“I refuse to accept despair as the final response to the ambiguities of history.”

When we re-launched the printed version of “The Phoenix” in 2015, this column normally took on the jovial task of announcing new initiatives, programs, and successes. For the past year, this space served as an opportunity for me to remind our generous donors, friends, and colleagues that our work remains as relevant as ever—even in the midst of a deadly pandemic and resulting economic devastation. Now, as I sit to write, in 2021, with your help, we’ll continue to make an antidote to despair. History also needs us and providing significant grant funding, work possible

Trades is attracting attention for the potential the example, we have begun work on rehabilitating our historic ca.1830s log Jonathan Street, for example, we have begun support partners across the state. On Hagerstown’s redevelopment program, historic trades training is an opportunity for me to remind communities, and the future. With a growing in its commitment to preservation, our beneficiary, this organization remains steadfast of a deadly pandemic and resulting economic devastation. Now, as I sit to write, America is grappling with a violent assault on the temple of democracy—the historic Capitol building itself—just days before the nation is set to inaugurate a new president. Keeping the faith in moments like this is challenging for all of us. Yet, through struggle, I return again and again to history to sustain my faith. Like Dr. King, I too refuse to accept despair—because the lessons of history remind us that there is another path. Even in the darkest moments, there is cause for hope. The inherent power of history to provide context and optimism becomes more apparent every day that passes—and that power of history fuels the work of this organization.

Today, with history as our guide and beneficiary, this organization remains steadfast in its commitment to preservation, our communities, and the future. With a growing team of professionals and a slate of dynamic and diverse projects, we are prepared to make this year—our 90th anniversary—one to celebrate. We are investing heavily in our historic property redevelopment program, historic trades training in education, advocacy, and grant funding to support partners across the state. On Hagerstown’s Jonathan Street, for example, we have begun work on rehabilitating our historic ca.1830s log cabin and are already eyeing several more projects and lining up the funders to make it possible. All across the nation, our Campaign for Historic Trades is attracting attention for the potential the program holds to change the nature of trades’ training across America. We’re not just talking about preservation—today we’re restoring buildings and training the hands that make the work possible—while also educating, advocating, and providing significant grant funding. History remains our guide and is a powerful antidote to despair. History also needs us—and in 2021, with your help, we’ll continue to make history.

With pride in our past and faith in our future,
An Historic Session of the Maryland General Assembly Begins

We have adapted our strategies and stand ready to be the voice of preservation and smart growth in Annapolis.

On January 13th, the Maryland General Assembly reconvened for their 442nd session after a truncated session in 2020 due to the growing Covid-19 crisis. As the need to reduce the spread of the virus is as important as ever 10 months later, the public will not be invited to the Statehouse or state office buildings to testify in person, and the historic chambers of the House and Senate have been retrofitted with plexiglass partitions.

While this historic session will certainly not look like years past, Preservation Maryland and Smart Growth Maryland stand ready to serve our members and partners as the voice of history and sustainability in Annapolis.

New Study Confirms 18th-Century Timbers Used to Construct Hagerstown Cabin

Preservation Maryland, with the assistance and generous support of the Maryland Department of Transportation and State Highway Administration, recently announced the findings of a newly completed dendrochronology report by the Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory, which confirms 417 N. Jonathan Street was constructed with some of Hagerstown’s oldest timbers.

The researchers were able to confirm the date of the log’s felling using a process known as dendrochronology which uses the characteristic patterns of annual growth rings in timber and tree trunks to determine its age. Core samples from logs in the Jonathan Street cabin were taken in September 2020 and were compared against a master tree-ring sample for the region—determining the precise date of felling as the winters of 1739-40 and 1740–41. The consultant was also able to identify the region of origin of the timber—concluding that the logs were likely previously used in the construction of a log house in Washington and Frederick Counties and more precisely along the Antietam Creek.

It is interesting and worthwhile to note that very few structures stood in Hagerstown in 1739, save for two cabins that town founder Jonathan Hager is believed to have built in the late 1730s prior to the completion of his stone dwelling. Therefore, it is highly likely that the timbers comprising the cabin at 417 N. Jonathan Street were reused from a structure built by Jonathan Hager—making this cabin one of Hagerstown’s most historic structures.

