through Kent County.
Most retain the traditional farmstead layout with the house centered on the property, typically at
the end of a driveway running perpendicular to the road, where the barns, silos, storage sheds, and assorted
outbuildings are concentrated. Some of these traditional farms still retain their Colonial or Victorian
farmhouse, clearly historic. These farms are representative of the continuing agrarian use of the land in
this district as well as of the agricultural economy of the region and lifestyle. The agricultural economy
of Kent County is not solely composed of pasture and tilled fields accompanied by ancillary produce stands;
it also includes support businesses for seed and fertilizer sales, farm equipment repair and sales establishmants, product
processing and storage facilities, and other such industries, which is why there is still an active rail line that traverses the county.
These are at the root of what distinguishes this region from other rural communities on the Western Shore and across the state
line in Delaware.

The hedgerows along property lines demarcating one farm from its neighbor, as well as the formal rows of large
trees that line farm lanes, are features whose composition and presence in the landscape is particular to the Eastern
Shore that differentiates Chesapeake Country’s agricultural landscape from other agricultural landscapes across the
country. They mark existing and historic entrances to farms and plantations, and their age speaks to the long history of
human settlement in the area.
Small community crossroads, where residences historically sprang up at the intersection of major routes, are scattered throughout this rural landscape. Representative of historic and traditional settlement patterns within the Eastern Shore, these crossroads are an important scenic element. “Their diminutive scale and sense of enclosing or embracing the roadway also provide a contrast to the vastness of the wide-open agricultural landscapes, adding variety and preventing monotony along the route.”

Transitional zones, which exist between the rural working landscape and the historic town centers, present a varying feeling of visual intrusion of contemporary development on the edge of historic towns. “An example is the northwestern edge of Chestertown, across the railroad tracks and along MD Route 20. This area is less visually intrusive because more modern industrial development is interspersed with older industrial elements, sidewalks, and a cemetery. This mixture of uses helps this area retain something of a “working” landscape feel: utilitarian, yet still a part of the townscape of Chestertown. In contrast is the commercial development on MD Route 213, which displays contemporary “strip” development of large retail complexes with large parking lots situated directly along the Byway. This is a huge contrast with the historic feeling of the pedestrian-scale Chestertown downtown.”

As part of and concurrent with the designation of the Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway, a Corridor Management Plan was developed to provide a framework and coordination of efforts to protect historic and cultural resources along the Byway.

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area
In 1996, the Maryland General Assembly created the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) which governs the Maryland Heritage Areas Program and is administered by the Maryland Historical Trust. Maryland’s designated heritage areas offer authentic heritage where there are still evident tangible links to both place and the past, which reflect the history of the community and provide a profound sense of place. The people, the land, and the waters of the state have been intertwined for thousands of years. The landscapes created by this human interaction with the natural environment are dynamic and evolving, and moreover, maintain their scenic qualities. How the natural ecology has influenced land use patterns is still evident. In these heritage areas, partnerships are formed between individuals, businesses, non-profits, and governments so the best of Maryland’s historic sites, towns, landscapes, and enduring traditions are preserved.

The Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, serving Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Caroline Counties, was established soon after the creation of the MHAA. The state program was designed to link the preservation of historic, natural and cultural features with tourism development. Grants and technical assistance are offered to local governments and private organizations through this program for the purpose of preserving, documenting, and enhancing the state’s historic and cultural resources.

The MHAA developed two tiers of designation for heritage areas, each with separate requirements. The two tiers are Recognized Heritage Areas, and Certified Heritage Areas. Recognized Heritage Areas are eligible for planning grants in order to advance to the next tier. The Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area became a Recognized Heritage Area in the year 2000. Other benefits, however, required the heritage area to reach certified status, which it achieved in 2005 with the acceptance by the MHAA of a proposed management plan.

The Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area focuses on built and landscaped environments. There is archeological evidence from the earliest occupation by native American Indians and the architecture throughout all four counties reflects each century since the first European settlement. As stated in the management plan for the heritage area:

“Architectural design reflects ethnic origins, and provides an outlet for creative expression. Agricultural landscapes—fields and barns—are everywhere. Small towns predominate. All along the Bay’s shoreline as well as its river tributaries there is evidence of the interconnectedness of water and land. Rivers and roads document historic trading patterns. Boats reflect the natural conditions through which they sailed.”

PURPOSE & COUNTY OVERVIEW
The Eastern Shore developed a unique culture, in part due to its isolation from the Western Shore prior to the construction of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge and the highway connections to the Atlantic Ocean beaches, both along Maryland Routes 50 and 404, and the concomitant, direct effect of these improvements on the counties of Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Wicomico, and Worcester. The built environment abutting the historic towns along these corridors has evolved in response to the cars passing along these highways with sprawling parking lots, overhead wires, and towers that obstruct vistas. Moreover, with the ease of access to the Western Shore, suburban development crept over the Bay where lower land prices spurred growth, especially in Queen Anne's, Talbot, and Caroline Counties. However, Kent County, untouched by the “reach the beach” highways, has retained a singular Eastern Shore landscape and culture.

The Chesterville/Mornec Creek District is a heritage region of Kent County which encompasses 132 square miles (84,567.5 acres) in which there are a remarkable eleven properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including the Still Pond National Register District, and 231 entries in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. Located between the Sassafras River and the Upper Chester River, and adjacent to the Chestertown National Historic Landmark historic district, this heritage landscape district is essential to the character of this agrarian community.

Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail
As the nation's first all-water National Historic Trail, the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail commemorates Captain Smith's exploration of the Bay in 1607 through 1609 and is based on his map and written account of the expedition. Spanning more than 3,000 miles traversing most of the Chesapeake's major rivers, it is administered by the National Park Service. It connects with sixteen National Wildlife Refuges, twelve National Parks, and three other National Trails. Along the route there are opportunities for recreational access to the Bay and its rivers, tourism, and environmental and cultural education, as well as conservation.

This water trail is marked by “Smart Buoy” that provide instant information to trail travelers. There is a free online Boater's Guide as well as the ability to take a virtual tour of one or more of 15 sites along the trail from a computer or mobile device.74

Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail
Spanning 560 miles across land and water, the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail tells the story of the War of 1812 in the Chesapeake Bay region, which includes Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The trail was established in 2008. Like the Captain John Smith Trail, it is one of nineteen national historic trails administered by the National Park Service, as well as one of thirty in the National Trails System.

The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail allows visitors to follow American and British troop movements through the region and hear the stories of the communities affected by the war. The trail connects historic sites along its route and commemorates events leading up to the Battle of Baltimore in the War of 1812. British warships attacked Baltimore's Fort McHenry as part of a combined land-sea operation during the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814. Having witnessed the battle, Francis Scott Key wrote a poem he originally called “Defence of Fort M’Henry,” which became our National Anthem.75 “History has passed down to us the story of Key’s authorship of penning the poem on the back of an envelope from the deck of a British warship on September 14, 1814, after an all-night attack on the fort during the evening and early morning hours.”76

Along the trail, tourists can discover the distinctive landscapes and waterways of the Chesapeake region. National parks located along the trail include Fort...
McHenry, George Washington’s Birthplace National Monument in Virginia, the White House (“the President’s Park”), and the National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Kent County’s Land Preservation and Conservation Programs

Kent County is blessed with large, open, flat expanses of fertile soil that blanket the County. The County has some of the best agricultural land in the United States, and its proximity to a variety of markets makes Kent County an ideal location for agribusiness to thrive. In addition to being an important component of the local economy, agriculture also provides a picturesque agrarian landscape, which contributes to the tourism industry and the overall quality of life for Kent County residents.

The 2012 Census of Agriculture found that 133,201 acres, or 74% of the total land area, in Kent County is in farms. The total number of farms was 367, the average farm size was 363 acres, and the median farm size was 123 acres. The market value of production was $112.25 million, a 31% increase from 2007. Crop sales accounted for $78.3 million and livestock sales totaled $33.8 million. The County consistently ranks near the top statewide for crop production and in 2012, ranked 2nd for corn production, 2nd for barley, 4th for wheat and 5th for soybeans.

Protecting farmland and natural resources from development and encouraging growth in and around existing towns in the form of sustainable growth are fundamental goals articulated in the County’s Comprehensive Plan and its land use regulations. The Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the preservation of the County’s rural character and specifically states in several places that agriculture is a permanent and preferred land use for the majority of the County.

The original Priority Preservation Area map included almost all undeveloped land in the County. Moreover, Kent County farmers made clear that there should not be a targeted area of the County which would be offered special preference over other areas so that all farmers would have an equal opportunity to participate in land preservation programs. For the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation easement program, the County developed an easement ranking system designed so that the properties comprising the best farms would be at the top of the list for each easement acquisition cycle.

Priority Preservation Areas

In the 1980s the County initiated policies aimed at ensuring the long-term viability of agriculture. The County’s Agricultural Advisory Commission was tasked with the identification and mapping of farmland that should be for retained in agricultural use. The intent was to map and retain enough land to support a variety of agricultural activities and maintain a market for the necessary agricultural support services in the County, such as seed and fertilizer sales and farm equipment sales and repair.

With the Maryland General Assembly’s adoption of the Agricultural Stewardship Act of 2006 (located in the Agricultural Article 2-518 and State Finance and Procurement Article 5-408), counties with certified agricultural preservation programs were required to adopt a Priority Preservation Area Element as part of their comprehensive plan. A Priority Preservation Area (PPA) is an explicitly delineated area mapped within the county. To maintain its certification, on April 27, 2010, Kent County adopted a Priority Preservation Area Element that was incorporated as an appendix to the 2006 Comprehensive Plan, which was then subsequently incorporated into the Countryside Chapter of the updated Comprehensive Plan that was adopted in April of 2018.

Figure 1-12: Historic aerial view of Reed Creek, 1927

Figure 1-13: Aerial view of the Chester River, Chestertown in the distance
As a certified county, Kent County supports this designated Priority Preservation Area. To maintain its certification, the County must have in place policies, ordinances, and regulations that allow agricultural and forestry activities and, preferably, support the ability of working farms to engage in normal and conventional agricultural and forestry practices. The purchase of easements and efforts of local land conservancies are targeted to the Priority Preservation Area.

This Priority Preservation Area (PPA) consists of the majority of the County’s “resource lands” and excludes properties within growth areas or areas already too fragmented by development to support agriculture or forestry. Resource lands are defined as any parcel zoned Agricultural Zoning District (AZD) or Resource Conservation District (RCD), and also includes any lands that are already protected by an easement. The Resource Conservation District (RCD) is the County’s zoning classification for its agricultural lands in the Maryland’s Critical Area, which is all land within a thousand feet of tidal waters. It should be noted that within the AZD and RCD lands are some environmentally sensitive areas that are not well suited for agriculture but remain in the zoning districts in order to maintain large contiguous land areas for preservation. In the Agricultural Zoning District (AZD) the base density is one dwelling unit per 30 acres. The base density in the RCD is one dwelling per 20 acres.

The state mandates that the County establish an acreage goal for land preservation within its Priority Preservation Area (PPA) to be accomplished through easements and zoning that equals at least 80% of the remaining undeveloped areas of land in the PPA as calculated at the time of application for Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and the Maryland Department of Planning certification or recertification. Essentially, this is the area where agriculture will be the focus of long-term efforts and investment by the County to ensure its ongoing success and profitability.

The total land area of the County is 179,840 acres and the total area in resource lands is approximately 151,350 acres. Under the County’s Land Use Ordinance, a parcel over 20 acres is considered a farm, regardless of zoning, and for the purposes of the PPA, parcels under 20 acres are considered developed. Approximately 6,630 acres within the PPA are already subdivided into parcels under 20 acres, but there remains 142,925 acres that are considered undeveloped. Eighty percent of this undeveloped land is approximately 114,340 acres. The acreage within Kent County’s PPA consists of enough land (a critical mass) to maintain a market for the necessary agricultural support services in the County, which is concomitant with the County’s economic development goals.

By 2017 a total of 38,863 acres were protected by easements within the PPA. Therefore, approximately 27% of the critical mass of the PPA (critical mass being 114,340 acres) is already permanently preserved. Another 53%, or 75,730 county acres, is needed to achieve the 80% protected critical mass.

Kent County has a strong agricultural community and participation in the various land preservation programs has been high. There is support at all levels to maintain a viable agricultural industry. Over 21% of the entire County is now protected by some type of easement, not including publicly owned lands. (Including publicly owned lands, the amount of permanently protected land in the County amounts to 28%). Donated conservation easements tend to be located along the water, especially the Chester River.

The protection of these sensitive lands also ensures that important wildlife habitat will remain intact.

Farms protected by the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) and Maryland’s Rural Legacy program are located primarily in the central part of the county, which will help maintain the agricultural infrastructure. Even with the County’s low rate of land conversion, the County has been able to preserve large tracts of land and anticipates a continued high level of interest and increased participation in the various programs for permanently protecting land.

Since the 1970s when the first easements were donated to the Maryland Environmental Trust, more than 38,800 acres of private land has been placed under some type of conservation easement. Table 3 presents the total acreage of lands protected through the various land preservation programs in Kent County by 2017.

The County’s most significant limitations in the acquisition of agricultural preservation easements is dependence on the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) as the primary program for the purchase of easements. The County recognizes the need to find additional sources of funding to support land preservation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 3: Kent County Preserved Land, 2017 (Acres)</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Land Preservation Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maryland Environmental Trust / Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (MET / ESLC)</td>
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<td>The Conservation Fund / American Farmland Trust (TCF/AFT)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway</td>
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<td>Rural Legacy</td>
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<td>ESLC / Army Compatible Use Buffer program (ACUB) - Aberdeen Proving Ground</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</td>
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<td><strong>Total Preserved Lands</strong></td>
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Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation
The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation (MALPF) program is a voluntary purchase of development rights program. The property must meet certain size, location and soil requirements. Kent County has participated in the MALPF Program since 1983. Following the change in state law to eliminate districts, Kent County elected to require establishment of a local district as a prerequisite to applying to sell a perpetual easement to the state.
Kent County’s Agricultural Land Preservation Program is certified by the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation, with the most recent recertification approved in 2018. The County recognizes the important economic role and other long-term benefits of sustained agricultural operations and shares the State of Maryland’s goals for farmland protection, which includes:

- Permanently preserve agricultural land capable of supporting a reasonable diversity of agricultural production.
- The protection of natural, forestry, and historic resources, as well as the rural character of the landscape associated with Maryland’s farmland.
- To the greatest degree possible, preserve land concentrated in large, relatively contiguous blocks to effectively support long-term protection of resources and resource-based industries.
- Limits on the intrusion of development and its impacts on rural resources and resource-based industries.
- Ensure good return on public investment by concentrating state agricultural land preservation funds in areas where the investment is reasonably well supported by both local investment and land use management programs.

Work to achieve the following:

- Establish preservation areas, goals and strategies through the County’s Comprehensive Plan with measures that address and complement state goals;
- In each area designated for preservation, develop a shared understanding of goals and the strategy to achieve them among rural landowners, the public at large and state and local government officials;
- Protect the equity interests of rural landowners in preservation areas by ensuring sufficient public commitment and investment in preservation through easement acquisition and incentive programs;
- Use local land use management authority effectively to protect public investment in preservation by managing development in rural preservation areas;
- Establish effective measures to support profitable agriculture, including assistance in production, marketing and the practice of stewardship, so that farming remains a desirable way of life for both the farmer and the public at large.

In accordance with these goals, Kent County has one of the lowest rates of land conversion in Maryland. Over the past twenty years since the County’s initial certification of its Agricultural Preservation Program in 1997 only 1,506 acres have been converted from agricultural use. This low rate of agricultural land conversion reflects a successful achievement of the County’s agricultural land preservation strategies.

As of September 2017, Kent County had 7,050 acres enrolled in 47 Agricultural Land Preservation Districts and had permanently protected 19,085 acres in MALPF Easements.

Rural Legacy

The goal of this program is the protection of areas that are rich in agricultural, natural and cultural resources, thereby preserving resource-based economies, greenbelts and greenways. The Rural Legacy Program provides the funding necessary to protect large contiguous tracts of farms, forests and natural areas through cooperative grant agreements with the state and a local sponsor. The protection of natural resources is accomplished through the voluntary acquisition of property through easement or fee simple purchase.

Kent County has participated in this program from the beginning through a regional partnership with the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy and Cecil, Talbot, Caroline, and Dorchester Counties known as the “Agricultural Security Corridor” partnership. There are eleven (11) easements covering 2,205 acres which have been acquired in the Sassafras Rural Legacy Area in Kent County.

Maryland Environmental Trust

The Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) was established in 1967 to conserve, improve, stimulate and perpetuate the aesthetic, natural, scenic, and cultural aspects of Maryland's environment. MET's work over the years has focused on open space preservation through its Conservation Easements Program, through which owners of land under easement become eligible for significant reductions in income, property and estate taxes.77

Land Trusts and Other Private Preservation & Conservation Efforts

Land trusts in the region play a key role in the protection of agricultural and sensitive environmental lands by purchasing and accepting donations of land, easements and development rights. Kent County works closely with the Maryland Environmental Trust (MET) and the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy (ESLC) in obtaining donated conservation easements.

The Eastern Shore Land Conservancy is a non-profit organization founded in 1990 to preserve farmland and unique natural areas on Maryland's Middle Eastern Shore. The ESLC and MET have protected more than 12,565 acres in Kent County through conservation easements. In addition, the Conservation Fund and the American Farmland Trust have preserved 3,300 acres through the donation of an easement on the Chesapeake Farms property and another property on the Chesapeake Bay. Kent County has almost 15,865 acres permanently preserved through privately donated easements, which is one of the highest totals in the state of Maryland.
Chesapeake Farms
In 1956 Dupont purchased 3,300 acres from the estate of Glenn L. Martin, who was a noted aviation pioneer and conservationist. The property was then identified as Remington Farms, and for the next 37 years “the Farms promoted wildlife management, natural resources stewardship and shooting sports for the DuPont subsidiary, Remington Arms Co.” Since 1993 the property has been operated by DuPont Crop Protection and the name was changed to Chesapeake Farms® in 1996. The property is devoted to research in environmentally sound, productive, economically viable and socially acceptable advanced agricultural practices and wildlife management techniques. A self-guided tour is available to the general public.

A conservation easement on the property was donated to the Conservation Fund and American Farmland Trust in 1997. The easement preserved the land in perpetuity so that it can never be developed, and it is one of the largest such easements in Maryland.

Kent County’s Land Use Regulations and Policies

Kent County’s Comprehensive Plan recognizes that agriculture is the keystone to Kent County’s heritage and its future. Therefore, the plan includes long-term goals and strategies that emphasize the preservation of the County’s rural character and agricultural resources. In some jurisdictions, farmland was often considered vacant land and an agricultural designation was intended as an interim use or “holding zone” for future development. Today, planning theory has matured such that the value of agricultural land is considered as important to the value to the county, the state, and the nation as are residential, commercial, and industrial uses of land. For Kent County, agriculture has been and continues to viewed as a permanent and preferred land use for the majority of the county. This recognition of agriculture’s status as the highest and best use for much of the county is an essential tenet of the County’s Comprehensive Plan and land use policies.

The County first adopted a right-to-farm law in 1989. This law was revised and strengthened in 2004. The law limits the circumstances under which agricultural and forestry operations may be deemed a nuisance and established an Agricultural Resolution Board. The law also requires that a right-to-farm statement be added to subdivision plats where appropriate, contains a provision for notice to go to all taxpayers, and requires a real estate disclosure statement be signed at the time of settlement when property is purchased. The Agricultural Resolution Board has not heard a single case and the right-to-farm disclosures are routinely signed and added to plats.

The County adopted its current Land Use Ordinance in December 2002. This ordinance encourages the preservation of agricultural and resource lands and addresses the issue of “farmettes” through subdivision provisions. Within the Agricultural Zoning District (AZD) the base density is 1 dwelling unit per 30 acres; however, subdivided lots may be less than 30 acres with the stipulation that the total aggregate acreage of new lots cannot comprise more than 10% of the original tract, known as the 10% rule. Subdivisions where the resulting parcels are 100 acres or larger do not count toward the maximum developed percentage. With this restriction, landowners are unable to fragment the Agricultural Zoning District into 30 acre farmettes.
The County also recognizes the importance of allowing farm employee dwellings, provided that the property is a farm and is greater than 20 acres. While a mobile home may be permitted to be used as a farm employee dwelling, mobile homes are generally not otherwise allowed as principal dwellings except in a designated mobile home park. The County’s policies allow for the continued use of existing mobile homes on residential properties but intends that they will be phased out over time by the eventual replacement of older mobile homes as primary residential dwellings in locations where they are not used as housing for farm employees. The County’s Land Use Ordinance provides that “mobile homes existing and in use as of January 16, 1996 may be continued in use and may be replaced with another mobile home, provided the replacement mobile home complies with the Kent County Codes and all Health Department regulations.”

Economy
The County’s traditional livelihoods of farming, fishing, forestry, and hunting associated with its working landscapes and natural areas remain as fundamental components of its economy. Moreover, the County’s location has enabled it to retain its rural character. Agriculture remains the County’s keystone land use and is the preferred land use for most of the County. It is the cultural foundation for the County and has a significant economic contribution on the overall prosperity and future identity of the County. The economic development goals and strategies outlined in Kent County’s Comprehensive Plan promote and support agriculture, recognizing it as the County’s primary land-based industry with substantial potential for additional growth. These goals and strategies further specify that economic development efforts need to maintain the critical mass of farming which ensures the market for needed agricultural suppliers and services. Furthermore, to maintain and strengthen its industries based on natural resource and working lands, the “Kent County Economic Resource Bill of Rights” includes the right to farm, the right to fish, and the right to hunt. The County’s economic development goals also embrace the growth of farm-based business including agri-tourism, especially since such farm-based and value-added businesses will expand and diversify economic opportunities in farming that will then also maintain the agricultural character of the area.

