

Report to the Governor and the General Assembly

2016 Annual Report
on the
**African American Heritage
Preservation Program**

Submitted in accordance with the requirements of
State Finance & Procurement Article § 5A-330(i), SB 601/Chapter 371, 2015



Charles H. Chipman Center (former John Wesley Church), Salisbury, Wicomico County

**Maryland Commission on
African American History and Culture**
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Larry Hogan, Governor
Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor

THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE MISSION STATEMENT



The mission of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture is to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland's African American heritage; to provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives; and to educate Maryland's citizens and visitors about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland and the nation.



The Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture is housed within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MISSION STATEMENT

The Maryland Historical Trust is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Maryland Historical Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage.



The Maryland Historical Trust is a unit of the Maryland Department of Planning.

Background

The African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program (AAHPP) was created during the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly and reauthorized, with modifications, as a permanent program during the 2015 session. The AAHPP is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (Commission), a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives, and the Maryland Historical Trust (Trust), a unit of the Maryland Department of Planning (Planning). The purpose of this program is to encourage the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland.

Eligible applicants for AAHPP funding include non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions. Business entities and individuals may also apply for AAHPP grants when seeking funds for preservation or development projects that serve a high public purpose. Eligible activities include acquisition, construction, and capital improvement of buildings, sites, or communities of historical or cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland as well as pre-development costs directly associated with an acquisition or construction project. Such pre-development costs may cover historic structures reports and studies, the preparation of plans and specifications, necessary archeological investigations, and reasonable fees for architectural, design, engineering and other special services.

Activity of the African American Heritage Preservation Program in FY 2016

Grant Applications

Applications, instructions, and Program guidelines for FY2017 funding were made available in early February 2016 via the Trust's website. A press release on February 8, 2016 announced the availability of the applications and gave details on a series of workshops for potential applicants as follows:

<p>Anne Arundel County Friday, March 4, 2 - 4 PM Historic London Town & Gardens 839 Londontown Road Edgewater, MD 21037 (14 attendees)</p>	<p>Baltimore City Monday, March 7, 2 - 4 PM Morgan State University School of Architecture & Planning 5299 Perring Parkway Baltimore, MD 21239 (35 attendees)</p>
<p>Wicomico County Friday, March 11, 11 AM - 1 PM Wicomico Public Library Lower Level - Meeting Room #1 122 S. Division Street Salisbury, MD 21801 (23 attendees)</p>	<p>Montgomery County Monday, March 14, 2 - 4:30 PM Sandy Spring Slave Museum 18524 Brooke Road Sandy Spring, MD 20860 (24 attendees)</p>
<p>Kent County Friday, March 18, 2- 4:30 PM Sumner Hall 206 S. Queen Street Chestertown, MD 21620 (11 attendees)</p>	<p>Prince George's County Saturday, April 23, 11 AM - 1 PM Fairmount Heights Library 5904 Kolb Street Fairmount Heights, MD 20743 (51 attendees)</p>

A total of 158 people attended the workshops. The workshop at Sumner Hall highlighted the substantial restoration of that building, a former Grand Army of the Republic meeting hall, using AAHPP (FY2014), MHT Capital Grant Program (FY2002, 2006, and 2007), and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (FY2013 and 2014) funding. The workshop at the Sandy Spring Slave Museum offered an opportunity for attendees to visit the newly completed Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge, also an AAHPP grant recipient, which is featured on the following pages. Testimonials at those workshops from past grantees were particularly insightful and meaningful to potential applicants.

Grant applications are accepted through the Trust's online application, powered by MicroEdge's GIFTS system. The grant application deadline was July 15, 2016. After a threshold review of the applications by Trust staff, the Commission evaluates eligible applications and forwards recommendations to the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees (the Board). Once the Board reviews the Commission's recommendations, it makes a final recommendation that is sent to the Secretary of Planning for approval.

