



Maryland's

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

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MEET SARALYN SALISBURY- JONES

Graduate Student
Board Member

We welcomed a new graduate student board member to MAHDC at our Annual Meeting on September 19th: Saralyn Salisbury-Jones. She is a law student at American University Washington College of Law. Her studies are focused on historic preservation law. While pursuing her Juris Doctor, Ms. Salisbury-Jones has been actively engaged in the local historic preservation community. During an internship with the Anne Arundel County Cultural Resources Division, Ms. Salisbury-Jones assisted in the revision of the Anne Arundel County historic preservation code. She also volunteered her time interning with Presonomics, a historic preservation non-profit dedicated to promoting the economic benefits of saving historic places. In this capacity, Ms. Salisbury-Jones assisted in the compilation of historic preservation economic impact studies for Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. In her spare time, she enjoys antiquing around Maryland and exploring outdoor trails with her dog. Ms. Salisbury-Jones has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

MAHDC's graduate student board member serves a one-year term and is the organization's ambassador to Maryland's historic preservation students and university staff, educating them about our important mission and encouraging other students to be involved in MAHDC and their local commissions.

NEW DEAL RESOURCES IN PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

By Robert Krause, Ph.D,
Planner Coordinator-
Historic Preservation
Section, Maryland-
National Capital Park and
Planning Commission

In the summer of 2015, the Historic Preservation Section of the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) initiated an ambitious project to survey and document all existing historical and cultural resources associated with President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal from 1933-42. Most Marylanders, if not many students of twentieth-century history, are aware of "Alphabet Agencies" and stories of the planned community at Greenbelt and perhaps even the development of the vast Beltsville Agricultural Research Center. This survey project underway by M-NCPPC seeks to expand public awareness and historical visibility of the remaining federally-funded buildings in Prince George's County. "Some people think history stands still but forget that as we move forward with time, so does history," says Prince George's Historic Preservation Commission Chairman John Peter Thompson, "The mid twentieth-century has rather suddenly become no longer the present but the important immediate past."



Photograph (ca.1939) of Horticultural Laboratory and Research Building, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center
Courtesy: The Living New Deal, [photo source](#)



Former Post Office, Upper Marlboro Courtesy: M-NCPPC, Historic Preservation Section

projects, like the construction of two dormitories at Bowie State University and

In canvassing existing structures and buildings of the New Deal era in suburban Maryland, M-NCPPC staff is utilizing the extensive New Deal archival holdings found at the National Archives Library II in College Park to determine where and when projects occurred, as well as their scope and impact upon the built environment. This county-wide survey has unearthed several forgotten

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Providing advocacy, training,
and program support for
Maryland's Historic Preservation
Commissions and local
governments.

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New Deal Resources in Prince George's County

improvements to the infrastructure of the famed Rossborough Inn on the campus of the University of Maryland-College Park. Some New Deal structures in Prince George's have been replaced, renovated, or demolished over time; the Alms House Superintendent Facility outside of Laurel was one of the largest of its kind, while the New Deal Post Office in Upper Marlboro (complete with a mural by Lenore Thomas)



*WPA Mural by Lenore Thomas, Upper Marlboro Library
Courtesy: M-NCPPC, Historic Preservation Section*

now serves as that town's public library. Another resource used by staff is The Living New Deal, a research collective housed by the University of California-Berkeley devoted to the documentation of New Deal resources across the nation. Those browsing on livingnewdeal.org will find an ever-expanding map with New Deal buildings and projects listed by state and city, agency, and artist. Maryland is one of several states with its own page

containing site-specific project information highlighting both contemporary and historical photographs of New Deal projects in the Old Line State.

The effort by M-NCPPC to document existing New Deal structures represents a significant initiative to expand public historical education beyond the traditional narrative of early 20th-century history. "It's never too late or too early to begin documenting things in order to create a baseline and inventory to know what we have, and to begin analyzing this large amount of architecturally and historically significant properties," said Thompson. "The goal is to always be inclusive while at the same time creating an inventory that is encompassing."



*Greenbelt Community Center and School
Courtesy: M-NCPPC, Historic Preservation Section*

*Sculpture, Greenbelt Community
Center and School
Courtesy: M-NCPPC, Historic
Preservation Section*



2015 ANNUAL REPORT



In 2015 MAHDC has fulfilled our mission to provide advocacy, training and program support for Maryland's commissions and local governments through training workshops, networking events, publications, and advocacy.

TRAINING FOR COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

We believe that education is the foundation of a strong historic preservation commission, so over the year we brought nine training events to Maryland's preservation commissions, including workshops on Law and Procedures, Design Review, Connecting with Your Community, Maryland Modernism, Sustainability, and Ethics and Defensive Decision Making. The workshops were offered throughout the state in Calvert County, Charles County, Frederick, Prince George's County, Rockville, St. Mary's County, and Talbot County.