Tourism
Abundant natural, recreational, cultural, and historical resources in Kent County offer ample opportunities for tourism. Tourism generates $55.7 million dollars a year, lodging tax brings $283,000 per year to the County and tourism-related direct jobs number nearly 500, making it an important component of the local economy. Therefore, the County seeks to enhance and expand locally based tourism. As outlined in the 2018 Comprehensive Plan, strategies to enhance and expand tourism within Kent County include continuing to endorse the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area as well as its role in identifying significant historic sites and districts for the National Register of Historic Places. The Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management Plan enhances these resources, improves linkages, advances economic development strategies, and provides for stewardship and preservation. The County will also continue to promote the Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway, which as one of the numerous scenic byways celebrates life on the Eastern Shore.

Transportation
Emphasis on water transportation in the early years of Kent County led to the growth of port towns and unincorporated hamlets on the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries. In the mid-twentieth century with the completion of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge’s first span in 1952 and its second span in 1973, the Chesapeake Bay could be crossed by motor vehicle, which spurred suburban development for some Eastern Shore counties, such as Queen Anne’s, while Kent County maintained a slow growth rate. However, as addressed in Kent County’s Comprehensive Plan, “improvements to U.S. Route 301 in Delaware may make Kent County a more convenient location for people working in New Castle County, Delaware.” Since the County’s vision is to not develop the U.S. Route 301 corridor with housing, the County recognizes that “coordination of local planning with [its] regional neighbors will be a key to properly managing growth” in the that corridor. The Kent County’s transportation system has a role in influencing where growth will occur as well as facilitating the local economy by moving people, goods, and materials. Therefore, it is essential that the transportation network be appropriately planned, constructed, and maintained.

To this end, the County’s goals and strategies articulated in its 2018 Comprehensive Plan address the transportation system. These include its goals to “Develop a Safe, Convenient, Accessible, and Efficient Transportation System that Preserves the County’s Historic, Scenic, Agricultural and Natural Resources and Serves the Transportation Needs of County Residents” as well as exploring preservation of “historic and scenic resources along County transportation corridors.” Furthermore, as stated in its 2018 Comprehensive Plan, Kent County adamantly and “in the strongest terms possible opposes any proposal for constructing another bridge crossing of the Chesapeake Bay north of the existing Bay Bridge spans with a terminus in Kent County.” The County considers that such a “bridge crossing will have a detrimental impact on the County’s rural landscape and natural resource-based economy.” Furthermore, the Comprehensive Plan notes that “[l]imiting access to Kent County will discourage development resulting from urban expansion of the Baltimore region and, therefore, help maintain the County’s rural character.” Moreover, “Kent County does not now or plan to have infrastructure to support such an expansion.” A bridge from the Western Shore into Kent County “will undermine the County’s efforts to preserve our agricultural industry and develop a tourism industry based on our cultural, historical, natural, and scenic assets.” The County also recognizes that automobiles will continue as the dominant mode of transportation in Kent County since the County’s low-density population “will not support expensive public transportation.
options.” Nevertheless, the County promotes measures to reduce dependence on motor vehicles by accommodating bicycling and pedestrians.

**Unique Sites in Kent County**

**Camp Fairlee**

Easterseals Camp Fairlee has been providing recreation and respite for individuals over the age of six with disabilities since 1954. Located on Fairlee Creek on more than 246 acres, various activities and programs such as respite weekends and summer camps are offered. The Fairlee Manor Camp House, located on the property, is an early nineteenth century dwelling composed of five symmetrical parts and is on the National Register of Historic Places (National ID #73000931). The manor is a two-story, three-bay-long brick structure with a one-and-a-half story brick wing and a one-and-a-half story, three-bay-long plank wing on each side in decreasing height and width, creating in effect, a telescopic house from each end. The property was donated by Mrs. Louisa d’A. Carpenter in 1953 to the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults of Delaware. The Maryland Historical Trust holds an easement on the property.

**YMCA Camp Tockwogh**

Located near the end of Still Pond Neck Road with direct Chesapeake Bay frontage, north of Still Pond Creek and west of the Town of Betterton, the YMCA’s Camp Tockwogh is a rural camp on 309 acres. The YMCA purchased the land in 1938 for $15,000 and that summer the YMCA reconditioned existing buildings as well as graded and seeded what is today still the present athletic field. The YMCA has expanded facilities and added land to the camp over the years. A family camp week was added in 1946 along with weekend groups during the off-season. In 1961 the Wilmington Young Women’s Christian Association cosponsored the first girls’ camp at Tockwogh, and girls came to camp for three weeks. By 1961 the Wilmington Young Women’s Christian Association cosponsored the first girls’ camp at Tockwogh, and girls came to camp for three weeks. By 1963, they came for the full summer, and the number of girls increased each season. Camp Tockwogh annually serves more than 5,000 participants in a variety of programs that include traditional and coed overnight summer camp, as well as year-round teen leadership programs, along with retreats and conference groups.

Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge

The Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge was established on December 27, 1962 as a sanctuary for migratory birds. Occupying the entire 2,285-acre Eastern Neck Island located at the mouth of the Chester River, the refuge provides habitat for thousands of wintering waterfowl and supports a wide variety of habitats including brackish marsh, natural ponds, upland forest, and grasslands.

Starting in the year 1658 tracts of land on the island were granted to Colonel Joseph Wickes, who was an early settler on Kent Island, and his partner, Thomas Hynson, and by 1680 they owned the entire island. Colonel Wickes raised tobacco and other crops and built a home on the island known as “Wickliffe.” Though no longer standing, it was “one of the finest mansions of the time.” During the nineteenth century the original tracts were divided among the Wickes family and over time, the heirs of Thomas Hynson sold their parcels on the island to the Wickes heirs such that by 1902 the entire island was owned by the Wickes family. Bogles wharf, located on the Chester River side of the island, was a small fishing village that included an oyster-shucking plant. “The Chester River Steamboat Company operated a wharf nearby that was regularly served by steamships from Baltimore and other ports.”

Four MHIP-documented sites are on the island:

- K-274, Wickliffe Site, Eastern Neck Island. The “site of Wickliffe is one of the most valuable historical archeological sites in the County.” The MIHP form notes, Standing on what is considered to be the oldest occupied site on the Island is a 1935 residence built for the caretaker of J. Edward Johnston’s farm and gunning operation. . . The existing house is a 42’ x 23’ one and one-half story shingled-covered frame structure in a Colonial/vernacular style. . . On the same farm, South of the caretaker’s house, is a hunting lodge also built by Mr. Johnston in 1933. It is an extraordinary one-story structure stretching about 20 feet in length with two extensions on each side at right angles to the length of the structure. . . Prior to 1933, an early frame house existed in the location of the caretaker’s house. That house consisted of a five-bay, three-story frame Italianate house attached to a four-bay two-and one-half-story frame vernacular structure. According to Mr. Horace Loller, who lived there in the late 1920’s, there was a wing behind the four-bay structure, possibly the earlier dwelling associated with the Islands first white inhabitant, Joseph Wickes.

- K-509, Cedar Point Farm Site, which was the first patented tract on Eastern Neck island, 1659, and part of the original Wickcliffe grant. A “Brick House” mentioned in the 1882 tax assessment, that may have been built by the Granger family, Wickes descendants, was demolished in 1933 by the owner of the Cedar Point Gunning Club.

- K-273, Spencer Hall or Hynson’s Division, Eastern Neck Island, early 18th century. According to the MIHP form, The only documentation of the appearance of Spencer Hall was undertaken in 1957-58 by H. C. Forman and recorded in Old Buildings and Furniture. . . From the land records, it appears that the majority of Eastern Neck Island was owned by Thomas Hynson and Joseph Wickes from the 1650’s to 1680.

**PURPOSE & COUNTY OVERVIEW**
when it was divided between them. . . . By 1852, the property was listed under the name of Alexander Harris, (husband of Maria Spencer). The buildings were described as "Frame House & other Buildings in Tolerable repair, Formerly to Martha Spencer. "[Kent County Tax Assessment, 1st District, 1852] The farm remained in the family until 1940. In 1966, the entire property was acquired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and combined with other properties for the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge.17

- K-272, Ingleside (site), Eastern Neck Island, patented 1659. As stated in the MIHP form,

Ingleside site is currently a picnic area on the northwestern end of the Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge. After the property was acquired by the U.S. Government in 1962, the old house which stood on the property was burned and bulldozed. . . . “Ingleside was built on part of 'Hynson’s Division’, the name given to the northern half of Eastern Neck Island in 1680. ‘Hynson’s Division’ remained in the Hynson family through several generations, until John Hynson (son of John) sold 320 acres to John Stoops, a Cecil County farmer, in 1771. Three years later he sold the land in two parcels to Richard and Ann Jones, probably his daughter and son-in-law. By 1783, Richard Jones had died and Ann re-married Charles Chambers. (Chambers is listed in the Tax Assessment with 320 acres). David Jones, son of Richard and Ann, took over the property in the 1790’s. David is probably the builder of the house and it was his family who changed the name of this farm to Ingleside. 18

The refuge holds a designation of Important Bird Areas by the Audubon Society, and as such, magnificent wildlife viewing and breathing views of the Chester River and Chesapeake Bay are found along its trails. At the Visitor Contact Station, which is staffed daily by volunteers, there is a wall of historic photographs and hence tenanted for many years, the log wing probably was built to serve as a tenant house. . . . The

Millington Wildlife Management Area
Comprised of 4,000 acres in eastern Kent County, the Millington Wildlife Management Area (WMA) protects several endangered species of plants and animals, offers outdoor recreation opportunities as well hunting, and is a site on which wildlife management techniques are demonstrated. The Millington WMA is a part of Maryland’s Department of Natural Resources public land system and is managed by the Wildlife and Heritage Service. The land consists of hardwood forests with some pine stands, various types of wetlands, fallow managed fields, meadow plantings, and open agricultural fields. Once the home of the Lenni Lenape Indians, there is a rich history and collections of artifacts from this period are on display at the area office. The primary mission of the WMA system “is to conserve and enhance wildlife populations and their respective habitats as well as to provide public recreational use of the State's wildlife resources.”19

An MIHP site is located within the Millington WMA:

- K-630 Cypress Farm, which is located between the Peacock’s Corner-White Stone Road and the Delaware state line south of the upper reaches of the Cypress Branch of the Chester River near Massey. Apparently part of the once-extensive Kent County holdings of the politically-prominent Dulany family and hence tenanted for many years, the log wing probably was built to serve as a tenant house. . . . The state of Maryland has purchased many of the surrounding farms to the south and southwest for a wildlife demonstration area under the supervision of the Department of Natural Resources. It is likely that this farm also will become yet another addition to the state-owned wildlife lands. Having been neglected and unoccupied for some time, it is not likely that this farmhouse will survive long.20 [Note: From a review of aerial imagery it appears that this structure is no longer in existence.]

Sassafras Natural Resource Management Area
Located along the banks of the Sassafras River and Turner’s Creek in Kent County the Sassafras Natural Resources Management Area is noted for spectacular views of Sassafras River and Chesapeake Bay from the high banks that face toward the south. This NRMA is operated by the Maryland Park Service and offers hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trail riding.

The Knock’s Folly Visitor Center, on the adjacent County-owned Turner’s Creek Park, features on the history of the agricultural community, the local Native American Tockwogh tribe, the visit of Captain John Smith to the Turner’s Creek area and the rich natural history and wildlife of the Sassafras area. Named for Henry Knock, who operated a granary and farm in the Turner’s Creek Community and commenced construction of the dwelling with the log cabin section in 1759, Knock’s Folly is now a Visitor Center that is open on Saturdays during May through September.21

NOTES
1 Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management Plan (Fall 2005) Executive Summary; page xxi.
2 Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Management Plan (Chapter 3 – Telling the Stories of the Chesapeake; page 41).
5 Ibid, page 2.
6 Ibid, page 2.
7 Ibid, page 2.
8 U.S. Census of Agriculture 2012, Kent County, Maryland.
9 Per stakeholders.
10 National Park Service, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, webpage https://www.nps.gov/cajo/index.htm
12 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, https://kentcountyhistory.org/history/#exploration-and-
settlement
13 Historical Society of Kent County webpage https://kentcountyhistory.org/history/#exploration-and-settlement
15 Ibid, page 1
16 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, https://kentcountyhistory.org/history/#slavery-and-the-Civil-War
17 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, http://www.kentcountyhistory.org/key/1812_prelude.php
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19 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, https://kentcountyhistory.org/history/#The-Revolutionary-War
20 Ibid.
21 Historical Society of Kent County webpage https://kentcountyhistory.org/history/#The-Revolutionary-War
23 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, http://www.kentcountyhistory.org/key/1812_terror.php
24 Ibid.
29 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, https://kentcountyhistory.org/history/#The-Victorian-Era
31 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, http://www.kentcountyhistory.org/key/civilwar.php
32 Historical Society of Kent County webpage, http://www.kentcountyhistory.org/key/civilwar.php
34 Ibid.
36 Ibid.
37 Ibid.
38 “Constructing a Community: The African American Community in Kent County, Maryland, From Reconstruction to the Present,” A thesis by Elizabeth Clay for the Washington College Department of American Studies and Department of Sociology and Anthropology, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts. (May 2008): page 6.
40 Interview with Linda Blake, African-American resident of Kent County, July 28, 2018.
42 Interview with Carolyn Brooks, African-American resident of Kent County, July 21, 2018
43 “Constructing a Community: The African American Community in Kent County, Maryland, From Reconstruction to the Present,” A thesis by Elizabeth Clay for the Washington College Department of American Studies and Department of Sociology and Anthropology, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts., (May 2008): page 31.
44 Ibid, page 34.
46 Ibid, page 32.
47 Ibid, Table 3.3: Schools in Chestertown as of 1866 [Stannard 1866 and Bolenius 1866a]; page 38.
48 “Constructing a Community: The African American Community in Kent County, Maryland, From Reconstruction to the Present,” A thesis by Elizabeth Clay for the Washington College Department of American Studies and Department of Sociology and Anthropology, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of Bachelor of Arts. (May 2008): page 38.
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II. LANDSCAPE CHRONOLOGY

PRELIMINARY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
2 Landscape Chronology

Introduction

This chapter provides a graphic landscape chronology of Kent County using historic period maps or details of historic period maps. The maps used in this chronology were reviewed and used to understand the evolution of the landscape over time and to select specific maps to support the comparative analysis of the historic landscape and the existing landscape.

Figure 2-1: Augustine Herrman, Map of Virginia and Maryland as it is planted and inhabited this present year, 1673

Figure 2-2: Herrman, Inset Map showing Kent County (rotated)

1673 Hermann Map

Figure 2-3: Herrman, Inset Map showing key
1676 F. Lamb Map

Figure 2-4: Francis Lamb, Virginia & Maryland, 1676 from Edward C. Papenfuse & Joseph M. Coale, and Edward C. Papenfuse. 2003

1752 Bowen Map

Figure 2-5: Emanuel Bowen, A new and accurate map of Virginia & Maryland, 1752
LANDSCAPE CHRONOLOGY

Figure 2-6: "Carte de la baie de Chesapeake et pays voisins," by Jacques Nicolas Bellin, 1703-1772

Figure 2-7: "map of the peninsula between Delaware & Chesapeake Bays, with the said bays and shores adjacent drawn from the most accurate surveys," by John Churchman, 1753-1805
1777 Fry & Jefferson Map

Figure 2-8: Shows Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, and the southern portions of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Appears in the author’s Atlas amériquain septentrional, 1778.

Figure 2-9: Fry & Jefferson Inset Map showing Kent County.
Figure 2-10: "Map of Maryland showing principal buildings, roads, cities and towns, created or existing prior to 1794: a few residences are of a later date, Price H. Brooks, copyright 1933.
Figure 2-11: "Map of the State of Maryland laid down from an actual survey of all the principal waters, public roads, and divisions of the counties therein; describing the situation of the cities, towns, villages, houses of worship and other public buildings, furnaces, forges, mills, and other remarkable places; and of the Federal Territory; as also a sketch of the State of Delaware showing the probable connexion of the Chesapeake and Delaware Bays," by Dennis Griffith, 1794
Figure 2-12: Brooks Map Inset of Kent County, rectified and georeferenced for work with GIS Mapping

Figure 2-13: Griffith Map Inset of Kent County, rectified and georeferenced for work with GIS Mapping

LANDSCAPE CHRONOLOGY

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)
Chesterstown, Maryland

2.07
March 28, 2019
Figure 2-14: The states of Maryland and Delaware, from the latest surveys, 1795

Figure 2-15: Inset of Atlas showing Kent County
1797 Bohn Map

Figure 2-16: Maryland and Delaware, 1797. Place names in English and German

Figure 2-17: 1797 Bohn Map inset showing Kent County
Figure 2-18: The states of Maryland and Delaware from the latest surveys, 1799

1799 Anderson Map

Figure 2-19: A new map of Virginia with Maryland, Delaware & v., 1814

1814 Lewis Map
Figure 2-20: A map of the state of Maryland, 1852

Figure 2-21: Inset of Kent County
Figure 2-23: Martenet map inset showing level of detail studied and utilized by project team.
Figure 2-24: "Topographical atlas of Maryland: Counties of Cecil and Kent," 1873.

Figure 2-25: "Topographical atlas of Maryland: Counties of Cecil and Kent," 1873, with Inset Map for just Kent County.
Figure 2-26: Detailed 1877 maps cropped together, rectified and georeferenced for work with GIS Mapping

Figure 2-27: Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, “An illustrated atlas of Kent and Queen Anne counties, Md.,” 1877
Figure 2-28: 1899 USGS Map for Dover quadrangle

Figure 2-29: 1900 USGS Map for Cecilton quadrangle
III. EXISTING LANDSCAPE

PRELIMINARY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
3 Existing Landscape

Introduction

Organized by landscape district as established in the 2004 *Stories of the Chesapeake Cultural Landscape & Scenic Resource Assessment* prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc., this chapter provides an overview-level description of the landscape of Kent County. Note that landscape descriptions of three districts (Millington, Sassafras, and Upper Chester River) describe conditions for Kent County and portions of Queen Anne's and Cecil Counties. Descriptions of the following landscape districts are included (see figure 3-1: Landscape Districts Map for the location and extent of landscape districts).

The information on the existing landscape of Kent County excerpted from the 2004 *Stories of the Chesapeake Cultural Landscape & Scenic Resource Assessment* is followed by a series of existing conditions mapping prepared for this project by the Washington College Geographic Information System program.

Landscape Descriptions

The following information has been excerpted from the 2004 *Stories of the Chesapeake Cultural Landscape & Scenic Resource Assessment*. Given that the focus of the Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County was on analysis and evaluation of the cultural landscape, the scope of the project relied on available information on the existing landscape. The landscape district descriptions in the 2004 *Stories of the Chesapeake Cultural Landscape & Scenic Resource Assessment* were determined to be sufficient to support comparative analysis of current conditions with historic period landscape conditions. Chapter 5, Analysis, provides information on the landscape analysis methodology including utilization of available information on existing conditions, windshield surveys, and review of available aerial photography and mapping. In addition, up-to-date information on historic properties, collected as part of the scope of this project, was utilized to undertake analysis and evaluation of the Kent County cultural landscape. The information regarding historic properties in the descriptions below has not been updated.

Chesterville/Morgan Creek District

The Chesterville/Morgan Creek District is located within Kent County and belongs to the interior farmland physiographic sub-region. It is bounded by Sassafras River to the north and Chester River to the south. It is defined by its flat to slightly rolling upland topography and contains mostly Matapeake soil associations that are good for agriculture.

Scenic resources within this district are defined by the agricultural land use patterns found here. Overall, this district is comprised of very large farms (mostly corn and soybeans, although some dairy farms and large nurseries are established in this district). Farm clusters (which consist of the house and agricultural/domestic outbuildings) are generally set back far from the road in the middle of wide open fields. The farm cluster is...
also typically surrounded by large deciduous trees that define the domestic core. Small patches of forest are generally found along the creek corridors that drain this upland area. Very few fences are found within this district; most boundaries are defined by either roads or forest edges. Views of granaries, large-scale farm machinery, and irrigation equipment are also typical.

Several small towns also define this district. These include cross-road communities, such as Galena and Still Pond, and railroad communities, such as Kennedyville and Massey. The Maryland and Delaware Railroad line travels through the center of this district. M.D. 213 is a national scenic byway that also travels through the center of this district. It has a wide open corridor with wide paved shoulders. U.S. Highway 301 traverses along the district’s eastern boundary; this road is a major highway. Most other roads in this district are secondary with narrow or no shoulders.

Overall, this district’s visual resources are highly intact; particularly through the center of the district and along M.D. 213. There are a few new residential development clusters, but their impact is minor.

This district has 10 properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They include:
- George Harper Store
- Hebron
- Shrewsbury Church
- Shepherd’s Delight
- Chesterville, Maryland
- Chesterville Church, Massey Episcopal Church, Quaker Burial, and Shrewsbury Church (1834); one railroad station; five mill sites; and a few other structures associated with small town life. While most historic resources are well distributed throughout the district, higher concentrations of historic properties are found in Galena, Still Pond, Kennedyville, Massey, and Chesterville. Two properties are under preservation easement by the Maryland Historical Trust. Approximately 500 acres of land are privately conserved by Chesapeake Farms, and about a third (or 300 acres) of the Sassafras NRMA is contained within this district.

Overall, marine heritage and natural resources are not well represented within this district. Only three relatively small areas are considered Sensitive Species Areas: one along Morgan Creek headwaters, one along Mills Branch Creek, and one northwest of Butlertown. No Critical Areas are found within this interior farmland district.

**Eastern Neck Island NWR District**

The Eastern Neck Island NWR is located within Kent County and belongs to the islands physiographic sub-region. It is bounded by Eastern Neck to the north (accessed by a wooden bridge), the Chesapeake Bay to the west, and the Chester River to the east and south.

This entire island is owned by the federal government as a National Wildlife Refuge. Scenic resources within this district are defined by broad flat topography and marshland. Its eastern coastline is primarily marsh and woodland. There is no development within this district.

The interior landscape is characterized by relatively small fields of corn and soybeans, which are defined by forests and hedgerows. A narrow main road with no shoulders provides vehicular access to the island—it terminates at end of the island in an agricultural field. There are some roads that are only accessible to visitors on foot. There is no physical or visual access to the water by vehicle (except along the bridge). An interpretive pedestrian path/footbridge provides access to the marsh.