Notable Accomplishments & Project Updates

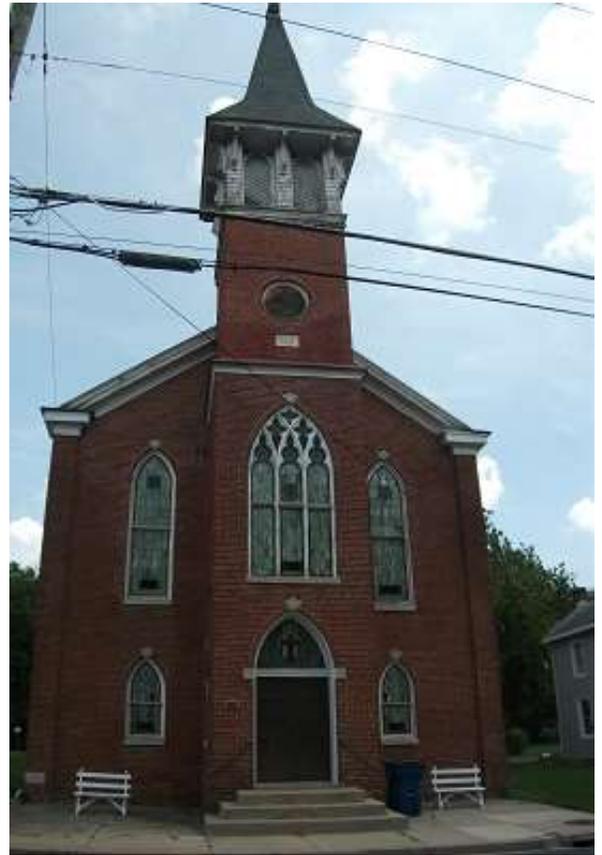
Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church, Easton, Talbot County:

Asbury M.E. Church is the oldest African American church structure in Easton and the second oldest African American church structure in Talbot County. The church was dedicated by Frederick Douglass in 1878. Asbury was a temporary high school for colored students in the 1930's and is now a community center for a historically African American enclave known as the "Hill." The lower-level "fellowship hall" will become an education and research center for the public. The upper-level sanctuary is still used for worship. The Maryland Historical Trust holds an easement on the exterior of this property.

Grant funds awarded through the AAHPP in FY2013, 2014, and 2016 are assisting in the exterior rehabilitation of this landmark church as well as addressing structural issues with the central tower. The first phase of work, which involved internal reinforcement of the bell tower, repairs to the belfry, replacement of front doors, and window repairs, is well underway.

Right: The church before rehabilitation.

Below right: The first phase of work nears completion.



Above: The belfry roof was replaced with wood shingles, the lattice and metal screen were repaired, and the finial was replaced. Interior work included installation of structural steel.



Above: New solid wood front doors were built to match the originals, which appeared in a photograph from the 1950s.



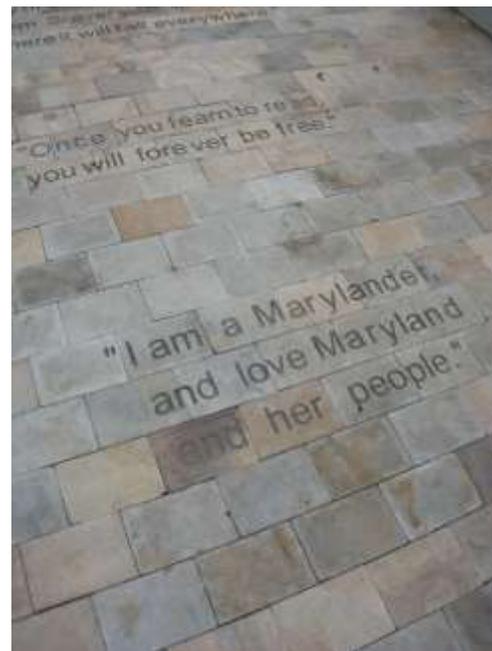
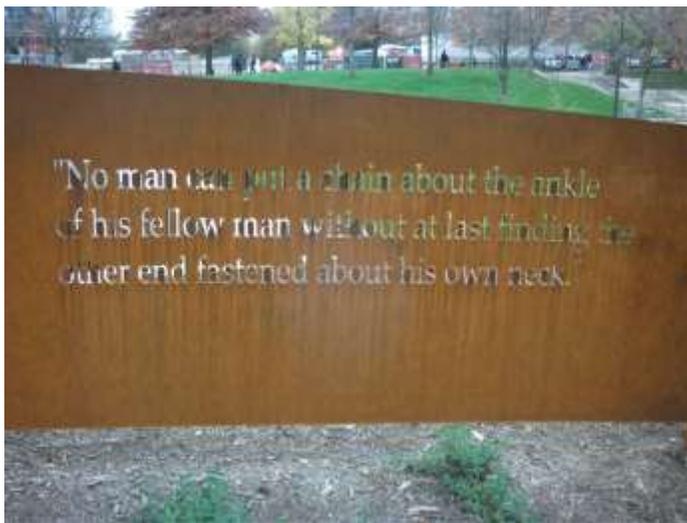
Frederick Douglass Square at the University of Maryland, Prince George's County:



Left: Dedication of Frederick Douglass Square.