The legacy of this building and its layers of unique, diverse, and significant history speaks to the value of preservation—and the need to continue to invest and support the revitalization of the historic Jonathan Street community. Remarkably, all of this could have been lost as the cabin was headed to demolition before Preservation Maryland deployed emergency funding to acquire and now rehabilitate the building thereby securing its future.

To learn more and support this project, please visit: presmd.org/jst

PreserveCast: Weekly Interviews With Preservation Thought Leaders

Preservation Maryland’s Executive Director Nicholas Redding is the host of PreserveCast, a podcast with a worldwide listenership that explores the broad world of preservation from every angle—from drones to mudlarking and everything in between.

Preservation Maryland believes we all succeed when we all know more about our past. PreserveCast is one of the ways that we can reach that goal—and we have the data to prove it:

- 46 episodes released in 2020, as we returned to a weekly release schedule.
- 160+ total episodes available on your favorite podcast channel or on our podcast website, with show notes and transcriptions.
- Thousands of listeners across the United States and hundreds in the UK, Canada, Australia, and India.
- Nearly 50,000 downloads since launching in 2017 and nearing 2,000 downloads every month.

Nearly 50,000 downloads have been cut in a manner that hampered the growth of small commercial historic structures.

Moreover, we continue our advocacy for a fully-funded Program Open Space—a proven program that supports open space acquisition, rural and urban parks and trails, as well as the Maryland Heritage Area Authority.

As always, Preservation Maryland will regularly update our website with the latest information and release advocacy alerts by email and social media.

Our readers are invited and encouraged to participate in Session this year in new ways—attending virtual hearings, submitting written testimony, and supporting our Advocacy Fund. For the latest information, please visit: presmd.org/advocacy

Photos of log samples used in the report, provided by Oxford Tree-Ring Laboratory.
Preservation Grants Invest in the Heart of Maryland’s Historic Communities

Preservation Maryland administers much-needed direct financial assistance across the state.

I n the past two months, Preservation Maryland has directed the investment of nearly $100,000 of grant funds to a vast array of important research, revitalization, and archaeology projects—creating and sustaining opportunities for economic development and heritage tourism during difficult times.

Our grant-making efforts are just one of the ways that we support our partners—nonprofit organizations, historic house museums, and neighborhood groups—-reaching the heart of historic communities in every corner of the state.

**STATEWIDE HERITAGE FUND GRANTS**

1. **Bostwick House Preservation Planning**  
   Aman Memorial Trust  
   Prince George’s County - $8,000

2. **Restoration of Cyrlburn Arboretum’s Marble Lions**  
   Cyrlburn Arboretum Friends  
   Baltimore City - $5,000

3. **Restoration of Roof Dormers at Retreat House**  
   Friends of Smallwood State Park  
   Charles County - $8,000

4. **Stabilization of Malone’s Chapel Steeple**  
   Harrisville/Malone Cemetery Maintenance Fund  
   Dorchester County - $8,000

5. **Trail Signage at Historic London Town & Gardens**  
   London Town Foundation  
   Anne Arundel County - $5,000

6. **Town of Hancock Preservation Plan**  
   Main Street Hancock  
   Washington County - $4,500

7. **Entryway Restoration at Handsell Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance**  
   Dorchester County - $7,000

8. **Historic Landscape Report at National Park Seminary**  
   Save our Seminary  
   Montgomery County - $6,000

Preservation Maryland has directed the investment of nearly $100,000 towards creating and sustaining opportunities for economic development and heritage tourism during difficult times.