Overall, this district’s visual resources are highly intact.

Although this district has no properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it does have four sites listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (no standing resources are associated with these). All the land within this district is conserved as a wildlife refuge, and continues to be actively farmed with corn and soybeans. The entire island is also considered sensitive species habitat. As such, it very well represents regional natural resources and stewardship. Although there are no standing historic structures, the region’s early national history, maritime heritage, and agricultural heritage are also moderately represented by the landscape itself with its pattern of farm fields and undeveloped landscape, as well as by the presence of water surrounding the island.
Fairlee/Eastern Neck District

The Fairlee/Eastern Neck District is located on the western edge of Kent County and belongs to the maritime lozlands physiographic sub-region. It is bounded by the interior uplands and Lower Chester River to the east, the Sassafras River to the north, and the Chesapeake Bay to the west.

Scenic resources are defined by the broad flat topography, with bluffs along the Chesapeake Bay. There is some topographic change near tributary drainages, but generally not as great as along the Sassafras River to the north. Views and access to the river and bay are fairly limited, as many large farms and private estates do not allow public access to the waterfront. Views of the tidal creeks are more common, as public roads pass along and over these waterbodies. Land is mostly wooded along the water’s edge with some new residential development. Waterfront residential development also contains small marinas and private docks along the broad creeks.

This district is characterized by farm fields ranging in size from large to moderate, depending upon the topography; corn and soybeans comprise the dominant crops. Like the Sassafras River district, farm clusters are typically located along forest and stream edges. Later 20th century roadside development also characterizes this district—more so than its neighboring districts. This is particularly true of the area around Fairlee, Melitota, and the suburbanizing region around Rock Hall. While Rock Hall has an intact historic district, the area surrounding it does not reflect the town’s historic character.

Most roads in this district are still rural in character with narrow or no shoulders, and tend to terminate at the water’s edge or at private farm entrances. The Chesapeake Country Scenic Byway travels through this district along M.D. 20 and 446.

Overall, this district’s scenic resources are considered moderately intact, particularly in the areas surrounding Rock Hall. There is also a moderate degree of new residential development that is comprised of large residential estates along the water, and smaller home roadside residential near Fairlee.

This district has four properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places:
- Carwill Hall
- Trumpington
- Fairlee Manor Camp House
- Hinchingham Farm

Lower Chester River District

The Lower Chester River District is located within both Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties and belongs to the maritime lozlands physiographic sub-region. It is bounded by the interior uplands to the north and south, and the Upper Chester River to the west.

The visual characteristics of this district are defined by a widening of the Chester River, with flatter topography and broader tributary creeks. Tidal influences are greater here than upriver, and marshland is more prevalent. Views over the land and water are much more open and extensive. Unlike the Upper Chester River, this district is characterized by many large farms and private farm estates. Many of these are defined by treelined access roads and posts that mark the entry drive. A narrow edge of woodland is typically found along the river’s edge and upper creek corridors, although farm fields and estates generally reach very close to the water’s edge. Little new residential development is found within this district—where new development does occur, it is typically located along the creeks and inlets and is not very visible from major roads.

Although this district is mostly characterized by large farms with few towns, Queenstown, and small villages such as Cliff’s Wharf, water access is more common to this landscape.
Overall, this district’s visual resources are highly intact with some exceptions of new residential development along the upper Corsica River near Centreville.

This district has twelve properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places:
- Kennerley
- Captain’s Houses
- John H. Ozmon Store
- Clark’s Conveniency
- ISLAND IMAGE (log canoe)
- Godlington Manor
- SILVER HEEL (log canoe)
- Reed’s Creek Farm
- Bowlingly
- The Rexord
- St. Paul’s Church
- Readbourne

There are 106 properties listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties within this district. Although some are concentrated in Queenstown, most are very well distributed throughout the district. Almost all are historic farms and houses. The inventory also includes seven churches, two boats, three schools, one ferry house, one bridge, and one captain’s house.

There are also four MHT Easements—one is in Queenstown; others are associated with rural properties along river, such as Godlington Manor and Readbourne, which are NR properties. There are four structures associated with African American history. Quaker Neck is also recognized as having a significant history associated with antebellum slave culture. This district is also planned to contain the future site of the Black Civil War Memorial.

A large Rural Legacy Area (Land’s End) is contained within this district and comprises approximately 3,800 acres. Over 2,000 acres are preserved as Agricultural Preservation Districts or Easements, with some concentration northeast of Queenstown. Overall, approximately 15% of the district is conserved as rural farmland.

Approximately 15% of this district is conserved land under private ownership and Maryland Environmental Trust easements (7,000 acres); much of this land is concentrated on Tilghman’s Neck. Almost the entire coastline of the Lower Chester River and its tributaries are considered sensitive species area and Chesapeake Critical Area; there are also several isolated sensitive species sites on upland property, particularly one large area near Meiton Point.

Generally all themes are represented within this district. Early American history and agricultural heritage is well represented by many 18th/early 19th-century structures, as well as by the settlement pattern of historic farms and their relationship to the water. Maritime history is also well represented by the abundance of tidal creeks, the river itself, wharves/landings, historic boats, and captain’s houses.

Millington District

The Millington District is located within Kent County and belongs to the interior farmland physiographic sub-region. It is bounded by the Delaware state line to the east, the Sassafras River to the north, and M.D. 300 to the south. Changes in soil associations define the boundary between it and Chesterville/Morgan Creek district to the west. The topography is characterized by upland flats and depressions, with summits and side slopes along drainage corridors.

Scenic resources within this district are defined by slightly rolling upland topography with flats and depressions. There is an abundance of headwaters and upland streams within this district as it has some of the highest elevations within the study area. It also contains many millponds. This district is more wooded than almost all other districts, and is generally defined by the large forest patches found within the Millington State Wildlife Area.

Farms within this district are typically smaller and less stately than those found within the neighboring Chesterville/Morgan Creek district. Corn and soybeans remain the dominant crops, although some small pastures are also found here. Farm clusters (which consist of the house and agricultural/domestic outbuildings) are generally oriented towards the road with smaller setbacks.

This district is also characterized by secondary roads that are rural in character with narrow or no shoulders. Forested road corridors and fields bounded by forest are more common in this district, as are smaller scaled farm machinery and fencing materials (such as barbed wire and post and rail). While granaries are found within this district, they are not as common as they are in the larger farm districts.

Only a few small towns define this district. Those include the mill town of Millington, and the railroad community of Golts. The Maryland and Delaware Railroad line also travels through this district as it makes its way north.

Overall, this district’s visual resources are generally intact. Some newer roadside residential development is interspersed throughout the district, but in a manner that responds to traditional development patterns.

This district has one property (John Embert farm) listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It also has 60 properties listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). While most are historic farms or farm...
sites, the list also includes eight churches; four schools, one hotel, three commercial buildings, three mill sites, and one mill. Resources are fairly well distributed with a higher concentration in Millington. There are no properties under preservation easement by the Maryland Historical Trust. Only two structures (one church and one school) represent African American Heritage.

Approximately 12% of the agricultural land within this district is protected or recognized for the value of its resources. This is attributed to approximately 4,000 acres of farmland classified as Agricultural Preservation Districts or Easements (a significant concentration is located north of Sudlersville). Although there are no Rural Legacy Areas, Maryland Environmental Trust easements, or privately conserved lands within this district, the agricultural heritage of the region is well represented by many mill ponds, mill sites, and Gilpin’s Grist Mill (1762), as well as Millington itself.

Overall, natural resources and stewardship are well represented within this district by the relatively large forested areas of district and the many creeks and ponds found here. Approximately 66% of the district is considered forested. Most of this is comprised of the Millington Wildlife Management Area, while a smaller portion is comprised of the Unicorn Lake Forest Management Area. Approximately 11% of the district is also considered Sensitive Species area.

Sassafras River District

The Sassafras River District is located within Kent County and belongs to the maritime uplands physiographic sub-region. It is bounded by the bounded by the interior uplands physiographic sub-region to the south, the Sassafras River to the north, and the Chesapeake Bay to the west.

Scenic resources within this district are defined by steep slopes and bluffs along the Sassafras River and its tributaries, as well as rolling topography along the interfluves. Views to the river are available along some public roads, and within the larger towns. Land is mostly wooded along the water’s edge with some residential development, commercial marinas, and private docks.

Moderately sized farms are typically found along the interfluves; corn and soybeans comprise the dominant crops. Farm clusters are typically located along forest edges near drainage tributaries. Fields tend to be smaller and more enclosed than those found in the neighboring Chesterville/Morgan Creek district to the south, which is directly attributed to the steep topography found along the forested drainage corridors.

Most roads in this district are also rural in character with narrow or no shoulders, and tend to terminate at the river’s edge or at private farm entrances. There are some forested road corridors, but not as many as in the Millington District to the east.

River towns, particularly Betterton and Georgetown, and residential communities, such as Kentmore Park, characterize this district. Parks, marinas, and hotels define the river towns, and docks and boats characterize many of the views along the water. Boundaries within this district are generally defined by roads, forest edges, and shorelines, rather than fences.

Overall, this district’s visual resources are highly intact. Some newer residential development is located along the river’s edge, but is generally hidden from public view.

This district has four properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places:

- Betterton Historic District
- NELLIE CROCKETT
- Knock’s folly
- Rich Hill farm

It also has 54 properties listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). Most of these are historic houses and farms. The list also includes two churches, four mill sites, three boats, one mine site, three hotels, one store, one river house, and two bridges. Resources are primarily concentrated in Georgetown, Betterton, and near Knock’s Folly along the river. There are three properties under preservation easement by the Maryland Historical Trust (including the Indian Queen Tavern in Georgetown and two sites at Knock’s Folly). Four African American related structures (Olive Mill Methodist Episcopal Church, Sassafras Church, Charley’s House Slave Cabin on Shrewsbury Neck, and Olive Mill Public School) are also found here, as is the historically African American community of Olive Mill.

Since the Sassafras River district is mostly comprised of the river’s edge, this district contains a smaller percentage of agricultural land than most of the other districts. However, the agricultural heritage of the region is represented by several mill ponds and mill sites along the river’s tributaries. The Galena Silver Mine site also represents a unique aspect of the region’s early history. Approximately 1% of the agricultural land within this district is protected or recognized for the value of its resources. This includes a small portion of the Sassafras River Rural Legacy Area south of Betterton and along the Chesapeake Bay (most of this RLA lies in the neighboring Chesterville/Morgan Creek landscape district), as well as 650 acres of farmland classified as Agricultural Preservation Districts or Easements.

Overall, natural resources and stewardship are very well represented within this district by the Sassafras River itself, as well as the many tributaries that drain into it. Approximately 7% of the district is conserved under MET easements and the Sassafras NRMA. Approximately half of the district is also considered Sensitive Species Area.
Maritime heritage is also highly represented by this district as it provides significant views to the river and its marina, and contains three historic boats and a river house. The Betterton National Register Historic District, to include its public beach, also highly represents the travel and tourism heritage associated with this town.

Upper Chester River District

The Upper Chester River District is located within both Kent and Queen Anne’s Counties and belongs to the maritime uplands physiographic sub-region. It is bounded by the interior uplands to the north, south, and east, and the Lower Chester River district to the west.

Defined by the Chester River, its banks, and associated marshland and tributary creeks, the landscape in this district is diverse in its topography, with rolling hills and steep slopes along the river’s edge. Lands are mostly wooded along the water’s edge. Moderately sized farms are typically found along the interfluves; corn and soybeans comprise the dominant crops.

There is a moderate degree of new residential development in some areas along the Queen Anne’s County edge (Kingston and area east of Forman Branch), although this development is not necessarily seen from the major roads. The Kent County side is mostly all agricultural land and forest. Most roads in this district are also rural in character with narrow or no shoulders and terminate at the river’s edge or at private farm entrances.

Historic river towns, such as Chestertown and Crumpton characterize this district, and provide insight into the evolution of small-town life along the water, as well as the colonial and early national history of the region. The waterfront is also relatively accessible due to the several public wharves/docks found along the river. Views are generally well contained by the vegetation along the corridor, especially along the eastern reaches of the river where it becomes more narrow. Small-scale features characterizing this district include docks and boats.

Overall, this district’s visual resources are highly intact, except in some areas along the river on the Queen Anne’s County side.

This district has seven properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places:
- White House Farm
- Chester Hall
- Chestertown Historic District
- Chestertown Armory
- MYSTERY (log canoe)
- ELSWORTH (skipjack)
- Airy Hill

There are also 48 MIHP properties within this district (not including historic resources within Chestertown, which are not individually listed in the inventory). Most of those listed are houses and buildings, as well as some farms. Outside of Chestertown, this list includes one church, two mill sites, three bridges, one railroad station, two hotels, two commercial buildings, and five ships. There are also 17 MHT easements—all of which are urban sites within Chestertown, including two churches and the Chestertown Railroad Station. There are at least 16 structures associated with African American History—almost all of these are located within Chestertown. Georgetown, a historic neighborhood of Chestertown, is also recognized as a black community.

A small portion of the Chino Farms Rural Legacy Area (approximately 1,500 acres) is contained within this district. Over 1,200 acres are also preserved as Agricultural Preservation Districts or Easements—most are concentrated north of Crumpton on the Kent County side. Overall, approximately 18% of the district is conserved as rural farmland.

Only 3% of this district is conserved land under MET easements. There is no privately conserved land, nor state-owned properties. However, natural resources are well represented within this district—approximately one third of the district is considered Sensitive Species Area. The entire coastline is also considered Chesapeake Critical Area.

Travel and transportation heritage is well represented by the historic bridges, the Chestertown railroad station, and the Chestertown hotels. M.D. 213 through Chestertown is also a national scenic byway. Maritime history is also represented by the river itself, the landings located along its edge, as well as the historic boats and docks located near Chestertown and Crumpton.

Existing Conditions Mapping

Given this project’s focus on spatial analysis of Kent County’s cultural landscape, a series of existing conditions mapping was undertaken to graphically describe the landscape and to supplement the landscape descriptions excerpted from the 2004 Stories of the Chesapeake Cultural Landscape & Scenic Resource Assessment prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. The maps follow this section.

The existing conditions maps prepared by the Washington College GIS Program office include the following:

Kent County, MD, Existing Conditions (See Map 3-1: Kent County Existing Conditions)
This map includes:
- Federally protected areas
- Maryland Department of Natural Resources lands
- Local parks
- Marinas
- Tree cover
- Municipal boundaries

EXISTING LANDSCAPE

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)

Chestertown, Maryland

March 28, 2019

3.06
• County boundaries
• Railroads
• Major roads

Kent County, MD, Topography (See Map 3-2: Kent County Topography)
This map includes:
• Topographic information depicted as contour lines

Kent County, MD, Historic Sites (See Map 3-4: Kent County MIHP)
This map includes the identification numbers for buildings, structures, and sites listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.

Kent County, MD, African American Communities (See Map 3-5: Kent County’s Historic African-American Communities)
This map includes the approximate locations of African American communities by size.

Kent County, MD, Historical Assets (See Map 3-3: Kent County Historical Assets)
This map includes:
• Maryland Historical Trust Preservation Easements
• National Register of Historic Places properties
• National Register of Historic Places historic districts
• Buildings, structures, and sites listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
• Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties historic districts
• Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties rural historic districts
• National Historic Landmark district (Cheesterton)
• Archaeological site presence
• Historic mills
• Kent County and Queen Anne’s County Railroad listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties and determined eligible for the National Register
• Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway

Figure 3-9: Stefan Skipp Farm, spring cornfield after planting

Figure 3-10: Stefan Skipp Farm, fall cornfield after harvest

EXISTING LANDSCAPE
Kent County, MD
Existing Conditions

Legend
- Marinas
- Federally Protected Areas
- DNR Protected Lands
- Local Parks
- Tree Cover
- Municipal Boundaries
- County Boundary
- US Railroads
- Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway
- Rt 301

Map 3-1: Kent County Existing Conditions

Map prepared for Barton Ross & Partners LLC by Washington College’s GIS Program for the Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland - January 2019

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Landscape Architecture  Urban Design + Planning  Heritage Conservation

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

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EXISTING LANDSCAPE

3.08
March 28, 2019
Kent County, MD Historical Assets

Legend
- Maryland Historical Trust Preservation Easements (23)
- Sites on the National Register of Historic Places (32)
- Districts on the National Register of Historic Places (4)
- Sites on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) (648)
- MIHP Historic Districts (8)
- MIHP Rural Historic Landscape Districts
- National Historic Landmark District (Chesterstown)
- African American Communities
- Archaeological Site Presence
- Rt. 301
- Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway
- Railroads
- Municipal Boundaries

Map prepared for Barton Ross & Partners LLC by Washington College's GIS Program for the Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland – March 2019

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Landscape Architecture Urban Design Planning Heritage Conservation

GEORGIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS

EXISTING LANDSCAPE

3.10

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)
Chesterstown, Maryland

March 28, 2019
Kent County, MD
Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties

Legend
- Historic Mills
- Maryland Historical Trust Preservation Easements (23)
- Sites on the National Register of Historic Places (32)
- Sites on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) (648)
- Chesapeake Country National Scenic Byway
- Route 301

Map 3-4: Kent County MIHP

Map prepared for Barton Ross & Partners LLC by Washington College’s GIS Program for the Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland - January 2019

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Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)
Chestertown, Maryland

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

March 28, 2019

EXISTING LANDSCAPE

3.11
IV. SIGNIFICANCE

PRELIMINARY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties are a significant part of the nation’s last great Colonial landscape. The views, the farms, the communities, the buildings, and even much of the population—those whose roots extend beyond the opening of the Chesapeake Bay bridge in 1953—still evoke the nation’s Colonial and early American past to a remarkable degree. Beneath current roads and bridges lie original American Indian trails and river crossings. Plantation homes and property lines still mark the countryside. Country churches offer the timeless rhythms of worship. Small towns and villages reflect transportation and settlement patterns laid down from the beginning of European settlement. And many buildings built in the 18th and 19th centuries survive—a few even date to the 17th century. This is a landscape that reflects centuries of a thriving regional economy fueled by the riches of land and water, accessible by boat nearly everywhere and with level lands readily traversed and easily plowed.  

Introduction

This section includes information on previous assessments and evaluations of the significance of large-scale landscapes and extended-length linear landscapes within Kent County, and Kent County as a component of a larger analyzed landscape.
development, the Declaration of Independence, the revolutionary period, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Today, the Bay continues to influence 21st-century living.²

The Chesapeake Bay is nationally significant in part because it possesses exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the themes of our nation's natural and cultural heritage. The Bay provides an exceptional opportunity for interpreting the interdependence of cultural and natural resources, both in its modern condition and its nearly 300-year history. Over that period, the Bay has exerted an extraordinary influence on the course of United States history and development.³

Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Assessment, Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail 2004

This section includes significance statements excerpted from the National Park Service's Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.⁴

Significance Statement 1

Exploratory Voyages of Captain Smith on the Chesapeake Bay and Its Tributaries in 1607-1609

John Smith's explorations of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries formed the basis of his published writings and maps. Those publications, in turn, encouraged English settlement of Virginia, the Bay area, and the Eastern Seaboard. They also suggested a policy of private land ownership that the Virginia Company and the Crown eventually adopted. This policy, and the success of the English colonization, significantly altered the environment of the Bay and the lifeways of the native peoples. Smith's publications were unique for the time because he wrote at length from his own experience (albeit sometimes exaggerated), his own observations, and his attempts to understand what he had done and seen and describe it for a distant audience. His maps were so accurate the colonists found them useful for most of the rest of the 17th century, and modern archeologists have employed them to locate Indian towns. Smith's accounts have profoundly influenced our assumptions about the early colonial experience, and certain aspects—such as the story of Pocahontas—have even entered the popular culture.

Associated Resources and Values

- places cited by Smith in his journals and on his map
- places described by Smith in his writings
- the route of Smith's voyages
- locations of crosses claiming land for England
- maps and journals by Smith and others in his crew
- names of rivers and other places named by Smith
- places of seminal events of Smith's voyages and his exploration

Significance Statement 2

American Indian Societies and Cultures of the 17th century

The Chesapeake Bay region of 1608 was home to thousands of native people who lived along its shores and tributaries in large and small towns. They belonged to a complex society consisting of tribes, clans, chiefdoms, and other polities. The Chesapeake Bay Indians hunted, fished, and farmed, both preserving and altering their environment. They used the natural world for their subsistence in a manner that sustained over the long-term the bounty on which they depended for survival. They also maintained an elaborate trading and communication network that extended for hundreds of miles, even to the Great Lakes. The English newcomers consistently underestimated the sophistication of the native world they were invading. John Smith's writings offer an insightful (though biased) glimpse into this world. His writings reveal that the success of his Bay journey, as well as the survival of the English colony itself, depended largely on the goodwill and assistance of the American Indians. Comparing Smith's writings to his maps, it is also apparent that he relied on the native people for information about rivers and lands he had neither the time nor the means to explore. Our present understanding of the native world of Smith's time comes not only from Smith's writings but the subsequent work of archeologists and anthropologists. A host of publications, many of them issued in the last dozen years, have in some cases confirmed and in other cases contradicted what Smith thought he understood about the native peoples, their leaders, and their lives. More importantly, many descendants of the American Indians still live in their ancestral homeland, enriching modern Americans' experience with the Bay and its environment. Although the Bay's native inhabitants were largely displaced by the newcomers to America, their continued presence through their descendants offers an opportunity for visitors to understand their role in utilizing, altering, and preserving the Bay and its resources.