With assistance from a FY2016 AAHPP grant to the University of Maryland College Park Foundation, the University of Maryland transformed part of Hornbake Plaza, a major campus thoroughfare immediately in front of Hornbake Library, into Frederick Douglass Square. Honoring Douglass's legacy as well as telling the story of his impact on his native state and the nation, Frederick Douglass Square will serve as a place of reflection and inspiration at Maryland's flagship institution of higher education. The effort to create Frederick Douglass Square was the brainchild of the "North Stars", a group of campus leaders including Distinguished University Professor and noted historian Ira Berlin. Sculptor Andrew Edwards created the statue; the landscape design was by landscape architecture firm Floura Teeter.



Above and right: A Cor-Ten steel wall and stone paving carry quotes from Douglass. Native plantings complete the ensemble.

Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge, Montgomery County:

The Odd Fellows Lodge was built during the early 1900's as a health, burial, and life insurance agency for African Americans, and it served in this capacity for over 60 years. For decades, the Lodge played a significant societal role as African Americans pushed for civil rights and equal treatment under the law. The Lodge also became the social hub for African Americans, as a popular site for picnics and dances. Local African American artisans built the current structure; rehabilitation was completed in early spring of 2016, and the building will now be used as an educational and cultural center. The project received MHT Capital Grant Program funds in 2008 as well as AAHPP grants each year from FY2012-2015.



Above and below: Before and after photographs contrast the extremely poor condition of the existing building with the success of its restoration.



Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge, Montgomery County Grantee Testimonial

I'm a grateful grant recipient who is not a historian, grant writer, carpenter or architect. I embarked on this journey with no formal background in historic preservation or construction. How could I possibly make this important project happen?

Well, the Odd Fellows Lodge 'made it happen' with critical guidance and support from MHT. With MHT's unwavering support (historical, legal, architectural, financial), we were able to restore the historic lodge in Sandy Spring. Yes, the assistance from the MHT -- both MHT Capital Grant funds and AAHPP Grant funds -- saved the building. But it also restored faith that there was an office that cared about the 'balance' in a community. Surrounded by large contemporary homes, growing retail and heavy traffic flow, restoration of the Odd Fellows Lodge is an example of how private citizens and state experts can work collaboratively to make a good thing... great.

The opportunity MHT gave us is priceless and infectious. We've become a local hero to some and a 'go-to' for other small groups seeking to preserve local history through its buildings. I'm so grateful for the MHT; to be sure, for the funding to make important projects like this happen. But also for the support, guidance, friendship and faith they have offered to folks like me, who just wanted to stop merely driving by – and make something great happen.

-Laura Anderson Wright

Right: Laura Anderson Wright and her father, Dr. Winston Anderson, show off "before" photographs in front of the completed project. Laura Wright was honored with a 2016 Maryland Sustainable Growth Award from the Maryland Sustainable Growth Commission for her work at the Odd Fellows Lodge and throughout Montgomery County.





Brome Plantation Slave Quarter, St. Mary's County:

This duplex slave quarter, located on the grounds of Historic St. Mary's City, has significance as a rare and valuable surviving example of the wooden dwellings used to house slaves in the Chesapeake region. It is one of only a tiny number of such survivors owned by the citizens of Maryland, and also one of the few quarters subjected to intensive archeological study. Built in the 1840s, the building was occupied until the 1960s; since it was occupied before, during, and after the Civil War, this site offers a unique opportunity to present the transition from slavery to freedom in Maryland. When restoration is complete, the building will be used to interpret the history of the building and its occupants at three different periods in history: the early 1860s, ca. 1880, and ca. 1930.



Above left: St. Mary's College of Maryland employees assist with whitewashing the interior of the quarter during a Maryland "Day to Serve" event. Above right: Trust and Historic St. Mary's City staff meet before work begins.



Above: The restoration of the structure nears completion. At left, a rear view of the building shows the reconstructed ca. 1925 shed room addition. This space will be used to tell the story of the building's 20th century residents, providing insights about life for African Americans in this area in the pre-Civil Rights era.

Kennard School, Queen Anne's County:

Kennard High School represents a historic shift from the old one-room African American schools of Queen Anne's County, providing only an elementary level of education, to a true secondary school. Kennard was built in 1936, with expansions in 1947 and 1951, and until its closing in 1966 it was the county's only secondary school for African-Americans. The school is named for Lucretia Kennard Daniels, a Philadelphia-born graduate of Hampton Institute, who came to the Eastern Shore as a teacher in 1903. She went on to become Supervisor of Colored Schools in Caroline County and later in Queen Anne's County. The building that bears her name has been restored by the Kennard Alumni Association and will be used as a community center, including educational programming and tutoring, a rental space for community groups and events, and a classroom museum. The rehabilitation project utilized AAHPP, MHT Capital Grant Program, and Maryland Heritage Areas Authority grants over the course of a decade.



Above: Before rehabilitation.

Below: After rehabilitation.