**3.** Ambassadog Theater Architectural Design ArtSpace Projects, Inc., - $5,000

**10.** Gursch Avenue Firehouse Exterior Repairs  
   Civic Works, Inc., - $10,000

**11.** Patterson Theatre Marquee Restoration  
   Creative Alliance - $10,000

**12.** Herring Run Heritage Trail Friends of Herring Run Parks - $5,500

**13.** Roland Water Tower Restoration  
   Roland Park Community Foundation - $3,500

**14.** West Baltimore Archaeology  
   University of Maryland - $6,000

**15.** Condition & Interpretation Assessment Mount Clare Museum - $10,000

The Baltimore City Historic Preservation Fund is a collaborative program of Preservation Maryland, the Maryland Historical Trust, Baltimore Heritage, Inc., and the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) with financial support from the Baltimore Community Foundation. The Heritage Fund is a joint program of Preservation Maryland and the Baltimore Historical Trust. For grant information and deadlines about the Heritage Fund and the Baltimore City Historic Preservation Fund, please visit: [presmd.org/funding](http://presmd.org/funding)
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PRESERVATION MARYLAND
3600 Clipper Mill Road • Suite 248
Baltimore, Maryland 21211

His passion for Maryland history
lives on through a legacy gift.
What will your legacy be?

WILLIAM D. WAXTER III was born in Baltimore and spent summers in Ocean City. After serving in WWII and the Korean War, he became a securities analyst, he traveled the world and supported many charities. BE’s legacy gift to Preservation Maryland underwrites the training of the next generation of leaders through the Waxter Memorial Internship Program.

ESTABLISH YOUR LEGACY
Katie Parks, Director of Development
kparks@presmd.org

OUR HEART BELONGS TO MARYLAND

Preservationists put their hearts into their work…
and into their communities

Did you know that the heartbomb may have been invented in Maryland in the ’90s?!

Inspired by that creative advocacy,
we’ve included inside a simple pattern for an origami heart that you can make to show off your love of Maryland history!

Photos of Wire Hardware in Rockville – saved by Peerless Rockville in the 1990s.

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Upcoming Events

One of the silver linings of many conferences going virtual is the opportunity to jump state-to-state! Here is a list of virtual conferences across the country. For more events, go to: presmd.org/events

MAR 8-11 NATIONAL PRESERVATION ADVOCACY WEEK Legislative briefings, virtual meetings with elected officials, and national networking opportunities. Register at: preservationaction.org

MAR 8-27 NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC HISTORY Sessions for this virtual conference will be held throughout the month and are still coming together. For updates: ncph.org/conference

APR 12-14 MAIN STREET NOW Virtual conference that includes official Main Street Approach training and sessions about revitalization, small businesses, and local economies. Learn more: mainstreet.org

JUN 15-18 WALK/BIKE/PLACES Project for Public Spaces is offering a hybrid in-person and virtual conference geared towards placemaking professionals. More info at: walkbikeplaces.org

SEP 30-OCT 2 THE SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT Joe McGill will host a virtual conference focused on “Changing the Narrative in Changing Times.” Sign up for updates: slavedwellingproject.com

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HEARTBOMB

Our Heart Belongs to History

There is no question that preservationists put their heart into their work and communities. Here we offer a simple at-home project to create an origami heart just in time for Valentine’s Day—or any day! Did you know that the heartbomb may have been invented in Rockville in the 90s!? Reinvigorated recently by young preservation groups across the country, heartbombing is the simple act of declaring your love for at-risk historic properties with a valentine of their own.

In 1993, when a likely buyer of the ca. 1895 Wire Hardware building had plans to gut the interior, Peerless Rockville, a regional preservation non-profit, brought a law suit to defend its right-of-first-refusal to purchase the building—ensuring its preservation. Soon after, the organization publically kickstarted an Emergency Repair Fund with a gigantic heart in the storefront window, declaring “Our Hearts Belong to Wire.” To see photos, go to: presmd.org/wire.

Inspired by that creative advocacy, we encourage you to make an origami heart with our special edition phoenix origami paper. Download more patterns at: presmd.org/origami

STEP 1
Cut out the patterned square along the dotted line. Fold twice diagonally and reopen flat oriented as a diamond.

STEP 2
Fold top point of paper to meet the center point. It will look like a gem stone.

STEP 3
Write a secret message to your valentine inside now or just fold the bottom point to meet the top fold.

STEP 4
Bring up the bottom right side diagonally so the bottom meets the vertical center line. Repeat with the left side.

STEP 5
Turn paper over and fold down the top and side points. This will smooth out the edges of your heart.

STEP 6
Adorn your origami heart any way you like and please share your love by tagging us with #preservemd.