Associated Resources and Values

- sites of American Indian towns of the 17th century
- natural resources harvested by Indians of the time (e.g., tuckahoe, bald cypress, etc.)
- fossils from exposed cliffs used in decoration
- landforms that suggest an Indian encampment or settlement
- archeological sites with known associations with American Indian cultures of the early 17th century
- established trade routes

Significance Statement 3

Natural History of the Bay of the 17th century

When Smith explored the Bay and its tributaries in the summer of 1608, he found an abundance of natural resources, including fish, birds, mammals and plant life. Smith had harvested deer, turkeys and fish while in Jamestown. He had also observed oyster beds in that area, but it wasn’t until he explored the Bay that he discovered the extent of the vast domain these beds occupied. The Bay’s natural resources, as reported them in his published works, helped attract English settlement. The wildlife provided a base of sustenance for European colonists, the trees were used to construct their houses and vessels, and the land was transformed into farmlands. Until recent times, when pollution and overuse reduced the Bay’s resources, the harvesting of fish and oysters constituted a major industry for Bay area residents. Efforts to improve the Bay’s environment and restore its natural resources have been underway for years with limited success. Although the Bay will never again look like it did in Smith’s time or contain the vast array of floral and faunal life he observed, portions of it still convey some sense of what he saw and experienced.

Associated Resources and Values

- “unspoiled” landscapes and viewsheds evocative of the 17th century
- stands of submerged aquatic vegetation
- wooded or forested marshlands
- highly brachiated shorelines
Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement 2004

Following below is the statement of significance excerpted from the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail Feasibility Study and EIS.

Evaluation of National Significance, Feasibility, and Suitability

Based on Criterion One for National Historic Trails, six of the eight studied trail segments are found to retain integrity sufficient to result in a recommendation for their designation as a national historic trail. The proposed trail had a historic use and is significant as a result of that use. The proposed trail would include both the water and terrestrial routes that were strategically chosen by the British military as a means of reaching the nation’s capital and the City of Baltimore. The 1814 route segments survive and are widely known and documented as the route of the Chesapeake Campaign. The impacts of this invasion were long lasting and the effects on American culture are still evident and meaningful.

Based on Criterion Two, all segments of the proposed NHT are found to be nationally significant. The War of 1812 in general and the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814 had long-lasting and far-reaching effects on the United States. Several themes emerged that had broad and lasting impacts on American culture, including the test of democracy, the role of slaves and civilians, the formation of a national identity, and the importance of a military defense…

Based on Criterion Three, the proposed NHT has significant potential for public recreational use and historical interpretation, as well as aesthetic appeal and patriotic appreciation. This study concludes that five of the trail segments that meet Criterion One also present high potential for public use and enjoyment. These trail segments cross many natural and cultural landscapes that retain integrity, including the Chesapeake Bay, and the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers. There is an opportunity for interpretation both from the water and from the scenic, and substantially protected, shoreline. A number of museums, parks, and historic sites protect resources and provide public access and interpretation of the War of 1812 and related historic themes.

The NPS finds that five of the eight studied trail segments fully meet the criteria for National Historic Trails and recommends designation.¹

Caulk’s Field: Site of battle during the Chesapeake feint that resulted in the death of Peter Parker, a promising young British officer, and boosted the American spirit before the Battle of Baltimore. The most intact 1812 battlefield in Maryland, this site is privately owned and not protected.⁵

National Historic Landmark Criteria

While the proposed national historic trail is not nominated to be a National Historic Landmark (NHL), it satisfies the three NHL criteria.

Criterion 1: The proposed trail is associated with events, the Chesapeake Campaign of 1814 during the War of 1812, that made a significant contribution to broad patterns of U.S. history. Although the route is directly related to historic military events, the national significance of the proposed trail is further derived from the far-reaching effects of the campaign on the development of the United States. The British withdrawal at Baltimore that ended the campaign contributed to the American identity and inspired a surging nationalism that had not previously existed. This includes the recognition of the importance of the national flag and the writing of the poem that later became the National Anthem. In addition, the campaign resulted in the recognition that the nation needed strong coastal defenses and a strong standing military. It also proved that the young Republic and its multi-party democracy could survive the challenge of a foreign invasion, thus enhancing its international standing.

Criterion 2: The invasion and defensive routes are associated with the lives of nationally significant persons, in particular President James Madison and First Lady Dolley Madison, Francis Scott Key, and American Commodore Joshua Barney.

Criterion 3: The route and associated properties represent great American ideals related to a sense of patriotism and nationalism. Associated properties include Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, the U.S. Capitol, the White House, and a total of five National Historic Landmarks, four NPS sites, and 37 National Register properties.

No other trail commemorates the 1814 Chesapeake Campaign or the War of 1812. Fort McHenry NMHS interprets the War of 1812 and the Battle for Baltimore. The proposed trail complements Fort McHenry NMHS by putting the fort in the context of the overall campaign and linking it to associated sites throughout the Chesapeake region and the rest of the United States.²

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Draft Management Plan 2004

The Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Draft Management Plan provides the following statement of the significance and five criteria for the four county area, which includes Kent County.

Statement of Significance

Caroline, Kent, Queen Anne’s, and Talbot Counties today are linked by the process of 17th and 18th century geopolitical boundary-carving and a shared history dating from European settlement, a remarkable range of natural environments, and a host of shared cultural traditions—many of which demonstrate the indelible links among life, land, work, and water that characterize life in this region. It is water, however, that makes all the difference here—and not just any water body, but the splendid Chesapeake Bay, one of…
The most important factors contributing to this finding of significance relate to the following factors:

- The Byway's position as the principal linkage between resources recognized as regionally and nationally significant...Serving as the region's Main Street and farm-to-market road, the Byway links traditional settlements and cultural landscapes, and provides direct access to nationally significant historic sites and districts, scenic farmland and working waterfronts, as well as numerous water-based recreation sites and natural areas.³

Kent County Railroad Corridor Determination of Eligibility Form 2008

The former Kent County Railroad Corridor was determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places by the Maryland Historical Trust in 2009. The statement of significance from the Determination of Eligibility Form is excerpted below.

The former Kent County Railroad Corridor is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, for its association with the economic and social development of Kent County and under Criterion C as a substantially intact example of a mid-19th century rail line which, despite modification to reflect changes in rail transportation technology, significantly retains its rural character and functions for the purpose for which it was constructed. Those portions of the corridor which no longer serve their intended function and which can no longer convey the rail associated use due to abandonment and/or deterioration are excluded from this eligibility determination. One standing resource, the Chestertown Passenger Railroad Station, is located near the terminus of the now-abandoned section of the rail corridor; the Chestertown Passenger Railroad Station is individually listed in the National Register.

Preliminary Statement of Significance of the Cultural Landscape of Kent County

This section addresses the significance of the cultural landscape of Kent County and includes information on the project team’s methodology and evaluation process.

Previously Prepared Historic Context Information

The report entitled Maryland’s Eastern Shore, Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, Cultural Landscape & Scenic Assessment prepared by John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) in 2004 includes information on the historic contexts for the Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area including Kent County. This information was provided as a framework for understanding the events, traditions, and environments that define the heritage of the region and to support identification of preliminary boundaries of the heritage area. The source of this framework is Julie H. Ernstine's report entitled Life, Land, and Water: Linking People and Place on Maryland's Central and Upper Eastern Shore. Ernstine’s context statement included six contexts⁴:

- Changes in the land;
- Peopling the land;
- Working the land and water;
- Colony and nation-building;
- Religion and belief; and
- Travel and transportation.

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³See Preservation Alliance of Maryland, Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland. March 28, 2019.
⁴Ibid.
The 2004 *Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, Cultural Landscape & Scenic Assessment* included the following historic interpretive themes described in Ernststein’s historic context statement:

- **Changes in Land: Where Land and Water Meet on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.** This interpretive theme encompasses the natural features, systems, and processes that define the character of the region and which serve as the context for human events, activities, and stewardship;
- **Peopling the Land: Change and Continuity on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.** This interpretive theme embodies the tradition and evolution of settlement within the study region, as well as the architectural and material artifacts associated with small-town life;
- **Colony and Nation-Building on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.** This theme interprets the early history of the region, to include initial European settlement and colonial development. African American history, to include periods of slavery, civil war, and reconstruction are also included within this theme;
- **Feeding the Body and Fueling the Local Economy.** This interpretive theme encompasses the evolution of agricultural development within the region, to include farming, milling, canning, and livestock production. This theme also interprets the maritime heritage of the region and includes fishing, shipbuilding, and watermen culture;
- **Food for the Soul: Religion and Belief on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.** Religious history is interpreted within this theme, which is represented by churches and meeting houses, as well as cemeteries and graveyards;
- **Destination Maryland’s Eastern Shore: Travel and Transportation Past and Present.** This interpretive theme embodies the evolution of transportation systems within the region, such as steamboats, ferries, railways, roads, and bridges. It also interprets the tourism heritage of Maryland’s Eastern Shore, and recognizes the region’s history in attracting visitors and tourists seeking recreation and amusement.11

The authors of the 2004 report modified Ernststein’s six themes to support their assessment of which cultural landscapes within Maryland’s Eastern Shore would best interpret the various aspects of the region’s heritage. Colony and Nation-Building on Maryland’s Eastern Shore was subdivided into colonial and early national heritage and African American heritage. Likewise, Feeding the Body and Fueling the Local Economy was sub-divided into agricultural heritage and maritime heritage.12

**State of Maryland Historic Contexts**

Though the Maryland Historic Trust has not developed a standard historic context framework, the following relevant historic context information has been developed based on recent historic contexts for historical documentations for historic districts in Maryland and Virginia:

- **Geographic Region**
  - Eastern Shore
- **Developmental Periods**
  - Contact and Settlement: 1570-1750
  - Rural Agrarian Intensification: 1680-1815
  - Agricultural-Industrial Transition: 1815-1870
  - Industrial/Urban Dominance: 1870-1930
  - Modern Period: 1930-Present
- **Historic Period Themes**
  - Agriculture
  - Commerce/Trade
  - Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
  - Ethnicity
  - Government/Law/Political
  - Industry/Processing/Extraction
  - Military/Defense
  - Recreation/Arts
  - Religion
  - Settlement Patterns
  - Social/Educational/Cultural
  - Technology/Engineering
  - Transportation
  - Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and City Planning

The historic context statement developed by Ernststein in *Life, Land, and Water: Linking People and Place on Maryland’s Central and Upper Eastern Shore* and further developed by John Milner Associates, Inc., for the 2004 *Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, Cultural Landscape & Scenic Assessment*, aligns with the historic context framework outlined above. Consequently, the preliminary statement of significance for the cultural landscape of Kent County relied on Ernststein and JMA’s historic context thematic framework.

**National Register of Historic Places Significance Criteria**

The evaluation criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are outlined below.

“The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

**SIGNIFICANCE**

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)

Chesetown, Maryland
Defining Cultural Landscapes

The National Park Service defines cultural landscapes as follows (Preservation Brief 36):

A cultural landscape is defined as “a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.” There are four general types of cultural landscapes, not mutually exclusive: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.14

Historic landscapes include residential gardens and community parks, scenic highways, rural communities, institutional grounds, cemeteries, battlefields and zoological gardens. They are composed of a number of character-defining features which, individually or collectively contribute to the landscape’s physical appearance as they have evolved over time. In addition to vegetation and topography, cultural landscapes may include water features, such as ponds, streams, and fountains; circulation features, such as roads, paths, steps, and walls; buildings; and furnishings, including fences, benches, lights and sculptural objects.

Most historic properties have a cultural landscape component that is integral to the significance of the resource. Imagine a residential district without sidewalks, lawns and trees or a plantation with buildings but no adjacent lands. A historic property consists of all its cultural resources—landscapes, buildings, archeological sites and collections.15

Defining a Rural Historic Landscape

The National Register of Historic Places defines a rural historic landscape as follows (National Register Bulletin 30):

The rural historic landscape is one of the categories of property qualifying for listing in the National Register as a historic site or district. For the purposes of the National Register, a rural historic landscape is defined as a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.

Rural landscapes commonly reflect the day-to-day occupational activities of people engaged in traditional work such as mining, fishing, and various types of agriculture. Often, they have developed and evolved in response to both the forces of nature and the pragmatic need to make a living. Landscapes small in size and having no buildings or structures, such as an experimental orchard, are classified as sites. Most, however, being extensive in acreage and containing a number of buildings, sites, and structures—such as a ranch or farming community—are classified as historic districts. Large acreage and a proportionately small number of buildings and structures differentiate rural historic landscapes from other kinds of historic properties...

An understanding of historic contexts is essential for identifying the significant properties of a rural area and determining the eligibility of any particular property.

Primary is significance, ascribed by specific criteria and weighed within the framework of a community, region, or state’s historic contexts. Historic contexts provide background information about the patterns of history and development that shaped a particular geographical area. This information links a rural property with important historic trends or themes, such as dairy farming or cattle grazing, indicating whether the property is unique or representative of its time and place. Contextual information also allows the grouping of properties having similar patterns of historic development, making it possible to weigh their relative importance.

Historic integrity, a measure of a property’s evolution and current condition, is also necessary. A comparison of the changes experienced by a group of properties related by common historic contexts helps define the historic characteristics and qualities of integrity that qualify a rural property for listing. Recent changes that have erased historic characteristics, and do not have exceptional importance, make a property ineligible, even if scenic qualities are still present.

Spatial organization, concentration of historic characteristics, and evidence of the historic period of development distinguish a rural historic landscape from its immediate surroundings. In most instances, the natural environment has influenced the character and composition of a rural area, as well as the ways that people have used the land. In turn, people, through traditions, tastes, technologies,
and activities, have consciously and unconsciously modified the natural environment. Politics, social customs, ownership, economics, and natural resources have determined the organization of rural communities and the historic properties they contain.16

**Synopsis**

A rural historic landscape is:

...a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.

The evidence of human use or activity is examined through eleven landscape characteristics:

* land uses and activities;
* patterns of spatial organization;
* response to the natural environment;
* cultural traditions;
* circulation networks;
* boundary demarcations;
* vegetation related to land use;
* buildings, structures, and objects;
* clusters;
* archeological sites; and
* small-scale elements.

**Indigenous Cultural Landscapes Criteria**

Though the project scope of work limited the investigation to focusing on the cultural landscape of Kent County starting with European contact, it is critically important to acknowledge the impacts of indigenous peoples on the landscape prior to, at, and after European contact. The following information provides a brief overview of the concept of indigenous landscapes including the types of landscape features, systems, and characteristics that define indigenous landscapes in the Eastern Woodlands region at the time of first contact with Europeans. This information was excerpted from a document entitled “The Indigenous Cultural Landscapes of the Eastern Woodlands: A Model for Conservation, Interpretation, and Tourism” prepared by Deanna Beacham.17 This document was created to assist in efforts regarding the identification and mapping of indigenous cultural landscapes.

The concept of the Indigenous Cultural Landscape, first introduced to the public as part of the Comprehensive Management Plan for the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, is intended to represent large landscapes from the perspective of American Indian nations at the time of their first contact with Europeans. These landscapes comprise the cultural and natural resources that would have supported the historic lifestyles and settlement patterns of an Indian group in their totality. The concept attempts to demonstrate that American Indian places were not confined to the sites of houses, towns, or settlements, and that the concept of the American Indian view of one’s homeland is holistic rather than compartmentalized into the discrete site elements typically used in our language today such as “hunting grounds, villages, or sacred sites.

The initial implementation activities of the Indigenous Cultural Landscape focused on its role as a conservation priority in the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail, as indicated in the Trail’s Comprehensive Management Plan. A team was formed to decide on criteria and plan additional activities such as identifying indigenous cultural landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Outreach to conservation and interpretive education practitioners was also planned.

Criteria for indigenous cultural landscapes in the Chesapeake Bay watershed have been determined as follows:

- Good agricultural soil (fine sandy loam, 1-2% grade)
- Fresh water source (because river or creek water may be brackish)
- Transportation tributary adjacent
- Landing place (confluence of tributaries optimal)
- Marshes nearby (for waterfowl, shellfish, reeds, tubes, muskrat
- Brushy areas (for small game, berries)
- Primary or mixed deciduous forest (can be restored or restorable, for larger game, nuts, bark, firewood)
- Uplands that could support hunting activities (are supporting a variety of wildlife)
Additional desirable attributes:
• Proximity to known American Indian community (documented through ethnohistory or archaeology; may be Contact era or later)
• Protection from wind
• High terrace landform

Criteria for smaller or connective parcels:
• Areas of recurrent use for food or medicine acquisition (shell middens, plant gathering sites)
• Areas of recurrent use for tool acquisition (quarries)
• Places with high probability for ceremonial or spiritual use (even if not documented), or known by a descendant community to have been used for ceremony
• Trails used as footpaths (usually became Colonial roads, sometimes are today’s highways and local roads)
• Parcels that can be interpreted as supporting activities of Indian community sustainability, such as trading places or meeting places
• Places associated with ancestors, or part of a descendant community’s past known through tribal history, ethnohistory, or archaeology

Preliminary Statement of Significance
Kent County is a valuable cultural landscape comprising not only the 700-plus historic resources individually identified in the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) but also, and significantly, a substantially intact working landscape representing agricultural practices extending for over 300 years. The natural qualities of that landscape (geology, soils, topography, hydrology, climate) and its location within the Chesapeake Bay region governed the evolution of the cultural landscape and those historic resources and remain important to this day in conveying Kent County’s identity and historical significance. The prime agricultural soils that extend across much of the county in particular make this landscape nearly unique and have contributed to the establishment of a vast fully integrated spatial matrix of historic sites and districts; road, rail, and maritime transportation systems; farmlands; and water and terrestrial natural systems found in Kent County.

This is a cultural landscape that was occupied by American Indians for thousands of years before European contact and has continuously evolved as an agricultural and maritime landscape since European exploration in the early 1600s. It is among the earliest landscapes settled in eastern North America by English colonists and African Americans. Maryland was pioneered on a site not far away by water from Kent County in 1634, Jamestown in 1606, Plymouth in 1620, and the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630.

The economic conditions that favored the agricultural and maritime settlements of the county since the early 1600s have remained virtually unchanged. This agricultural county and its small towns and villages have prospered through the good times and the hard times of American history while responding to evolving technological and architectural changes. It is possible to read that history in the individual historic resources as well as the larger landscape patterns associated with the matrix of highly connected landscape systems and features that survive.

Kent County has been home to numerous persons significant in the history of the United States. The brick home of Joseph Hopper Nicholson still stands in Chestertown. Nicholson was a politician, attorney and federal judge responsible for casting the deciding vote in the House of Representatives for Thomas Jefferson’s Presidency in 1800 and later produced the Star Spangled Banner for his cousin, Francis Scott Key. U.S. Senator James Alfred Pearce (1805–1862) lived in the Custom House and was a member of Congress who worked to keep the Union together at the outset of the Civil War and later helped create the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC. Colonel Isaac Perkins, known as the “Flaming Patriot” of the Revolution, was one of the commissioners appointed by Maryland Council of Safety to raise supplies for the Continental Army. Much of the flour provided during the war from the Eastern Shore was ground in the mills of his property.

A large agricultural landscape on the East Coast that has a high level of continuity of land use and surviving physical characteristics is among the rarest of the rare, especially one that was densely settled so early in the history of the nation and which has so many identified historic resources. Without taking account of the entire landscape of the county, it is impossible to truly understand the individual sites in the MIHP, the 23 districts and buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and other discrete historically significant resources.
Kent County's cultural landscape is defined by the intact Bay, river, and creek shorelines and associated shoreline towns, the intact system of early roads, villages and crossroad communities, railroad and railroad-related communities, large-scale agricultural areas and associated former plantations and middling farm clusters. The county's archeological resources—both terrestrial and maritime—reflect human occupation since 15,000 years ago, are rich in every era, and are relatively undisturbed, offering a superb opportunity for science.

The broad patterns of extensive agricultural land use evident throughout Kent County represents a spatial organization of purposely integrated systems of fields, roads, plantation and farm clusters, and undeveloped natural features, spanning one of the longest periods of continuous agricultural use in the history of the United States. Its reliance on both land and water in roughly equal measure as a source of wealth is unique to the Chesapeake Bay's Eastern Shore. The working landscape is now 350 years old, one of North America's oldest surviving landscapes from European colonization.

The overall matrix of Kent County’s agricultural and maritime landscapes represents one of the largest surviving areas associated with early settlement and historical development of Maryland's Eastern Shore. Though initial European settlement was driven by large-scale land patents, fertile soil, water access, and a slave-driven agricultural economy based on tobacco cultivation, these established settlement patterns are still evident in part to evolving agricultural conservation practices and land use protections.

Many of Kent County's roads and road corridors and riverine and Chesapeake Bay waterways represent some of the oldest surviving transportation routes in the United States, some surviving over 300 years. Continued settlement patterns are tied strongly to early transportation routes that included the Bay, and the Chester and Sassafras rivers and associated creeks, and an early network of roads. This primarily intact system of early roads shaped its agricultural, social, technological, and commercial development.

Kent County's undeveloped natural shorelines and maritime villages and towns define the margins of the nationally significant Chesapeake Bay including the Sassafras and Chester rivers. Kent County's shorelines have supported and witnessed Native American occupation for centuries, early 17th-century exploration including the voyages of Captain John Smith, war-time actions and transportation during the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and Civil War, the development of maritime transportation systems and networks, and maritime commerce, industry, and recreation. Shorelines and villages of Kent County were the locations of the 1814 Battle of Caulk's Field and the Raid on Georgetown and Fredericktown during the War of 1812.

Kent County has been continually inhabited and farmed since the late 1640s, and remains one of the oldest working, intact colonial landscapes in North America. Many surviving historic buildings, farm structures, churches, marinas, and agricultural warehouses, and early towns and villages all served as an architectural backdrop to the burgeoning county. The County’s historic sites were almost entirely made of traditional, locally derived materials including wood and brick, while some fieldstones were incorporated into basement or foundation walls. Abundant trees used by colonists in early construction methods included long leaf yellow pine, with walnut, white pine, oak, and poplar also being utilized. The use of early nails (forged and supplied by blacksmiths), hinges, and other iron hardware are reflective of what was architecturally consistent with the early Chesapeake vernacular buildings.