NETWORKING AND LEARNING AT SOCIAL HOURS

We hosted some regional social hours in 2015, all informal events for our commissioners and preservation partners to network and exchange ideas. For our February social hour, we invited emerging professionals in the preservation field to join us for a job fair at the Old Parish House/Women's Club in College Park. In May, we gathered at the Schifferstadt Architectural Museum in Frederick for a picnic and tours of the historic residence and garden.

TECHNICAL ARTICLES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES IN MARYLAND'S HISTORIC DISTRICTS

We have improved MAHDC's quarterly publication, *Maryland's Historic Districts*, making it even more useful to Maryland's commissions this year by increasing the number of technical articles and case studies in each edition and listing many more training opportunities. We continue to be active on our Facebook page and our website blog (mahdc.org/news-events) where we feature weekly news from Maryland's commissions.

GROWTH OF THE MARYLAND HISTORIC RESTORATION CONTRACTOR DIRECTORY

As a service to our commission community and preservation partners in Maryland, we continued to grow our directory of preservation craftspeople and consultants. *The Maryland Historic Restoration Contractor Directory* now includes roofers, engineers, architects, architectural historians, archaeologists, tax credit specialists, and carpenters who have experience working with historic buildings.

ADVOCATING FOR PRESERVATION

We supported Preservation Maryland during the 2015 Maryland General Assembly in their efforts to stop major cuts to funding for Maryland Heritage Areas and the Sustainable Communities Tax Credit, and to retain key Maryland Historical Trust staff positions.

FINANCIALS

Our primary source of revenue this year came from annual membership dues, board of director contributions, training program workshop fees, and a fee from the Maryland Historical Trust for administering the Certified Local Government educational and training grants.



President Fred Stachura and Treasurer/Vice President of Finance Bernie Callan report to the membership poolside at the Annual Meeting.

THANK YOU, RENEWING AND NEW MAHDC ASSOCIATES

BUSINESS

- Applied Archaeology and History Associates, Inc.
- Archaeological Response Consultants - *New!*
- Clinton Brown Company Architecture, PC - *New!*
- Dean Robert Camlin Associates, Inc.
- The Durable Slate Company - *New!*
- JMA, a CCRG Company - *New!*
- JRS Architects Inc. - *New!*
- Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.
- Thomas J. Taltavull, Architect

INDIVIDUAL

- Thomas Dugan

Thank you for your support.

MARYLAND HISTORIC RESTORATION CONTRACTOR DIRECTORY

We need your help growing the [Maryland Historic Restoration Contractor Directory](http://mahdc.org/historic-restoration-contractor-directory). We are searching for all types of historic preservation specialists, but especially craftspeople that can help our historic district residents repair and maintain their properties.

Do you know of a skilled mason, building contractor, engineer, carpenter, plasterer, or window conservator? Forward this newsletter on to them and tell them about the benefits of an MAHDC Business Associate membership, which includes listing in our online directory and access to our statewide membership. They can [complete the application](http://mahdc.org/complete-the-application) on our website to join MAHDC as a Business Associate for just \$50. We ask that they read and agree to abide by our [Directory Policies](http://mahdc.org/directory-policies).

Art in Historic Districts: What's a Commission to Do?

By Lisa Mroszczyk Murphy, AICP, Historic Preservation Planner, City of Frederick and MAHDC Board Member



The Annapolis HPC awaits a declaratory judgment from the Circuit Court on the commission's jurisdiction over the painted mural.

Every so often free speech challenges to historic preservation ordinances arise, especially when dealing with the regulation of signs, news racks, and artwork. While the ability to review signage is well established and generally accepted, the regulation of art work can seem like somewhat of a gray area.

Many of Maryland's historic districts address art in their guidelines to varying degrees. The Annapolis Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) does not have specific criteria but relies on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. They review all art for its location and method of installation and limit the review of content for purposes of historical accuracy. Public art, specifically, is also reviewed by the Art in Public Places Committee appointed by the Mayor. The Annapolis HPC's ability to review art is currently being challenged as a result of a mural that was painted over a June weekend without approval from the commission. The property owner and city are awaiting a declaratory judgment from the Circuit Court on commission's jurisdiction over the painted mural.

Almost seven years ago, the City of Frederick HPC denied a request to install a metal sculpture on a non-historic bridge in the middle of Carroll Creek Linear Park, which runs through the locally designated Frederick Town Historic District. Although the motion cited the size, shape, and placement of the sculpture, comments were made by commissioners during the discussion that alluded to a dislike of the sculpture's subject matter: zodiac symbols. This decision set off a controversy that stalled a several year effort to get revised design guidelines adopted. Eventually they were adopted but with language that eliminated the commission's jurisdiction over art in public parks within the historic district along with other limitations. The city's planning department then sought the advice of the Maryland Historical Trust

that concluded the adopted language was inconsistent with "the letter and spirit of the enabling legislation for historic area zoning." Shortly thereafter, the city's guidelines were amended to include a compromise that was deemed to be fair by all the parties involved at the time. The guidelines now read,

The Commission shall not consider the content, color, subject matter or style of the proposed artwork. The Commission shall have final approval authority regarding height, massing, scale, materials and placement. The Commission shall give great weight to the recommendation of the Public Art Commission when reviewing public art.