Architecturally, the 18th century period of building in Kent County was a time of great development and significance. The county seat, Chestertown, was established on the Chester River in 1706 and by 1750 was the largest town and most important port of entry on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Chestertown was a frequent overnight stop for George Washington and other founding fathers traveling to Philadelphia from the south. Nationally important examples of brick Georgian architecture still survive in the downtown core including the Hynson-Ringgold House on Water Street (now home to the President of Washington College), the Custom House (originally used in colonial times by British inspectors), and the White Swan Tavern (a shoemaker’s tannery from before 1733). Chestertown is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; in 1970, the town was among the earliest historic districts in the United States to be designated a National Historic Landmark under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In Maryland, Chestertown is second only to the state capital of Annapolis in the number of buildings surviving from the Colonial era.

Kent County’s past is reflected not only in the urban architecture of individual buildings in and around Chestertown, but throughout the equally impressive working landscapes of towns, villages, farms and waterways. Also present are the man-made ruins, foundations, drainage ditches, archeological sites, and cemeteries that dot the countryside. Because of the county’s geographic location, agricultural value and other factors, much of the county’s rural architecture has been spared from wholesale development and investment. Many of the original hamlets with their Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Second Empire, and other vernacular houses remain in a nearly unaltered and high state of repair, still able to be read and interpreted as small historic villages from a different era surrounded by valuable farmland fields. The historic farms and farmhouses are mostly still intact as well. Designed originally as large plantations, many of these multi-generational farms still function well in the mechanized 21st century and serve as preserved places of pride thanks to the continuity of ownership. For more information on the county’s architectural history, see Michael Bourne’s Historic Houses of Kent County, 1998.

Kent County is religiously significant and home to a number of historical significant churches and cemeteries, including St. Paul’s Church built in 1713 near Fairlee, which is the oldest continually used Episcopal church building in the State of Maryland. St. Paul’s was one of the original thirty parishes that were laid out across the Province of Maryland in accordance with the Colonial
Assembly in 1692 for the dissemination of the Church of England throughout the province. St. Paul’s and Shrewsbury covered all the territory within the present geographical bounds of the county. Kent County retains two other colonial churches, including Christ Church EU Parish in Worton (1765) and the “Chestertown Chapel” (now Emmanuel Episcopal) constructed in 1767 on the Chestertown courthouse square. It was in this building in November 1780, during a meeting of Anglican clergy and members of vestries from local parishes, that the pre-independence Church of England came to eventually be known as the Protestant Episcopal Church throughout the United States. All four churches are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The town of Chestertown is home to a total of seven historic churches, including Janes United Methodist Church (1914), a historic African-American congregation whose building facade is made of an extremely rare sand-lime fireproof brick.

Along with the churches, many of Kent County’s historic cemeteries are remarkably well preserved. St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Cemetery has headstones that date to 1692 and are nearly arranged on its 19-acre site. General John Cadwalader, commander of the Pennsylvania troops during the Revolutionary War under George Washington, is buried at Shrewsbury Church’s expansive cemetery. Other historic cemeteries in the county include St. John’s Catholic Church Cemetery and the Wesley Chapel United Methodist Cemetery in Rock Hall, the Asbury United Methodist Church Cemetery in Georgetown, the Holy Trinity AME Church’s Edesville Church Cemetery near the center of Edesville, and Mount Pleasant Cemetery, just north of the village of Fairlee.

A wealth of African-American heritage sites are found in Kent County, particularly locations and routes of the Underground Railroad, which was profoundly influenced in this region by the maritime employment of slaves and free blacks and the geography of the landscape. Evidence and sites associated with Reconstruction-era African-American community development, as well as the evolution of agricultural, educational and industrial practices throughout the Jim Crow era (1876-1964), are surviving in Kent County.

Many places, sites, and facilities supporting and offering recreational hunting, fishing, boating, birding, and youth camp activities represent nearly two centuries of recreational use of Kent County’s landscapes and waterways. Evidence of the development of hotels, beaches, and amusement facilities survive in small maritime towns and villages.

The landscape character of Kent County has been influenced by governmental and institutional programs focusing on land conservation including programs developed by the State of Maryland through its Program Open Space, established in 1969 as a dedicated funding source for land conservation, and the Maryland Environmental Trust’s easement program beginning in 1972. Evidence of hundreds of years of cultural traditions associated with fishing and oyster and crab harvesting are found in maritime villages and shoreline water access points in the form of boat-building, boats, and the facilities supporting the processing of caught and harvested seafood.

The overall cultural landscape of Kent County likely meets criteria for significance established by the National Park Service for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (A) and its embodiment of the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (C). Though Kent County’s history and landscape were shaped in part by significant persons, the limitations of the scope of this project precluded an in-depth documentation of this aspect of significance. Similarly, the significance of Kent County’s archaeological resources was not addressed in-depth.

National Register of Historic Places Areas of Significance:

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Archaeology: Historic-Aboriginal
- Archaeology: Historic-Non-Aboriginal
- Commerce
- Community Planning and Development
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Entertainment/Recreation
- Ethnic Heritage: Black
- Exploration/Settlement
- Industry
- Maritime History
- Military
- Politics/Government
- Social History
- Transportation

Preliminary Period of Significance

1608 - 1968

The beginning date is when Captain John Smith explores the Sassafras River including landing at a Tockwogh village near present-day Rock Hall.

The ending date is the 50-year cutoff established by the National Register of Historic Places.

Owing to limitations on the scope or work undertaken for this project, archaeological resources and indigenous cultural landscapes have been addressed to a very limited level. Given the significance statements provided by the National Park Service in the 2004 Final Chesapeake Bay Special Resource Study and Environmental Impact Statement as well as many other studies of the larger bay landscape, the beginning date of the preliminary period of significance does not reflect the significance of Kent County’s cultural landscape prior to European contact.
Consideration should be given to a continuum of significance versus establishing an ending date. This approach is particularly appropriate when the significance of the landscape is, in part, associated with land use. The World Heritage Convention of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has established a definition for an organically evolved landscape and, more specifically, a continuing landscape. The cultural landscape of Kent County can be defined as a continuing landscape. UNESCO defines a continuing landscape as “one which retains an active social role in contemporary society closely associated with a traditional way of life. It is continuing to evolve while, at the same time, it exhibits significant material evidence of its historic evolution.”

**Significant Dates**

1608  Capt. John Smith explores the Sassafras River, landing at a Tockwogh village near present-day Rock Hall.

1642  Kent County was officially founded in 1642, and the earliest land patents were granted on Eastern Neck, Gray's Inn Creek and Langford Creek, to men such as Thomas Ringgold, Thomas South, Thomas Hynson, and Joseph Wickes.

1650s  Thomas Ringgold, Thomas South, Thomas Hynson, and Joseph Wickes were the first to move across the Kent Narrows and up the Chester River. Patents were granted on Eastern Neck, Gray's Inn Creek, and Langford Creek. Henry Morgan, a former indentured servant who had been named county sheriff, received land north to Morgans Creek (now Morganc). The formation of present day Kent County had begun.

1675  The town of New Yarmouth was established by Samuel Tovey and James Ringgold at the mouth of Gray's Inn Creek. A courthouse was erected, along with mills, a church, and taverns and, in response to pressure from the Maryland Assembly, a port. The Maryland Assembly wanted to establish central shipping points where the Assembly could control trade and levy duties.

1670s  Roads, including ferries and bridges, began to replace water routes between plantations in the county.

1679  First court was held in the home of Joseph Wickes on Eastern Neck, and the first courthouse erected in the town of New Yarmouth.

1706  Chestertown was founded under the Act for the Advancement of Trade and the Erection of Ports and Towns. The “New Town” was laid out along the Chester River on land belonging to Thomas Joyce, once part of Simon Wilmer’s “Stepney.”

1723  Kent County Free School established.

1774  Six months after the Boston tea party, a number of prominent Kent County men gathered at a local tavern to respond to the Tea Act. In an anonymous report to the Maryland Gazette, the gathering condemned Great Britain. At a second meeting the participants approved the Chestertown Resolves, which acknowledged their allegiance to King George III, but registered their sworn enmity to taxation without representation.

1777  Galley Chester built in Thomas Smyth’s shipyard in Lankford Bay became part of the Maryland State Navy.

1782  Maryland State Assembly charters a seminary of universal learning. George Washington was to sit on its board. Washington College became the 10th college in America, and the first to be founded in the newly independent and unified states. Washington, who contributed 50 guineas to the College, joined the College’s Board of Governors in May of 1784. Other members included Maryland Governor William Paca and wealthy planter-merchant Thomas Smyth.

1813  A British blockade had nearly closed the Bay and British ships constantly threatened farms and towns. British ships were positioned at the mouth of the Sassafras River and sent a detachment of about 500 men to burn Georgetown and Fredericktown.

1814  Battle of Caulk’s Field. The 21st Maryland Militia under Colonel Phillip Reed was encamped near Fairlee when news reached them that a British frigate and two smaller vessels were headed toward them. British captain Sir Peter Parker had been ordered to prevent the militias from crossing the Bay to defend Baltimore. On August 28th, Parker landed 100 men near the mouth of Fairlee Creek and burned every building on the farm of John Waltham, the wheat in his granary and the stacks in his field. Two days later, they burned Richard Frisby’s farm and made plans to capture Colonel Reed and his men. Instead Colonel Reed learned of the surprise attack and was waiting when they arrived. The two sides met in a field belonging to Isaac Calk. Despite being outnumbered and running out of ammunition, the Americans pushed back Parker’s men until they retreated. Over forty British were killed or wounded, with Parker among the dead.

1850s  Underground Railroad functioning in Kent County.

1850s  Crew’s Landing becomes a destination vacation location served by steamboats.

1860  Henry B. Slaughter offers daily steamboat service along the Chester River.

1865  Chester River Steamboat Company was formed in 1865 when Col. B.S. Ford purchased the line of Henry B. Slaughter.

1872  Kent County Railroad Company was chartered in 1856. However, the railroad operations were delayed by the Civil War and a lack of investors. The first train pulled into Chestertown on February 20, 1872.

1877  Tolchester Line Steamboat Company is formed and operating and serving the Tolchester resort.

1889  Kent County’s first cannery opens in Still Pond.

1906  Rock Hall incorporated and serving as one of the major centers of the Chesapeake fish and seafood industry.

1908  Still Pond incorporated as a town and the Act of Incorporation provided that women were permitted to vote in town elections. In 1908, three of 14 women registered to vote, cast their ballots, 38 years after women were allowed to vote in Wyoming in 1870, but 12 years before the ratification of the 19th Amendment, which enabled women to vote nationwide.

1962  Tolchester resort closes.
NOTES
1 http://storiesofthechesapeake.org/about-us/
11 Unfortunately, a copy of Ernstine’s report was not found after a thorough search, including contacting Ernstine.
20 The NHPA established the National Register with NHLs at the apex of the system. The 47 pre-existing National Historic Landmark historic districts established under the Historic Sites Act of 1935 were added at the time of NHPA’s passage. There are just 166 historic districts among the nation’s 2,547 landmarks as of May 2018.
V. LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

PRELIMINARY CULTURAL LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT OF KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
Introduction

This chapter includes background information on rural historic landscape characteristics, landscape analysis methodology, analysis findings, and preliminary recommendations regarding future initiatives to document.

Rural Historic Landscape Characteristics

The National Park Service, in National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes, defines a rural historic landscape as:

A geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features.

1

Following are the landscape characteristics that are typically addressed when undertaking analysis and documentation of rural historic landscapes:

• land uses and activities
• patterns of spatial organization
• response to the natural environment
• cultural traditions

Landscape Analysis

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• circulation networks
• boundary demarcations
• vegetation related to land use
• buildings, structures, and objects
• clusters
• archeological sites
• small-scale elements

Landscape characteristics are defined by the National Park Service in Bulletin 30:

Processes

Land Use and Activities

Land uses are the major human forces that shape and organize rural communities. Human activities, such as farming, mining, ranching, recreation, social events, commerce, or industry, have left an imprint on the landscape. An examination of changing and continuing land uses may lead to a general understanding of how people have interacted with their environment and provide clues about the kinds of physical features and historic properties that should be present.

Topographic variations, availability of transportation, the abundance or scarcity of natural resources (especially water), cultural traditions, and economic factors influenced the ways people use the land. Changing land uses may have resulted from improved technology, exhausted soils or mineral deposits, climatic changes, and new economic conditions, as well as previous successes or failures. Activities visible today may reflect traditional practices or be innovative, yet compatible, adaptations of historic ones.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

The organization of land on a large scale depends on the relationship among major physical components, predominant landforms, and natural features. Politics, economics, and technology, as well as the natural
environment, have influenced the organization of communities by determining settlement patterns, proximity to markets, and the availability of transportation.

Organization is reflected in road systems, field patterns, distance between farmsteads, proximity to water sources, and orientation of structures to sun and wind.

Large-scale patterns characterizing the settlement and early history of a rural area may remain constant, while individual features, such as buildings and vegetation, change over time. Changes in technology, for example, may have altered plowing practices, although the location of plowed fields, and, therefore, the overall historic pattern may remain the same.

Response to the Natural Environment
Major natural features, such as mountains, prairies, rivers, lakes, forests, and grasslands, influenced both the location and organization of rural communities. Climate, similarly, influenced the siting of buildings, construction materials, and the location of clusters of buildings and structures. Traditions in land use, construction methods, and social customs commonly evolved as people responded to the physiography and ecological systems of the area where they settled.

Early settlements frequently depended upon available natural resources, such as water for transportation, irrigation, or mechanical power. Mineral or soil deposits, likewise, determined the suitability of a region for particular activities. Available materials, such as stone or wood, commonly influenced the construction of houses, barns, fences, bridges, roads, and community buildings.

Cultural Traditions
Cultural traditions affect the ways that land is used, occupied, and shaped. Religious beliefs, social customs, ethnic identity, and trades and skills may be evident today in both physical features and uses of the land. Ethnic customs, predating the origins of a community, were often transmitted by early settlers and perpetuated by successive generations. Others originated during a community’s early development and evolution. Cultural groups have interacted with the natural environment, manipulating and perhaps altering it, and sometimes modifying their traditions in response to it.

Cultural traditions determined the structure of communities by influencing the diversity of buildings, location of roads and village centers, and ways the land was worked. Social customs dictated the crops planted or livestock raised. Traditional building forms, methods of construction, stylistic finishes, and functional solutions evolved in the work of local artisans.

Components
Circulation Networks
Circulation networks are systems for transporting people, goods, and raw materials from one point to another. They range in scale from livestock trails and footpaths, to roads, canals, major highways, and even airstrips. Some, such as farm or lumbering roads, internally served a rural community, while others, such as railroads and waterways, connected it to the surrounding region.

Boundary Demarcations
Boundary demarcations delineate areas of ownership and land use, such as an entire farmstead or open range. They also separate smaller areas having special functions, such as a fenced field or enclosed corral. Fences, walls, tree lines, hedge rows, drainage or irrigation ditches, roadways, creeks, and rivers commonly marked historic boundaries.

Vegetation Related to Land Use
Various types of vegetation bear a direct relationship to long-established patterns of land use. Vegetation includes not only crops, trees, or shrubs planted for agricultural and ornamental purposes, but also trees that have grown up incidentally along fence lines, beside roads, or in abandoned fields. Vegetation may include indigenous, naturalized, and introduced species.

While many features change over time, vegetation is, perhaps, the most dynamic. It grows and changes with time, whether or not people care for it. Certain functional or ornamental plantings, such as wheat or peonies, may be evident only during selected seasons. Each species has a unique pattern of growth and life span, making the presence of historic specimens questionable or unlikely in many cases. Current vegetation may differ from historic vegetation, suggesting past uses of the land. For example, Eastern red cedars or aspens indicate the natural succession of abandoned farmland in the Midwest.

Buildings, Structures, and Objects
Various types of buildings, structures, and objects serve human needs related to the occupation and use of the land. Their function, materials, date, condition, construction methods, and location reflect the historic activities, customs, tastes, and skills of the people who built and used them.

Buildings—designed to shelter human activity—include residences, schools, churches, outbuildings, barns, stores, community halls, and train depots. Structures—designed for functions other than shelter—include dams, canals, systems of fencing, systems of irrigation, tunnels, mining shafts, grain elevators, silos, bridges, earthworks, ships, and highways. Objects—relatively small but important stationary or movable constructions—include markers and monuments, small boats, machinery, and equipment.

Rural buildings and structures often exhibit patterns of vernacular design that may be common in their region or unique to their community. Residences may suggest family size and relationships, population densities, and economic fluctuations. The repeated use of methods, forms, and materials of construction may indicate successful solutions to building needs or demonstrate the unique skills, workmanship, or talent of a local artisan.

Clusters
Groupings of buildings, fences, and other features, as seen in a farmstead, ranch, or mining complex, result from function, social tradition, climate, or other influences, cultural or natural. The arrangement of clusters may reveal information about historical and continuing activities, as well as the impact of varying technologies and the preferences of particular generations. The repetition of similar clusters throughout a landscape may indicate vernacular patterns of siteing, spatial organization, and land use. Also, the location of clusters, such as the market towns that emerged at the crossroads of early highways, may reflect broad patterns of a regional cultural geography.
Archeological Sites

The sites of prehistoric or historic activities or occupation, may be marked by foundations, ruins, changes in vegetation, and surface remains. They may provide valuable information about the ways the land has been used, patterns of social history, or the methods and extent of activities such as shipping, milling, lumbering, or quarrying. The ruins of mills, charcoal kilns, canals, outbuildings, piers, quarries, and mines commonly indicate previous uses of the land. Changes in vegetation may indicate abandoned roadsways, homesteads, and fields. The spatial distribution of features, surface disturbances, subsurface remains, patterns of soil erosion and deposition, and soil composition may also yield information about the evolution and past uses of the land.

Small-scale Elements

Small-scale elements, such as a foot bridge or road sign, add to the historic setting of a rural landscape. These features may be characteristic of a region and occur repeatedly throughout an area, such as limestone fence posts in Kansas or cattle gates in the Buffalo River Valley of Arkansas. While most small-scale elements are long-lasting, some, such as bales of hay, are temporal or seasonal. Collectively, they often form larger components, such as circulation networks or boundary demarcations. Small-scale elements also include minor remnants—such as canal stones, road traces, mill stones, individual fruit trees, abandoned machinery, or fence posts—that mark the location of historic activities, but lack significance or integrity as archeological sites.

Characteristics Essential for Defining Rural Historic Landscapes

Bulletin 30 also outlines the essential characteristics that should be addressed in an analysis of a rural historic landscape (emphasis added):

Spatial organization, concentration of historic characteristics, and evidence of the historic period of development distinguish a rural historic landscape from its immediate surroundings. In most instances, the natural environment has influenced the character and composition of a rural area, as well as the ways that people have used the land. In turn, people, through traditions, tastes, technologies, and activities, have consciously and unconsciously modified the natural environment. Politics, social customs, ownership, economics, and natural resources have determined the organization of rural communities and the historic properties they contain.

The project study area includes the entire area of Kent County including land and water areas. Given the scale of Kent County's landscape, the landscape analysis process was shaped in part by guidance provided in National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. Bulletin 15 characterizes a large landscape as a district that "possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development" (emphasis added). Bulletin 15 provides guidance on what defines a historically significant district:

Concentration, Linkage, & Continuity of Features

A district derives its importance from being a unified entity, even though it is often composed of a wide variety of resources. The identity of a district results from the interrelationship of its resources, which can convey a visual sense of the overall historic environment or be an arrangement of historically or functionally related properties. For example, a district can reflect one principal activity, such as a mill or a ranch, or it can encompass several interrelated activities, such as an area that includes industrial, residential, or commercial buildings, sites, structures, or objects. A district can also be a grouping of archeological sites related primarily by their common components; these types of districts often will not visually represent a specific historic environment.

Analysis Methodology

Cultural landscape standards and guidelines developed by the National Park Service provided the framework for the approach to cultural landscape documentation, and analysis for Kent County. These standards include A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports, Contents, Process, and Techniques and the US Department of Interior’s National Register Bulletin 30: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes. The project team also consulted recent case studies focusing on large-scale rural landscape assessments and large-scale rural landscape districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In addition, though the final deliverable of this project is not a formal Determination of Eligibility (DOE) for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, the project team did consult the Maryland Historical Trust’s (MHT) Guidelines for Compliance-Generated Determinations of Eligibility (DOEs) and other relevant MHT guidelines for undertaking cultural landscape analyses.

The level of investigation for research was limited in accordance with standard established by the National Park Service in A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports, Contents, Process, and Techniques, Landscape Lines 2: Levels of Investigation, a technical guide for preparing cultural landscape reports. Consequently, the project team utilized available, selected, and published secondary sources and primary sources (maps).

The focus of this landscape investigation was on the comparative analysis of the existing and historic period landscapes. This analysis was primarily spatial involving the comparison of historic period maps and existing conditions maps. The existing landscape was compared with the landscape extant during the period of significance to determine and identify landscape features and systems that survive from the period of significance. Based on the guidance provided in Bulletins 15 and 30, the preliminary-level investigation of the Kent County cultural landscape focused on the analysis of the following landscape characteristics regarding their concentrations, linkages, and continuity:

- surface water
- topography and land forms
- patterns of spatial organization
- circulation networks
- buildings and structures
- clusters
- land use
- archeological sites

LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS

March 28, 2019
Existing Conditions Mapping
A team of professional staff at Washington College Geographic Information Systems developed GIS-based existing conditions mapping using various sources including data from MERLIN (Maryland's Environmental Resource and Land Information Network).

Historic Map Research
The project team undertook research and collected available maps representing various dates spanning nearly 300 years of Kent County.

Field Investigations
After review of historic maps and existing conditions mapping and aerial photography, the project team undertook three extensive windshield surveys of the entire county including driving nearly every public road in the county. Private property was not accessed except in the case where the property owner invited the project team to access their property. Field observations focused on the landscape characteristics listed in the section above. Color digital photographs were taken to document representative and typological features and systems.

Landscape Analysis
Based on the existing conditions documentation and the preliminary statement of significance, the existing landscape was compared with the landscape extant during the preliminary period of significance to determine landscape features and systems that survive from the period of significance and that likely contribute to the significance of Kent County's cultural landscape. The comparative analysis focused on the broad patterns of topography and landform; spatial organization; vehicular circulation systems; notable individual buildings and clusters of buildings and structures; and surface water.

Terms frequently encountered in the documentation of the analysis of the cultural landscape are contributing and character-defining. These are related, but distinct, terms. The National Park Services defines the terms contributing and non-contributing as specific, quantifiable items intended for field identification of features for the purpose of National Register of Historic Places evaluations.

The National Park Service defines a contributing feature is “a biotic or abiotic feature associated with a landscape characteristic that contributes to the significance of the cultural landscape.”

Similarly, a contributing resource, according to the National Register, is “a building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic significance of a property. A contributing building, site, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historical architectural qualities, or archaeological values for which a property is significant because of the following: it was present during the period of significance; it relates to the documented significance of the property; it possesses historic integrity or is capable of revealing information about the period; or it independently meets the National Register criteria.”

Character-defining features as defined by the National Park Service are within the set of contributing landscape features; they are those features that represent the essential historic qualities that lend the landscape its significance. Character-defining features represent the most prominent or distinctive aspect(s), quality(ies), or characteristic(s) of a historic property that contributes significantly to its physical character. Structures, objects, vegetation, spatial relationships, and views may be such features. According to the National Park Service's guide for preparing cultural landscape reports “the term ‘character-defining feature’ was conceived to guide the appropriate treatment and management of historic structures (and later of cultural landscapes), so that features conveying historic character would be retained by treatment activities.”

Analysis Findings
Surface Water
Analysis of surface water focused on the Chesapeake Bay, Sassafras River, Chester River, and the larger network of stream systems (see Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis). This analysis also addressed shoreline configurations.
MERLIN provides spatial data on historic shorelines for Kent County that can be compared with existing shorelines. See Figure 5-2: Historic Shorelines from MERLIN, for mapped shoreline comparison. The MERLIN map clearly shows that the vast majority of Kent County's Chesapeake Bay, Sassafras River, and Chester River shorelines remain little changed over time. Given the natural storm events and other naturally-occurring forces that affect shorelines, there are likely many areas of shoreline that periodically change over time. However, those changes are relatively small in scale compared to the overall shorelines of the Bay and rivers. In addition, over time sediment has likely filled some areas of tidal creeks owing to sediment run-off resulting from agricultural land use particularly during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Many historic period maps include major non-tidal streams. When comparing the named and unnamed mapped non-tidal streams on historic period maps to existing mapped non-tidal streams, it is clear that many of the existing non-tidal streams survive from the earliest historic periods.

The vast and extensive surface water systems of the Chesapeake Bay, Sassafras River, Chester River, non-tidal streams, and the shorelines of the County survive mostly intact from the historic period and continue to convey the maritime and natural resource significance of the County.

Topography and Landforms
Natural topographic and landform conditions as well as human-made topographic modifications were analyzed at the county scale. Though a majority of historic period maps do not include contour lines depicting topography and landforms, field observations confirmed that the vast majority of the county's topographic and landform conditions remaining substantially unchanged from the later part of the 19th century. See Map 1-2: Kent County Topography for mapping of existing topographic conditions. Major modern period topographic modifications include grading associated with road and highway improvements required to accommodate evolving road safety requirements and higher-speed vehicles. These modifications including cutting and filling of the road corridors in locations.

The majority of topographic conditions across the entire county survive mostly intact from the historic period and continue to convey the significance of historic land use, in particular agriculture, as well as much of the network of non-major roads.

Patterns of Spatial Organization
The analysis of the organization of Kent County's overall land areas focused on the relationship between major physical components, predominant landforms, natural features, road systems, field patterns, distance between farmsteads, and proximity to water sources. The spatial organization of the Chester and Sassafras rivers and the margins of the Chesapeake Bay were addressed given they have functioned and continue to function as maritime transportation routes, support the continuity of recreational water activities including but not limited to sport fishing and pleasure boating, and support the commercial harvesting of oysters and blue crabs.

The large-scale patterns characterizing the settlement and early history of Kent County have remained remarkably constant. See Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis for the mapping of landscape analysis finding regarding identification of features and system that define the historic period surviving patterns of spatial organization including towns and villages (clusters); farm/estate/plantation dwellings and related agricultural structures (clusters) and associated landscape contexts (land use); and roads, road corridors, and rail lines (circulation).

The patterns of spatial organization of nearly the entire county survive mostly intact from the historic period and continue to convey the historical significance of agricultural land use, water and land transportation systems, and the extensive recreational and functional use of the rivers and bay.

Circulation Networks
The major circulation networks that were analyzed included roads, railroads, and water routes. See Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis for the mapping of surviving historic period roads and road corridors.

Roads and road corridors surviving from the historic periods were identified through the comparison of historic maps and existing conditions mapping. The initial comparison of historic road networks and existing networks was undertaken by Washington College Geographic Information System staff using the Ersi online Story Map platform. Roads on historic maps were traced and then inserted within Story Map as layers that allowed for the overlaying of the historic road networks on existing conditions mapping and aerial photography. In addition, the Story Map allowed for the overlaying of historic period maps on existing conditions mapping and aerial photography. The Story Map allowed for adjusting the transparency of the historic period maps which was useful in identifying coincidence of roads drawn on historic period maps with existing conditions mapping of roads. The analysis of the horizontal alignments of historic road networks with existing road networks was further developed by detailed segment-by-segment comparative analysis. With an understanding that individual features, such as paving materials and roadway structures, change over time, the large-scale road network patterns characterizing the settlement and early history have remained mostly intact across the entire county. The major roads accessing the county have been widened and horizontal curves added to meet contemporary road safety requirements. However, despite these improvements, the improved roads follow much of the alignments established during the historic periods. In some cases, road segments have been added to create more continuous road alignments. Most importantly, the vast majority of the less traveled roads appear to follow their historic alignments. This investigation did not address private roads, drives, and internal farm roads. However, a large number of buildings and structures listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) are linked to public roads via small drives or internal roads. A review of a selected sample of these private roads and drives found on mid and late 18th century maps, when compared to current aerial photography, indicate that many of these smaller-scale drives and internal road systems likely survive from the late-18th century and earlier.

The MIHP includes documentation of the Kent County and Queen Anne's County Railroad. This documentation indicates that this railroad is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The line fromorton to Nicholson Place is not surviving. Similarly, the Bombay Hook Branch Railroad extending from Massey into Delaware is not surviving. The rail line from Water to Chestertown survives, though only as a corridor given its redevelopment as a bicycle and pedestrian trail.
The Townsend Branch Railroad extending from Massey to Golts and into Delaware survives but was not included in the MIHP documentation. In addition to the historic rail line surviving, historic period small villages and towns survive along the Kent County and Queen Anne’s Railroad as do various structures including bridges and culverts. It is important to note that the historic viewsheds from and landscape settings of the historic rail lines remain highly intact.

The waters of the Chesapeake Bay and the Chester and Sassafras rivers have continued to serve as maritime transportation routes initially serving American Indians and later explorers, colonists, and Americans for hundreds of years. In addition to serving small watercraft and fishermen, these waters served as commercial shipping and ferry routes. A 1906 map (see Figure 5-3: Map of the Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia Railway Company) shows the steamer routes and landings of the Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia Railway Company along the Chester River. Also, steamers and ferries accessed Rock Hall, Tolchester Beach, and Betterton.

The important Kent County locations in the Bay and the Sassafras River accessed by Captain John Smith have been documented by the National Park Service as part of the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail Final Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (see Figure 5-4: High Potential Historic Sites, High Potential Segments, and Other Trail Related Resources for the mapped voyage routes and significant and important voyage stops). The sites are associated with Captain John Smith’s second voyage and include significant voyage stops near Betterton and in the Sassafras River. Two other voyage stops are located within Kent County on the Sassafras River and another voyage stop at a location near Rock Hall.

Two locations within Kent County saw combat action during the War of 1812 (see Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis for the locations of the battle engagements). The Battle of Caulk’s Field in 1814 involved the landing of British navy seaman and marines via the frigate Menelaus. The Raids on Georgetown and Fredericktown in 1813 involved British navy boats accessing the Sassafras River and attacking Georgetown and Fredericktown with landing parties.

**Buildings and Structures**

Nearly 700 hundred buildings, structures, and sites are included on the Maryland inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) for Kent County. The vast majority of these have been mapped to investigate the
Spatial organization, concentration of historic characteristics, and evidence of the historic period of development of Kent County’s cultural landscape. The focus of the mapping and analysis was on the role of buildings and structures in the interrelationship of landscape characteristics (see Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis). The spatial analysis included the mapping of parcels of each MIHP property as well as abutting large open and undeveloped parcels to better understand the landscape setting and content of historic period buildings and structures (see Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis).

MIHP rural areas buildings and structures are nearly evenly distributed across the entire county. And, there are high concentrations of MIHP buildings and structures located within National Register of Historic Places districts and MIHP historic districts within virtually all of Kent County’s larger towns and villages.

It is important to note that though many of the MIHP properties may not be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, eligibility for listing is not required. These buildings, structures, and sites surviving from the historic period do in fact contribute to the historic character of the landscape and the ability of the landscape to convey historical significance. Furthermore, even buildings and structures that are in very poor condition or are ruins contribute to the surviving spatial qualities of the landscape (see Clusters below).

The several hundred rural and town and village buildings, structures, and sites survive from the historic period—as documented in the MIHP—and serve as further evidence that the patterns of spatial organization of nearly the entire county survive mostly intact from the historic period and continue to convey the historical significance of the County’s architectural, agricultural, industrial, commercial, religious, and recreational heritage.

Clusters
The cultural landscape of Kent County is defined in part by rural groupings of farm buildings, crossroad hamlets, maritime landings, villages, and towns located throughout the County (see Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis).

The historically significant towns and villages include one National Historic Landmark district, two National Register of Historic Places districts, and six MIHP districts. In addition, over twenty small towns and villages survive from the historic period. Map 3-5: Kent County, MD, African American Communities shows the mapped locations of African American communities.

Hundreds of farm complexes, many including MIHP buildings, structures, or sites, survive from the historic period and are distributed throughout the County.

Maritime clusters include waterfront communities, marinas, landings, and boatyards.

Clusters associated with the mid-twentieth-century development of second or vacation homes are found in the County located near the Bay and Sassafras River.

Other cluster organizations include recreational camps, government facilities, and industrial facilities associated with the Kent County and Queen Anne’s County Railroad and larger towns.

All of the clusters and groupings outlined above result from function, social tradition, climate, or other influences, cultural or natural, and convey the historical significance of the cultural landscape. The arrangement and distribution of clusters in the County reveal information about historical and continuing activities, as well as the impact of varying technologies and the preferences established during the historic period. And, the repetition of farm-related clusters throughout the County indicate vernacular patterns of siting, spatial organization, and land use.

Land Use
The continuity of land uses over time in Kent County is important to conveying the significance of the cultural landscape. In particular, hundreds of years of evolving agriculture use and function have been sustained by some of the most important agriculture soils in Maryland. The significance of agriculture can be understood through a reading of the mapped agricultural resources of Kent County. Map 5-1: Agricultural Resources in Kent County is a map of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, Rural Legacy Properties, Maryland Environmental Trust easements, private conservation easements, Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Easements, and Kent County Agricultural Preservation Districts. This map shows a high concentration of land areas of agricultural importance distributed across nearly the entire County.

Water-related commercial fishing and recreational use has survived and evolved as evidenced by numerous marinas, wharfs, and landings as well as boatyards.

Kent County’s agriculture and commercial and recreational use of the Bay and Sassafras and Chester rivers reflect traditional practices as well as innovative compatible adaptations of historic practices. The general continuity of these uses support an understanding of how people have interacted with the soils and water resources of Kent County.

Archaeological Sites
This study acknowledges the likely significance of the prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in Kent County. However, owing to the limitations of the project scope of work, archaeological sites are addressed to a limited degree. The spatial distribution of known and likely archaeological sites has been documented (see Map 3-3: Kent County Historical Assets). This map shows the extensive number of sites that are located throughout Kent County, principally located along the shorelines of the Bay and Chester and Sassafras rivers as well as creeks and streams and some upland sites. It is also likely that there are sites of archaeological importance associated with farm complexes and within towns and villages.
Conclusion

It is important to recognize that efforts to protect, conserve, and interpret Kent County’s heritage, including its cultural landscape, have been sustained over many years by both private organizations and the County government and their partners. It is these very initiatives that have, in part, resulted in the larger landscape’s ability to convey the historical significance of the County. The information presented in this preliminary cultural landscape assessment, including the landscape analysis findings, should not be viewed as new information. The preliminary statement of significance and landscape analysis confirms what the residents, conservation organizations, and local government already know and understand—that the overall matrix of Kent County’s agricultural and maritime landscapes represents one of the largest surviving combined land and water surface areas associated with early settlement and historical development of Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

NOTES

2 Ibid, 4-6.
3 Ibid, 2.
5 Ibid, 5.
5.10

**LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS**

**March 28, 2019**

**Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis**

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[Legend]

- **Historic Districts, Buildings, and Sites**
  Listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- **Historic Buildings, Structures, and Sites**
  Listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
- **Historic Districts (Towns)**
  Listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
- **Landscape Context (Parcels) of Historic Buildings, Structures, and Sites**
  Listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
- **Continuity of Agriculture, Woodlands, and/or Open Space**
  Large parcels
- **Historic Roads and Road Corridors**
  Based on comparing existing roads with roads mapped on 1860 and 1870 county maps
- **Historic Kent & Queen Anne’s Railroad Corridor**
  Listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties
- **War of 1812 Battlefields & Naval Engagements**
  Core areas (combat)
- **War of 1812 Battlefields & Naval Engagements**
  Secondary areas (avenues of approach and retreat; manoeuvering)
- **Mid-20th-Century Residential Communities**
  Found on USGS maps
- **Historic Towns, Villages, Railroad Stops**
  Named communities on 1860 and 1870 maps

---

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Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance

**Project Team:**

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Charlottesville, Virginia

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Washington College Geographic Information Systems
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Michael Bourne | Architectural Historian
Chester, Maryland

**March 2019**

This map was prepared to support the report entitled *Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland*, dated March 1, 2019. Consult the report for information on data sources, project methodology, and findings.

*Map 5-2: Cultural Landscape Analysis*
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Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland
March 28, 2019

Kent Conservation & Preservation Alliance (KCPA)
Chestertown, Maryland

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REFERENCES


Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, Maryland

VII. APPENDICES
A. LIST OF NATIONAL REGISTER, EASEMENT, AND MIHP PROPERTIES

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, MD
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<td>Plank Building at Wilkins Lane, site</td>
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<td>Brice Mill Farm (Perkins Mill, Fannells Branch Road)</td>
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<th>MIHP No.</th>
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<tr>
<td>154</td>
<td>K-151</td>
<td>Buttonwood Farm (Wedding Bells House, Red Gables, Briscoe House)</td>
<td>111 W. Cross Street (MD 213)</td>
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<td>K-152</td>
<td>Partners Addition (Roy Clayton Mitchell House)</td>
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<td>K-153</td>
<td>Nicholas Ryley House (Gregg Neck Farm, Plum Point)</td>
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<td>K-474</td>
<td>J. Wixes House (House on Ellason Farm)</td>
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<td>478</td>
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<td>479</td>
<td>K-476</td>
<td>Broad Reach (Stratford, Stratford, Whaley Farm, DeCourcey Farm)</td>
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<td>Skivens Farm, site (Bigelow Farm)</td>
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<td>Edgewater (Stevens Lot)</td>
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<td>Cochran House, site (William Turner Property)</td>
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<td>Murray-Call House (Carson House, Banning House, Thompson House)</td>
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<td>Ireland-Ruth House</td>
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<td>Wesley Chapel</td>
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<td>Grays Inn Point Farm (Grays Inn Creek Farm)</td>
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<td>Log Canoe SILVER HEEL</td>
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<td>Maria Bracker House, Haughton House</td>
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<td>546 K-543</td>
<td>Isaac Boyer House, Hurley House</td>
<td>210 S. Water Street</td>
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<td>547 K-544</td>
<td>Thomas Cuff House</td>
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<td>Zion Methodist Church, Thomas House</td>
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<td>William Perkins' Restaurant, Maple Avenue (MD 213)</td>
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<td>Westminster Presbyterian Church, site (Old Brick Presbyterian Meeting House)</td>
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<td>Hynson's Methodist Episcopal Chapel, new</td>
<td>Ricauds Branch Langford Road</td>
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<td>Betterton Historic District (Maryland's Foremost Bayside Resort)</td>
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<td>Chestertown Historic District</td>
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<td>Runs N to S beginning near the DE State line in Kent Co. and continuing SSW to Centerville</td>
<td>Kent &amp; Queen Anne’s Vic.</td>
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<td>Northern boundary begins at Massey and extends 18 miles traversing through Kent county.</td>
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B. RESUMES OF KEY TEAM MEMBERS

Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment of Kent County, MD
Education  
Master of Landscape Architecture, School of Architecture, University of Virginia, 1987  
Completed three and one-half years of landscape architectural coursework including twelve graduate hours of architectural history, landscape architectural history, and the history of urban design  
Studied with Warren Byrd, Elizabeth K. Meyer, Reuben Rainey, Will Rieley, and Harry Porter  
Governor’s State Graduate Fellowship, 1983-1986  
Master of Fine Arts, Post-Studio Program, School of Art and Design, California Institute of the Arts, 1982  
Completed two-year studio program focusing on architectural constructions and landscape installations  
Member of the Visiting Artists Program Board  
Studied with John Baldessari, Barbara Kruger, Judy Fiskin, Doug Huebler, Michael Asher, John Callis, Benjamin H.D. Buchloh, and Jeremy Gilbert-Rolfe  
Co-founder of wALT, student-published arts journal  
Graduate Teaching Assistantship, 1981-1982  
Almonson Foundation Scholarship, 1981-1982  
Techmolor, Inc. Scholarship, 1981-1982  
CalArts Scholarship, 1980-1981  
Bachelor of Fine Arts, School of Art and Art History, James Madison University, 1978  
Completed BFA program with a concentration in painting, drawing, and printmaking including twelve hours of art history  
Outstanding Studio Artist Award, 1978

Professional Practice Experience  
Principal/Owner, Robert McGinnis Landscape Architects, Charlottesville, VA, 2016-Present  
Principal in a small studio undertaking urban design, master planning, site planning, landscape architecture, and historic preservation projects throughout the US  
Principal, OOLULUS, Washington, DC, 2011-2016  
Principal in a small firm undertaking urban design, master planning, site planning, landscape architecture, and historic preservation projects throughout the US, Australia, and Asia  
Associate Principal and Director of Historic Preservation, EDAW AECOM, Alexandria and Charlottesville, Virginia, 2006-2011  
Served as EDAW AECOM’s key client manager for US federal land management agencies; served as EDAW AECOM East Region practice leader for historic preservation and cultural landscape practice areas; established and managed the Charlottesville office; projects located throughout the US and abroad  
Principal, OOLULUS, Washington, DC, 2005-2006  
Principal-in-charge and project manager for urban design, master planning, site planning, landscape architectural, and historic preservation projects throughout the Washington, DC metro area and Virginia  
Senior Associate, John Miller Associates, Inc., Charlottesville, Virginia, 2003-2005  
Served as a senior historical landscape architect responsible for managing a branch office focusing on cultural landscape planning and design for projects throughout the US  
Principal, OOLULUS, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1993-2003  
Founder and manager of the Charlottesville studio of a small landscape architectural firm undertaking urban design, master planning, site planning, landscape architecture, and historic preservation projects throughout the US  
Senior Associate, Land and Community Associates, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1991-1993  
Undertook project management and served as project historical landscape architect for cultural landscape planning projects throughout the US  
Senior Associate, Mitkeev Carson, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1989-1991  
Senior landscape architect responsible for project management and design of land development and institutional projects within the Charlottesville/Albermarle area and across Virginia  
Associate, Berkes Group Architects, Washington, DC, 1988-1989  
Senior landscape architect in a land planning department supporting a housing architecture firm undertaking projects in the Mid-Atlantic region  
Served as project landscape architect providing design development and construction documentation for a variety of projects located throughout the US

Professional Affiliations  
Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA)  
Member, Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation (AHLP)  
Member, US / International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS)  
Affiliate Member, University of Virginia Center for Cultural Landscapes  
Member, Southern Garden History Society  
Certified Landscape Architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, 2001, #2265  
Licensed Landscape Architect, Maryland, 1989, #004, expires 02.08.2020  
Licensed landscape architect providing design development and construction documentation for projects located throughout the Mid-Atlantic region  
Land Planner, Berkus Group Architects, Washington, DC, 1987  
Designer in a land planning department supporting a housing architecture firm undertaking projects in the Mid-Atlantic region  
Graphic design for arts organizations; site planning and design  
Designer supporting the Washington operations and all overseas projects involving sustainable agriculture, natural resource management, appropriate technology, and institution building for developing nations; project located in Bolivia, North Yemen, Lesotho, Somalia, Nepal  
Designer, SEACOA, Alexandria, VA, 1979  
Graphic, communications, and industrial design supporting marine and ocean engineering projects

Academic Experience  
Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Part-time, Spring 2019  
LAB 8320: Professional Practice; case study–based professional practice course for graduate landscape architecture students  
Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Part-time, Spring 2017  
LAB 5230: Cultural Landscapes Seminar; seminar open to undergraduate and graduate students focusing on cultural landscape theory  
Distinguished Fellow, University of Virginia, Center for Cultural Landscapes, Fall 2015, Spring 2016  
Project director for an interdisciplinary public art and mapping project that deploy hybrid techniques and theories of dance, photography and landscape architecture in support of a series of community-based movement workshops, resulting in crowd-sourced cultural landscape atlas of the Charlottesville neighborhoods that cluster around Pollock’s Branch  
Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Part-time, Spring 2016  
LAB 5230: Cultural Landscapes Seminar; seminar open to undergraduate and graduate students focusing on cultural landscape theory  
Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Part-time, Spring 2015  
LAB 517: Site Planning for Architects and Planners; seminar open to undergraduate and graduate students focusing on cultural landscape theory  
Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Part-time, Spring 2014  
LAB 8320: Professional Practice; case study–based professional practice course for graduate landscape architecture students  
Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Part-time, Spring 2013  
LAB 804: Professional Practice; case study–based professional practice course for graduate landscape architecture students  
Lecturer, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, Part-time, Fall 1993  
LAB 517: Site Planning for Architects and Planners; taught site planning course for graduate architecture students  
Instructor, James Madison University, School of Art and Art History, Full-time, Fall 1986  
ART 140: 2-D Design; taught one section of 2-D design for undergraduate art and design students  
ART 245: Design Graphics; taught two sections of design graphics for undergraduate art and design students  
ART 245: Design Graphics; taught one section of design graphics for undergraduate art and design students

Certified Landscape Architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, 2001, #2265  
Licensed Landscape Architect, Maryland, 1989, #004, expires 02.08.2020  

Certified Landscape Architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, 2001, #2265  
Licensed Landscape Architect, Maryand, 1989, #004, expires 02.08.2020  

Certified Landscape Architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, 2001, #2265  
Licensed Landscape Architect, Maryland, 1989, #004, expires 02.08.2020  

Certified Landscape Architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, 2001, #2265  
Licensed Landscape Architect, Maryland, 1989, #004, expires 02.08.2020  

Certified Landscape Architect, Council of Landscape Architectural Registration Boards, 2001, #2265  
Licensed Landscape Architect, Maryland, 1989, #004, expires 02.08.2020  
Honors:
- Fellow, American Society of Landscape Architects; elected to the Council of Fellows in the Works category in 2011
- President’s Award, Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, 1995, 1994, 1992

Award-winning Projects
- Charter Award, Congress for the New Urbanism, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2018; principal-in-charge of park and open space design, OCLIUS
- Merit Award, American Society of Landscape Architects Virginia Chapter, Fort Monroe Waterfront Park & Open Space Master Plan, Hampton, Virginia, 2018; landscape architects: WPL, consulting preservation landscape architect, RMLA
- Award of Excellence in Historic Resources/Preservation, American Institute of Architects DC Chapter, National Gallery of Art East Building Renovation and Expansion, 2017; architects: Hartman Cox Architects; principal-in-charge of landscape design, OCLIUS
- Honor Award for Built Design, Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Salamander Resort and Spa, Middletown, Virginia, 2017; landscape architect team member undertaking site design, OCLIUS
- Committee on the Environment Top Ten, American Institute of Architects, Discovery Elementary School, Arlington, Virginia, 2017; landscape architect team member for construction documentation and construction period services, OCLIUS
- Merit Award, Central Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2016; architects: Cunningham Quill Architects; principal-in-charge of park and open space design, OCLIUS
- Merit Award, Richmond Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Virginia Military Institute Corps Physical Training Facility, Lexington, Virginia, 2015; principal-in-charge of landscape architectural design
- Award of Merit in Conceptual or Unbuilt Architecture, Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2015; architects: Cunningham Quill Architects; principal-in-charge of park and open space design, OCLIUS
- Merit Award, Northern Virginia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2015; principal-in-charge of park and open space design
- Award of Excellence in Urban Design/Master Planning, Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2015; principal-in-charge of park and open space design
- Contextual Honor Award, Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2014; principal-in-charge of park and open space design
- Grand Prize – Environmental Sustainability, American Academy of Environmental Engineers & Scientists, Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation, Los Angeles, California, 2014; project director for cultural landscape analysis and treatment guidelines
- Outstanding Redevelopment Project Award, Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2014; principal-in-charge of park and open space design
- Best Neighborhood Plan of 2013, City of Charlottesville Planning Commission, Strategic Investment Area Plan, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2013; principal-in-charge of park and open space design
- Parks and Recreation Award, Region 9, American Society of Civil Engineers, Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation, Los Angeles, California, 2013; project director for cultural landscape analysis and treatment guidelines
- Outstanding Civil Engineering Project, Los Angeles Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation, Los Angeles, California, 2013; project director for cultural landscape analysis and treatment guidelines
- Water/Environmental Best Project (Southern California), Engineering and News Record, Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation, Los Angeles, California, 2013; project director for cultural landscape analysis and treatment guidelines
- Preservation Honor Award, Historic Hawai’i Foundation, Historic Asset Management Plan for US Navy Region Hawai’i, 2012; principal-in-charge and project manager for cultural landscape reports
- Historic Preservation Award of Merit, Virginia Society of the American Institute of Architects, Franklin Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, Garrett Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia; principal-in-charge, landscape architecture
- Outstanding Preservation Project: The Gabriella Page Preservation Award, Preservation Virginia, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, Garrett Hall, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia; principal-in-charge, landscape architecture
- Merit Award, Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Star Fort Resource Management and Interpretation Plan, Winchester, Virginia, 2005; principal-in-charge
- Merit Award, Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area Plan, 2004; principal-in-charge
- Gabriella Page Preservation Award, Preservation Virginia, Pamplin Historical Park and The National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, Petersburg, Virginia, 2003; principal-in-charge, master planning and landscape architecture, OCLIUS and JMA

Honorable Mention, Virginia Chapter of the American Planning Association, Star Fort Resource Management and Interpretation Plan, Winchester, Virginia, 2001; principal-in-charge
- Honorable Mention, American Society of Landscape Architects, Sutro Historic District Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment / Cultural Landscape Report, San Francisco, California, 1993; project manager and lead landscape architect for cultural landscape report
- Award of Excellence, California Council of American Society of Landscape Architects, Sutro Historic District Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment / Cultural Landscape Report, San Francisco, California, 1993; project manager and lead landscape architect for cultural landscape report
- Award of Excellence, The Waterfront Center, Sutro Historic District Development Concept Plan / Environmental Assessment / Cultural Landscape Report, San Francisco, California, 1993; project manager and lead landscape architect for cultural landscape report
- Annual Design Award in Recognition of Outstanding Achievement in Design for Preservation Projects, California Preservation Council, Presidio of San Francisco Cultural Resource Studies, San Francisco, California, 1993; project manager and lead landscape architect for cultural landscape report

Lectures and Symposia
- Presenter, “George Mason’s Garden at Gunston Hall: Restoration, Reorganization, or Exhibit Design?” The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Delaware, Wilmington, Delaware, 2018
- Presenter, “Professional Regulation,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2016; LAR 8320 Professional Practice, Jane Jacobs, Instructor
- Presenter, “George Mason’s Garden at Gunston Hall: Restoration, Reorganization, or Interpretation?” Gunston Hall Decorative Arts Symposium, Mason Neck, Virginia, 2016
- Presenter, “Reconstructing George Mason’s Pleasure and Kitchen Garden, Gunston Hall” University of Virginia and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello Historic Landscape Institute, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2018
- Presenter, “Rediscovering and Reconstructing George Mason’s Riverside Garden at Gunston Hall,” Arts East, Richmond, Virginia, 2017
- Presenter, “Professional Regulation,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2016; LAR 8320 Professional Practice, Jane Jacobs, Instructor
- Presenter, “Regenerating the Pollack’s Branch Watershed,” University of Virginia Center for Cultural Landscapes, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2016
- Presenter, “Landscape Architecture,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2015; USEM 1570 What is Architecture?, Lisa Reilly, Associate Professor
- Presenter, “Adapting Ethnographic and Rural Landscape Analysis Methodologies to Inform the Analysis and Treatment Approaches for the Pearl Harbor Naval Cemetery in the City of San Francisco, California,” Landscape Architecture and Heritage Violas: Embracing Change in the Management of Place, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, May 15-19, 2015
- Presenter, “Landscape Architecture,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2014; USEM 1570 What is Architecture?, Lisa Reilly, Associate Professor
- Presenter, “Professional Regulation,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2014; LAR 8320 Professional Practice, Jane Jacobs, Instructor
- Presenter, “Inside Practice,” Virginia Tech, School of Architecture and Design, Landscape Architecture Program, Washington-Alexandria Center, 2013; Laurel McSherry, Associate Professor, and Rob Holmes, Adjunct Instructor
- Presenter, “Professional Regulation and Ethics,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2013; LAR 8320 Professional Practice, Jane Jacobs, Instructor
- Presenter, “Preserving Historic Landscapes” (organized by Beth Meyer, Associate Professor, University of Virginia), Charlottesville Community Design Center, 2010
- Presenter, “University of California, Davis Landscape Heritage Plan,” ICONOS Canada Annual Conference, Ottawa, Canada, 2010
- Presenter, the Time-Space project, National Landscape Architecture Month, Potomac Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, 2009
- Presenter, “Landscape Architecture for North Field, Tirana,” University of Guem, 2009
- Presenter, Cultural Landscape Seminar, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2007; Ethan Carr, Associate Professor
- Presenter, “Case Study: Landscape Master Plan for Washington Dulles International Airport,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, LAR 801: Comprehensive Landscape Architecture Studio, Beth Meyer, Associate Professor, 2008
Lecturer, “Historical Landscape Architecture: EDIA, a Case Study,” University of California, Davis, Steve McNiel, Lecturer, 2007

Presenter, “Practice Alternatives,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2006

Presenter, “Professional Regulation,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2005

Presenter, “Professional Licensing,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2004

Presenter, “Professional Licensing,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 2003


Lecturer, “Site Planning,” University of Virginia, School of Architecture, 1993

Publications


“Professional Practice,” landscape architecture, Volume 90, Number 7, July 2000

Visiting Critic and Juror

Juror, Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Maryland Chapter ASLA Awards Program, 2015

Juror, American Society of Landscape Architects, Student Awards Competition, Virginia Tech, 2015

Juror, American Society of Landscape Architects, Student Awards Competition, University of Virginia, 2015

Visiting Critic, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, LAR 6020: Foundation Studio II, Nancy Takashii, Distinguished Lecturer, Spring 2014

Visiting Critic, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, LAR 7010 + 8010: Landscape Architecture Studio, Green infrastructure as public space: The City Market as social and ecological catalyst-Tactical Urbanism, Regional Networks, and Spatial practices between farm and table; Beth Meyer, Associate Professor, and Jenna Cho, Visiting Lecturer; Fall 2013

Visiting Critic, University of Maryland, Department of Plant Science and Landscape Architecture, LARC 640: Graduate Design Studio, McMillan Sand Fritschie Site; Jack Sullivan, Associate Professor; Fall 2010

Juror, American Society of Landscape Architects, Student Awards Competition, Virginia Tech, 2010

Visiting Critic, University of Virginia, School of Architecture, Department of Landscape Architecture, LAR B31: Landscape Architecture Studio, Landscape Additions: The Charlottesville Pedestrian Mall; Beth Meyer, Associate Professor; Fall 2008

Juror, American Society of Landscape Architects, Student Awards Competition, University of Virginia, 2007

Visiting Critic, Cornell University, College of Architecture, Art, and Planning, Bachelor of Architecture 401/501 Studio: Mapping How We Live: Interpreting Landscape, (Re)Constructing National Identity; Jeremy Foster, Instructor; Fall 2005

Juror, Design Charrette, Virginia Tech Design Consortium, 1996

Juror, American Society of Landscape Architects, Student Awards Competition, Virginia Tech, 1995

Juror, Benjamin C. Haward Memorial Design Competition, University of Virginia, 1995

Juror, National Stone Association/American Society of Landscape Architects, 15th Annual Student Competition in Landscape Architecture for Aggregate Operations, 1994

Juror, American Society of Landscape Architects, Student Awards Competition, University of Virginia, 1993

Juror, American Society of Landscape Architects, Student Awards Competition, Virginia Tech, 1992

Service

Service Chair, Capitol Square Preservation Council, Richmond, Virginia, 2018-present

Board Member, Capitol Square Preservation Council, Richmond, Virginia, 2016-present

Member, Government Affairs Committee, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 2005-present

Member, Fellows Nomination Committee, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 2018-2019

Chair, Fellows Nomination Committee, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 2015-2016

Member, Working Group: Landscapes and the National Historic Preservation Act, Park Cultural Landscapes Program, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., 2014, on-going

Chair, Spring 2015 Conference Committee, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 2014-2015

Chair, Fellows Nomination Committee, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 2014-2015

Volunteer, Maymont Tour, Richmond, Virginia, What’s Out There Richmond, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, 2014


Supporting Member, National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant Application, City of Charlottesville / Piedmont County of the Arts / The Bridge Public Arts Initiative, Charlottesville, Virginia, 2014

Member, Annual Meeting Committee, Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, 2013-2013

Expert Member, IconMos International Scientific Committee on Fortifications and Military Heritage, 2009-2012

Contributing Member, IconMos/IFLA Cultural Landscapes International Scientific Committee, 2009-2012

Reviewer, Draft SITES Credit 6.4, Historic Preservation Professional Practice Network, ASLA, 2011-2012

Presenter, Licenses: Virginia Chapter / Sustaining Licenses- Unexpected Challenges,” ASLA Chapter President’s Council Meeting, Washington, D.C., 2011

Presenter, “Regulatory Board and Virginia Chapter ASLA: Roles, Challenges, and Best Practices,” Annual Meeting, CLARB, Baltimore, Maryland, August 26, 2010

Member, Beloved-on-the-James Charrette, National Trust for Historic Preservation / Preservation Virginia, 2010

Team Member, Kham Tourism Planning Project, Ganzi Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, People’s Republic of China, University of Virginia Tibet Center, 2009

Workshop Presenter, 2009 Restore Virginia, Preservation Virginia / Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 2009

Member, Rice House (designed by Richard Neutra) Advisory Committee, Science Museum of Virginia Foundation in association with The Virginia Center for Architecture, 2008

Member, Shaping the Future of Richard Neutra’s Rice House Charrette, Science Museum of Virginia Foundation in association with The Virginia Center for Architecture, 2008

Participant, ASLA National Licensure Summit, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 22-24, 2007

Member, Board of Directors, Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record/Historic American Landscapes Survey Foundation, 2004-2006

Participant, ASLA National Licensure Summit, Burlington, Vermont, June 2-4, 2006

Founding Member, Legislative Committee for Landscape Architects of Virginia, 1999-2005

Participant, ASLA National Licensure Summit of Landscape Architecture 10-12, 2005

Team Member, Georgetown Urban Design Charrette, Guyana, South America, US/IComos & Conservation International, 2003

Reviewer, Historic American Landscapes Survey Draft Guidelines for Drawings, 2003

Participant, ASLA National Licensure Summit, Monterey, California, November 2-4, 2001

Member, Virginia History Initiative, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 1996-1998


Member, Native Plant Conservation Initiative, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 1995-1996

Member, Storm Water Management Regulations Committee, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, 1994-1996

Member, State Park Regulations Committee, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, 1994-1996

Member, Roster of Visiting Evaluators, Landscape Architecture Accreditation Board, 1994-1998

Member, Sustainable Development Working Group, Thomas Jefferson Sustainability Council, Thomas Jefferson Panning District Commission, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1995

Virginia Chapter ASLA liaison to the Board of Architects, Professional Engineers, Land Surveyors, and Certified Interior Designers, and Landscape Architects, Virginia Department of Commerce, 1994-1995

Chair, Task Force on Advancing the Profession in Virginia, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 1994-1995


Immediate Past-President, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 1993-1994

Virginia Chapter ASLA Representative, Virginia Environmental Network, 1993

Virginia Chapter ASLA Representative, Virginia Surface Transportation Council, 1993

President, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 1992-1993

Vice-President, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 1991-1992

Reviewer, Draft Uniform Corridor Overlay Ordinances, Albermarle County, Virginia, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 1990

Reviewer, Draft Resource Protection Area Ordinance, Albermarle County, Virginia, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 1991

Member, Charlottesville/Albermarle Area Virginia Department of Transportation Project Review Committee, Blue Ridge Section, Virginia, Virginia Chapter ASLA, 1990

Volunteer, Second Street Gallery, Charlottesville, Virginia, 1985-1986

Graphic designer and portfolio reviewer


Designed exhibition catalogs, announcements, programs, and posters


Served as staff graphic designer for monthly arts journal


Designed identity and business system for arts advocacy organization
Selected Projects

2018
Kent County, Maryland
- Preliminary Cultural Landscape Assessment, lead historical landscape architect

George Mason’s Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA
- Visitor Center Renovations; consulting landscape architect
- Riverside Garden Final Design and Construction, lead landscape architect

2017
George Mason’s Gunston Hall, Mason Neck, VA
- Visitor Center Renovations; consulting landscape architect
- Riverside Garden Concept Plan, lead landscape architect

National Gallery of Art East Building and Connecting Link, Washington, DC
- East Building Renovation / Restoration of Grounds; consulting landscape architect

2016
National Gallery of Art East Building and Connecting Link, Washington, DC
- East Building Renovation / Restoration of Grounds; consulting landscape architect

Fort Monroe, Hampton, VA
- Waterfront Parks Master Plan; consulting landscape architect
- Open-End Design Services Contract; consulting landscape architect
- Visitor Center; consulting landscape architect

2015
National Gallery of Art East Building and Connecting Link, Washington, DC
- East Building Renovation / Level 6 Sculpture Terrace / Restoration of Grounds; project manager and project landscape architect for landscape

Robinson House, Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond, VA
- Building and site renovations; project manager and project landscape architect for landscape

2014
Corps Physical Training Facility, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA
- New facility design; principal-in-charge for landscape architecture

President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site, Hope, Arkansas
- Cultural Landscape Report and Environmental Assessment; principal-in-charge

2013
Bancroft Hall Courtyards, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland
- Landscape Rehabilitation; project manager and project landscape architect

National Gallery of Art East Building and Connecting Link, Washington, DC
- Concept Design for the Constitution Avenue Triangle Renovation; landscape architect

2012
National Gallery of Art East Building and Connecting Link, Washington, DC
- Facilities Master Plan; project manager for landscape

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri and East St. Louis, Illinois
- Revitalization Plan / Value Analysis with Michael Van Valkenburgh Associates; consulting landscape architect

2011
Eisenhower Memorial, Washington, DC
- Federal Office Building (FOB) 6 Determination of Eligibility for Listing on the National Register of Historic Places; consulting landscape architect

Flamingo Developed Area, Everglades National Park, Homestead, Florida
- Master Plan; contract administration, consulting cultural landscape specialist

Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, Fredericksburg, Virginia
- General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement; cultural resources specialist

Old Spanish, El Camino Real, California Pioneer, Oregon Pioneer, Mormon Pioneer, and Pony Express Trails; Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Wyoming, Utah, and California
- National Historic Trails Inventory; cultural landscapes principal responsible for overseeing all aspects of the cultural landscape analysis of over 1,000 miles of segments of the routes

Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park, Paterson, New Jersey
- General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement; cultural resources specialist

Pearl Harbor and Other Navy Region Hawaii installations, Oahu and Kauai, Hawaii
- Historic Asset Management Plan and Cultural Landscape Reports; project manager for cultural landscape reports covering more than 30 square miles of installation landscapes

2010
Alwahnee Hotel National Historic Landmark Historic District, Yosemite National Park, California
- Cultural Landscape Report; project director

Echo Park Lake Rehabilitation, Los Angeles, California
- Cultural Resources Treatment Plan; project director

Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland
- Earthworks Management Plan; project director

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri and East St. Louis, Illinois
- Landscape Preservation Maintenance Plan; project director
- Emerald Ash Borer Strategy Environmental Assessment; project director

North Field National Historic Landmark, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
- Cultural Landscape Report; project director

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- Garrett Hall Rehabilitation; project director for landscape architectural design
- Old Cabell Hall Accessibility Improvements; project director for the schematic design
- University Art Museum Terrace Rehabilitation; project director

US Department of State Foreign Affairs Security Training Center, Queen Anne’s County, Maryland
- Environmental Assessment; cultural resources specialist

2009
Garo/Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, Sichuan, People’s Republic of China
- Community-Based Tourism Plan; cultural landscape specialist and landscape architect

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, St. Louis, Missouri and East St. Louis, Illinois
- General Management Plan / Environmental Impact Statement; project manager
- Framing a Modern Masterpiece: The City/The Arch/The River 2015 International Design Competition Technical Advisory Group (2010); consulting landscape architect representing the National Park Service

University of California—Davis, Davis, California
2008
Al Birdi Coastal Development Project, Libya
- Resort Siting and Feasibility Study; project director responsible for overseeing research on historic features and sites within 300 km coastline study area

East Edisto Community Master Plan, Cultural Landscape Study, Charleston County and Dorchester County, South Carolina
- Cultural Landscape Study; lead historical landscape architect

2006
Washington Dulles International Airport, Dulles, Virginia
- Landscape Master Plan; project manager and project landscape architect

Washington Dulles International Airport, Dulles, Virginia
- Phases I Landscape Renovation / Parking Bowl; project manager and project landscape architect

2005
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, Appomattox, Virginia
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Cedar Pass Developed Area, Badlands National Park, South Dakota
- Cultural Landscape Report, Environmental Assessment, Value Analysis; principal-in-charge

Chickamauga Battlefield, Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Walker and Catoosa Counties, Georgia
- Cultural Landscape Report; Principal-in-charge

Good Fellow Youth Camp, Indian Dunes National Lakeshore, Indiana
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona
- Grand Canyon Village National Historic Landmark District Cultural Landscape Report, principal-in-charge and project manager
- Desert View Cultural Landscape Inventory and Treatment Recommendations; project manager
- Indian Garden Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge
- North Rim Developed Area Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site, Deer Lodge, Montana
- Cultural Landscape Report Part I; principal-in-charge

Jamestown Island, Glasshouse Point, and Neck of Land, Colonial National Historical Park, Virginia
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge and project manager

Painted Desert Community Complex, Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Painted Desert Inn, Petrified Forest National Park, Arizona
- Landscape Treatment Plan; principal-in-charge

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- Varsity Hall Relocation; principal landscape architect

Washington Monument Grounds, Washington, DC
- Cultural Landscape Report; project director

Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

2004
Antietam, Chickamauga & Chattanooga, Gettysburg, Minute Man, Shiloh, Valley Forge, and Vicksburg National Park Units
- Military Park Theme Study, project manager and lead cultural landscape specialist

Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio
- Historic Building Survey and Preservation Management Plan; lead historical landscape architect

Stories of the Chesapeake Heritage Area, Eastern Shore, Maryland
- Cultural and Scenic Landscape Assessment, principal-in-charge

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, Kansas
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Wilson’s Creek National Battlefield, Republic, Missouri
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

2003
Georgetown, Guyana
- Urban Design Charrette; cultural landscape specialist supporting a team of cultural tourism experts for Conservation International and US/ICOMOS

Mount Vernon—George Washington’s Estate and Gardens, Virginia
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Oatlands—a National Trust for Historic Preservation property, Loudoun County, Virginia
- Master Plan; principal-in-charge for landscape analysis and landscape master planning

Perryville Civil War Battlefield, Perryville, Kentucky
- Comprehensive Master Interpretive and Management Plan; principal-in-charge for landscape preservation and visitor facilities planning

Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District, Virginia
- Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement; project manager responsible for cultural landscape analysis and management concepts

Valley Forge National Historical Park, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

2000
Fort Griswold Battlefield State Park, Groton, Connecticut
- Resource Management Plan; principal-in-charge of historic landscape services

Redoubts 1 and 2, United States Military Academy, West Point, New York
- Landscape Treatment Recommendations; project manager and historical landscape architect

1999
Nicodemus National Historic Site, Nicodemus, Kansas
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- McCormick Road Housing Site Improvements; project manager and lead designer
1997
George Washington Birthplace National Monument, Westmoreland County, Virginia
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

Rancho de las Cabras, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park, Texas
- Cultural Landscape Report; principal-in-charge

1996
University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia
- Dawson's Row Multi-Cultural Center; project manager and project landscape architect
- McCormick Road Housing Precinct Study; principal-in-charge

1993
Adolph Sutro Historic District, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California
- Cultural Landscape Report; project manager and project landscape architect
- Presidio of San Francisco, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, San Francisco, California
  - Cultural Landscape Report; project manager and project landscape architect

Williamsport Turning Basin, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Williamsport, Maryland
- Cultural Landscape Report; project manager and project landscape architect

1992
Route 23 Relocation, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania
- Plain Sect Cultural Landscape Analysis; cultural landscape specialist
Barton Ross, AIA, AICP, LEED AP BD+C
Page 2 of 14

John James Audubon House & Tropical Gardens Plan (ca. 1832), Key West, FL
Naval Air Station HQ Building 25 Relocation and Rehabilitation (1942), Richmond, FL
Le Chateau Petit Douy Remodeling (ca. 1929), Miami, FL.

Robert A. Burns, FAIA, Wastewater Village, VT. Project Designer, 2005 – 2006
Maple Tree Place Public Square & Open Space Design, Williston, VT.
The Troop Family Lodge Feasibility Study (1994), Stone, VT
Army Vermont Capital Master Plan, Montpelier, VT
Robert Burns Architectural Archives & Exhibit Design
Hain Residence, Essex, NY.
Wake Robin Traditional Neighborhood Development, Shelburne, VT.

Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC Philadelphia, PA. Project Designer/Planner, 2003 – 2005
House Office Buildings Facilities Development and Preliminary South Capitol Area Plan, Washington, DC
Virginia State Capitol Master Plan, Richmond, VA.
Widener University Metropolitan Hall Design Competition, Wilmington, DE, First Place Entry
The Barnes Foundation Tower International Design Competition, Philadelphia, PA, First Place Entry

Maple Tree Place Public Square Plan, Williston, VT. The Troop Family Lodge Feasibility Study (1994), Stone, VT
Army Vermont Capital Master Plan, Montpelier, VT
Robert Burns Architectural Archives & Exhibit Design
Hain Residence, Essex, NY.
Wake Robin Traditional Neighborhood Development, Shelburne, VT.

Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC Philadelphia, PA. Project Designer/Planner, 2003 – 2005
House Office Buildings Facilities Development and Preliminary South Capitol Area Plan, Washington, DC
Virginia State Capitol Master Plan, Richmond, VA.
Widener University Metropolitan Hall Design Competition, Wilmington, DE, First Place Entry
The Barnes Foundation Tower International Design Competition, Philadelphia, PA, First Place Entry

RK+Tk Architects, Inc. Architects/Planners, Alexandria, VA. Summer Intern, 2000
Gaddis' Tavern Exterior Restoration & Historic Structure Report (ca. 1796), Alexandria, VA

Professional Affiliations
American Institute of Architects (AIA) Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Board of Directors, 2015-15, Newark Suburban Chapter, 2012-13, New York City Chapter, Historic Resources Committee, 2009-12
American Planning Association (APA) #227500
Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) #2280
Construction Specifications Institute #1803700 (2013-present)
American Institute of Architects (AIA) Chesapeake Bay Chapter, Board of Directors, 2015-15, Newark Suburban Chapter, 2012-13, New York City Chapter, Historic Resources Committee, 2009-12
American Planning Association (APA) #227500
Association for Preservation Technology International (APT) #2280
Construction Specifications Institute #1803700 (2013-present)

Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) #90002164 (2013-present)

Orange County, NY Suburban Design Manual, Poughkeepsie, NY

Belinevsky Bilmore Hotel Master Plan (ca. 1897), Clearwater, FL
Parrot Jungle Original Entrance Reconstruction (1936), Pinecrest Gardens, FL
Naval Air Station Seaplane Hangar C1 NAS Documention (1940), Key West, FL
Vizcaya Museum & Gardens View Study (1916), Coconut Grove, FL

Education
Master of Science in Construction Administration, School of Professional Studies, Columbia University, New York, NY, 2009-2013

Studied with Theo Prudon, FAIA, FAPT
Innovation Award for Professional Promise, 2013

Studied with John Milner, FAIA, Frank Matero, Roger Moss, Randall Mason, Ph.D., David De Long, Ph.D., Donovan Rypkema, Joseph Rykoff, CBE, Wiltold Ryzlczynski and Gustavo Araoz
Edgar Kaufmann, Jr., Fellows, 2002-2004
Samuel H. Kress Scholarship, 2002-2004
Preservation Mentors Scholarship, 2002-2004

Bachelor of Architecture, School of Architecture + Design, Virginia Polytechnic and State University, Blacksburg, VA, 1997-2002

Studied with Jack Davis, FAIA, Joseph Wang, Ph.D., and Marcia Feuerstein, Ph.D., AIA
Certificate of Recognition in History, 2001
Nomination for the History Prize, 2001
Lucy and Ollie Ferraro Annual Europe Study Abroad Scholarship, Virginia Tech, 2000
Donor's List, Department of History, Virginia Tech, 1999-2002
Architecture and Urban Studies Scholarship, 1996

"Experiences in Architecture" Summer Program, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., 1997

"Experiences in Architecture" Summer Program, Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., 1997

Studio Design Award, 1997

Professional Experience
Barton Ross & Partners, LLC Architects, Livingston, NJ and Cheltenham, MD. President, 2011 –

William Parrish, Jr. House & Cemetery Preservation Plan (ca. 1828), Short Hills, NJ
The Villages of Donchester Design Guidelines and Standards, Hanover, MD
Shady Rest Golf & Country Club Preservation Plan (ca. 1740), Scotch Plains, NJ
Chapman State Park, Mount Airy Environmental History Report (ca. 1820), Charles County, MD
The Woodlands, William Hamilton House, Building Pathology Report (ca. 1760), Philadelphia, PA
Smithfield House National Historic Landmark Nomination (ca. 1773), Blacksburg, VA
Compton Architectural Survey & Evaluation Documentation (ca. 1765), Trappe, MD
James Madison's Rowhouse Historic Structure Report (ca. 1791), Philadelphia, PA
Carbin Building Exterior Rehabilitation (ca. 1888), New York, NY
The Surf Club Rehabilitation (ca. 1929), Miami Beach, FL


University Arts & Transit Neighborhood Plan, Princeton Township, NJ
World Trade Center Transportation Hub Reconstruction, New York, NY
SYG Streetscapes/Signage Design (1913), Chicago, IL
The American Bank Note Building Adaptive Reuse (1999), Bronx, NY
York Quay Waterfront Revitalization & Parking Project, Toronto, Ontario
Chicago Restaurant Photography & Adaptive Reuse (1952), Coney Island Boardwalk, Brooklyn, NY
Willots Point/Citi Field Stadium Redevelopment and Environmental Impact Statement, Flushing, NY.
Aga Khan University International Design Competition, Arusha, Tanzania, First Place Entry

Orange County, NY Suburban Design Manual, Poughkeepsie, NY

Belinevsky Bilmore Hotel Master Plan (ca. 1897), Clearwater, FL
Parrot Jungle Original Entrance Reconstruction (1936), Pinecrest Gardens, FL
Naval Air Station Seaplane Hangar C1 NAS Documention (1940), Key West, FL
Vizcaya Museum & Gardens View Study (1916), Coconut Grove, FL

Barton Ross & Partners, LLC Architects | 503 Washington Avenue | Suite 184 | Cheltenham, Maryland | t. 443.282.8884
2013 AIA New York State Award of Merit for the Corbin Building Restoration (with Brisk)
2013 Lucy G. Moses Preservation Award for Corbin Building Restoration, NYC Landmarks Conservancy (with Brisk)
2013 Nomination for the Secretary of the Interior’s Historic Preservation Awards (with Montclair Township)
2013 American Planning Association NJ Chapter, Great Downtown of New Jersey Award (with Montclair Township)
2013 Bricks and Mortar Project Award for the Welsh House, Montclair HPC (with Montclair Township)
2013 National Gold Award for Hillside Square, Creative Adaptive Reuse, NJ Future (with Montclair Township)
2012 Downtown NJ Gold Award of Excellence for Hillside Square Restoration (with Montclair Township)
2012 Favorite Downtown Arts District, Discover Jersey Arts People’s Choice Award (with Montclair Township)
2012 American Planning Association NJ Chapter, Great Streets of New Jersey (with Montclair Township)
2011 NYU/Beyer Bliender Belle, 1811 Manhattan Grid Design Competition, Jury Prize Award
2011 American Planning Association NY Chapter Meritorious Service/Achievement Award (with RPA)
2010 AIA National Honor Award for Regional & Urban Design, Five Principles for Greenwich South (with BBB)
2010 Annual A/IA Awards, Architect Magazine, Five Principles for Greenwich South (with BBB)
2010 AAMNY Urban Design Merit Award, Five Principles for Greenwich South (with BBB)
2010 Dade Heritage Trust Award, Outstanding Renovation of an Historic Site, Parrot Jungle (with RJHA)
2010 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, Outstanding Achievement, Parrot Jungle (with RJHA)
2010 National AIA Award for Regional and Urban Design, HOB (with WRT)
2010 Delaware River Waterfront Master Plan Competition (with BBB/Wess Manfredi), Finalist
2010 Downtown Sarasota for New Urbanism Charter Award for Planning & Analysis, HOB (with WRT)
2009 The Aga Khan Foundation International Design Competition (with BBB), First Place Entry
2009 NYC Historic Districts Council Preservation Award: The Bank Note Building (with BBB)
2009 Bronx Chamber of Commerce Visionary Award: The BankNote Building (with BBB)
2008 SCUP/AIA-CAE Honor Award, Excellence in Planning, Princeton Campus Plan (with BBB)
2008 Certificate of Appreciation for Architectural Service Award, Coconut Grove Woman’s Club (with RJHA)
2008 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Award, Temple Court Apartments (with RJHA)
2008 Honor Award, National Trust for Historic Preservation, VA State Capitol Restoration and Expansion (with WRT)
2007 Palladio Award NJ Entry and Addition, Traditional Building Magazine (with WRT)
2007 Project of the Year Award, Greater Richmond Association for Commercial Real Estate (with WRT)
2007 AIA Honor Award, Virginia State Capitol, AIA - Richmond Chapter (with WRT)
2007 AGC (Associated General Contractors) Aon Build America Award (with WRT)
2007 Gold Recontruction and Renovation Award, Building Design and Construction Magazine (with WRT)
2007 Washington Contractor Award, AGC of Metropolitan Washington, D.C. (with WRT)
2007 AIA Honor Award, Virginia State Capitol, AIA - New Jersey Chapter (with WRT)
2007 Restoration Project of the Year, Mid-Atlantic Construction Magazine (with WRT)
2007 Outstanding Achievement, Temple Court Apartments (with RJHA)
2007 Maryland Historical Trust, Project Excellence Award, Charles Carroll House of Annapolis (with CCHA)
2005 East Falls Bike House Row Design Competition (with WRT), First Place Entry
2005 Lafayette Building Adaptive Use Design Competition (with WRT), First Place Entry
2005 The Barnes Tower International Design Competition (with WRT), First Place Entry
2005 Widener U. Metropolitan Hall Design Competition (with WRT/CDS), First Place Entry

Design Award Committees & Professional Juderies
AIA Eastern Oklahoma Chapter Design Awards, Stevensville, MD, Jury Co-Chair, September 6, 2018
New Jersey Historic Preservation Office (HPD) Statewide Design Awards, Trenton, NJ, Friday, April 27, 2018
Preservation New Jersey Statewide Design Awards, Hopewell, NJ, Thursday, October 5, 2017
AIA Tampa Bay Chapter Design Awards, Annapolis, MD, Tuesday, October 3, 2017
AIA Chesapeake Bay Chapter Design Awards, Philadelphia, PA, Tuesday, September 27, 2016
Ad Hoc Queen Anne’s County Courthouse Architect Selection Committee, 2013
City of Point Pleasant Historic Preservation Awards Committee, 2016
Township of Montclair Design & Historic Preservation Awards Committee, 2013
Township of Millburn Historic Preservation Awards Committee, 2015
Queen Anne’s County Historical Society History Awards Committee, 2014-15

Volunteer Experience
Board of Directors, Maryland Society of American Institute of Architects, 2018-present, 2020 State President (anticipated)
Board of Directors, Preservation New Jersey, 2015-present
Board of Directors, Chesapeake Bay Chapter American Institute of Architects, 2015-present, 2015 President

Commissioner, Kent County, MD Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), 2014-present
Commissioner, Town of Centreville, MD Planning Commission, 2014-2016
Commissioner, City of Summit, NJ Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), 2012-2015
Board of Directors, Queen Anne’s County Historical Society, 2013-2015, 2014 President
Main Street Design Committee, Town of Chestertown, MD, 2015-present, Chair, Façade Improvement Review Panel
New Jersey History & Historic Preservation Conference Planning Committee, 2016-present
Sustainable Jersey State Historic Preservation Task Force, 2016

Grants & Fellowships
2018 “10 Most Endangered Historic Sites in NJ: 25th Anniversary Retrospective,” (with Preservation NJ) $11,874
2017 National Trust for Historic Preservation Bartus Trew Grant (with Kent Conservation) $20,000
2017 Kent County Commissioners for “Historic Landscape of the Eastern Shore,” (with Kent Conservation) $5,000
2017 Preservation MD Heritage Grant “Historic Landscape of the Eastern Shore,” (with Kent Conservation) $6,000
2016 The Vernacular Architecture Forum, Orlando Ridout V Fellowship $500
2016 Union County Community Development Block Grant for Shady Rest (with Scotch Plains Township) $35,000
2015 Morris County Historic Preservation Trust for Obadiah LaTourette Mill (with WLT) $52,000
2015 New Jersey Historic Trust 1772 Foundation Grant for Parsil House (with Millburn Township) $15,000
2015 Queen Anne County Commissioners for Operational Support (with QAC Historical Society) $3,000
2014 Stories of the Chesapeake Hering & Analysis, HOB (with WRT), First Place Entry
2014 Maryland Historical Trust Grant for Tucker House Exterior Restoration (with QAC Historical Society) $6,525
2014 National Trust for Historic Preservation Bartus Trew Grant (with QAC Historical Society) $10,000
2014 Essex County Recreation & Open Space Trust Fund Grant for Parsil House (with Millburn Township) $150,000
2013 Freddie Mac Foundation Double the Gift Program Grant (with QAC Historical Society) $1,000
2013 Preserve Union County Grant for Shady Rest Country Club (with Scotch Plains Township) $30,000
2013 Society of Architectural Historians, Scott Opler Fellowship for Emerging Professionals $500
2013 Certified Local Government Grant, Project Title: Historic Preservation Design Guidelines, (Montclair) $23,500
2013 Discover NJ History Grant, “An Architectural Walking Tour of Montclair’s CBD,” New Jersey Historic Trust $2,800
2013 HPTAG Grant for “Renovation of Charter Oak Temple (1876),” CT Trust for Historic Preservation (with SMAI) $32,000
2012 Maryland Historical Heritage Authority Grant for Tucker House Exterior Restoration (with QAC Historical Society) $500
2012 National Park Service Charles Beveridge Fellowship, 1st Frederick Law Olmsted Scholar $1,200
2012 American Alliance of Museums (AAM) Museum Assessment Program Grant (with QAC Historical Society) $3,000
2012 Essex County Local History Grant, Montclair Township (with WRT) $500
2012 Certified Local Government Grant, Project Title: Watchung Plaza Historic Business District (Montclair) $14,500
2011 CEERP Grant for 460 Atlantic Boulevard, The Crane (with Montclair Township)
2010 Essex County’s Treasures of Historic Site, Temple Court Apartments (with CCHA)
2009 Peaple Forest Architectural Restoration Field School Scholarship, 2003 (declined)

Published Articles

Publication Peer Reviews

Competitions
1811 Manhattan Grid, Sponsored by Beyer Bliender Belle NYC Office, NYU History Department Juried Prize Winner, 2011
Lectures, Presentations & Walking Tours


"How to use your Ordinance and the Secretary of the Interior Standards for Good Decision Making," Preservation in Practice Workshop, Rutgers University, Bordentown, NJ, Saturday, March 10, 2018.


"What's In An Ordinance?" Preservation in Practice Workshop, Rutgers University, Bordentown, NJ, March 18, 2017.


"Cape May County CLG Grant Presentation," Ocean City, NJ Historic Preservation Meeting, Tuesday, September 6, 2016.

"Cape May County CLG Grant Presentation," Lower Township, NJ Historic Preservation Meeting, Wednesday, August 31, 2016.

"Cape May County CLG Grant Presentation," Woodbine, NJ Borough Council Meeting, Thursday, August 18, 2016.


"Historic Preservation in Millburn Township & the Restoration of the Parsil House," Millburn Old Guard, April 7, 2016.


"Do you know your Resources?" Preservation in Practice Workshop, Kean University, Ocean County, NJ, March 28, 2015.


"The History and Future of Shady Rest," St. John's Baptist Church, Scotch Plains, NJ, Friday, February 20, 2015.

"Dr. Henry Chandlee Forman, FAIA & the End of Controversie," Talbot County Historical Society 60th Anniversary Gala Event, Friday, October 10, 2014.

"The Olmsted Firm's Legacy in Montclair: 1895-1933," Olmsted National Historic Site, Brookline, MA.


"New renovation design may preserve more Lackawanna Train Station features," by Owen Proctor, NorthJersey.com | The Record, Tuesday, August 7, 2018.

"Historical Merits Of Station Called Into Question At Montclair Planning Board's Lackawanna Plaza Hearings," by Steven Maginnis, Baristanet, Tuesday, August 7, 2018.


"Main Street Chestertown has grants for facade improvements in historic district," by Peter Heck, The Kent County News, February 8, 2018.


"Lorraine Avenue Project Closer To Reality After Contentious Montclair Planning Board Meeting," by Steven Maginnis, Baristanet, Tuesday, July 25, 2017.


"Preserving the Look of Madison Draws Big Turnout at Community Meeting," by Liz Keill, TAPintoMadison, April 29, 2016.


"Graveside service honors Founding Father: Two hundred people show up at Wye House to celebrate July 4," The Star Democrat, July 7, 2013.


"Celebrating the Fourth," The Star Democrat, Life Section C1, June 30, 2013.


"MKA and Montclair: As historic building is approved for destruction: Yes, it's legal but is this Ethical?" by Diane Lill, The Jersey Tomato Press, Wednesday, April 3, 2013.

"Planned Demolition of Historic House Draws Criticism" by Mike D'Oinoirre, Montclair Patch, Wednesday, March 20, 2013.


"A Walking Tour of Montclair," TV34 Montclair, television program, Friday, October 5, 2012.


“Redevelopment Plan Filed for the Belleview Biltmore,” by Carrie Henderson, Tampa Bay Sun, January 10, 2008.


National Historic Landmark Projects

- The Corbin Building (1887), New York, NY
- Vizcaya Museum & Gardens (1916), Coconut Grove, FL
- The Woodlands (1878), Philadelphia, PA
- U.S. Capitol (1790), Richmond, VA
- United States Capitol (1792), Washington, DC
- Philadelphia Naval Asylum (1827), Philadelphia, PA
- The Charles Carroll House (1706), Annapolis, MD
- Gadsby’s Tavern (1796), Alexandria, VA
- Vermont State House (1857), Montpelier, VT
- Independence Hall (1735), Philadelphia, PA
- World Trade Center (2001), New York, NY
- Annapolis Historic District, Annapolis, MD
- Chestertown Historic District, Chestertown, MD

National Register Of Historic Places Projects

- Parrot Jungle Entrance Building (1936), Pinecrest Gardens, FL
- WR Grace Building (1974), New York, NY
- Naval Air Station Seaplane Hangar C1 (1940), Key West, FL
- Naval Air Station HQ Building 25 (1942), Richmond, FL
- Stride-Madison House (1793), Philadelphia, PA
- Smithfield Plantation House (1773), Charleston, SC
- The Charter Oak Cultural Center (1876), Hartford, CT
- Compton Plantation House (1762), Trappe, MD
- Mount Vernon (1781), Arlington, VA
- Belleview Biltmore Hotel (1897), Clearwater, FL
- John James Audubon House (1832), Key West, FL
- Henry Flagler Memorial Library (1925), Miami, FL
- Wright’s Chance (1744), Centreville, MD
- Tucker House (1792), Crestville, MD
- Shrewsbury Church (1832), Kennett Square, MD
- Colonial Courthouse (1708), Queenstown, MD
- The Herald Building (1913), Chicago, IL
- Child’s Restaurant (1921), Coney Island, NY
- The Von Trapp Family Lodge (1949), Stowe, VT
- Central Public Library (1979), Atlanta, GA

Computer Skills