The application for the zodiac sculpture was eventually re-submitted and approved even though the newly created Public Art Commission never forwarded a recommendation to the HPC. The relationship between the two commissions is still a work in progress, but the amended guidelines have relieved the commission of the burden of being the sole arbiter of public art in the historic district and gives them stronger direction for their evaluation.

In *Burke v. City of Charleston*, 893 F.Supp. 589 (D.S.C. 1995), the constitutionality of the City of Charleston's historic preservation ordinance was challenged by an artist who painted a mural on the exterior wall of a building in the historic district without a permit from the city's Board of Architectural Review claiming the historic district regulations abridged his First Amendment right to free speech, as well as his rights to due process and equal protection. The Court found that there was no constitutional violation because the ordinance was content-neutral, narrowly tailored to serve a significant government interest, and leaves open other means for communication. Burke appealed the decision but was found to lack standing, having sold the mural.



The zodiac sculpture on a City of Frederick bridge led to the establishment of a Public Art Commission so the HPC does not serve as the sole arbiter of public art in the historic district.



UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

■ **CLEANING HISTORIC MASONRY: METHODS AND RATIONALE**

WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • **OCTOBER 29, 2015**

Cleaning is one of the most traditional and unquestioned conservation interventions to which historic masonry is subjected. The presentation will include discussion of cleaning methods, such as grit blasting, water washing, application of chemical poultices, and lasers among others, as well as the changes and improvements that all of them underwent over the past sixty years. Most importantly, it will cover the rationale that should guide our choice when selecting a cleaning approach.

■ **HISTORIC WINDOW REPAIR SEMINAR**

CAMBRIDGE, MD • **OCTOBER 30, 2015**

Mr. David Gibney of Window Restoration Specialists will lead a free one-day-only window restoration workshop. Topics covered will include how to restore and repair window frames, sashes and sills; re-rope upper and lower sashes, make your windows air tight and energy efficient; and discuss the pros and cons of storm windows.

■ **PASTFORWARD – NATIONAL PRESERVATION CONFERENCE 2015**

WASHINGTON, DC • **NOVEMBER 3–6, 2015**

This year's National Trust for Historic Preservation conference is right in our backyard. PastForward will begin a yearlong celebration of the National Historic Preservation Act's 50th anniversary with programming that celebrates and honors the past while looking decisively forward toward our next 50 years. Registration is still open.

2015–2016 COMMISSION TRAINING PROGRAM CURRICULUM

To learn more and schedule a training in your community, visit mahdc.org/training-programs.

■ **SELF-STUDY**

Maryland Historic Preservation Commissions Tutorial and Training Manual

■ **FOUNDATIONAL WORKSHOPS**

HPC 100. Design Review

HPC 101. Law and Procedures

HPC 102. Ethics and Defensive Decision Making for Historic Preservation Commissions

■ **SKILL SESSIONS**

HPC 200. Connecting with your Community: Communication, Education, and Outreach

HPC 201. Sustainability for Historic Preservation Commissions

HPC 202. Modernism for Maryland's Historic Preservation Commissions



BERNIE CALLAN RECEIVES HISTORIC PRESERVATION MEDAL

Bernie Callan, MAHDC founding member and current Treasurer and Vice President of Finance, recently received the 2015 National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Historic Preservation Medal for his invaluable contributions to preservation in Frederick, the State of Maryland, and the nation. [Read the article.](#)

Congratulations, Bernie!

■ TRAINING CALENDAR

October 29, 2015

**Cleaning Historic Masonry:
Methods and Rationale**
Washington, DC

October 30, 2015

**Historic Window Repair
Seminar**
Cambridge, MD

November 3–6, 2015

**PastForward – National
Preservation Conference
2015**
Washington, DC



NEWS FROM THE COMMISSIONS

Have you visited www.mahdc.org recently? Here are some of the news items you may have missed:

- Sharon Kennedy makes the case for updating Annapolis's Preservation Ordinance
- City of Frederick HPC votes to designate log cabin but allows for demolition
- Montgomery County HPC approves tax credits for 95 projects
- Rockville HDC considers removal of Confederate statue
- Frederick County HPC debates historic tree demo
- Ocean City Historic Preservation Office debates changes to ordinance

Please share your commission's news with MAHDC by emailing director@mahdc.org.

CRAB FEAST

Our first all-you-can-eat crab feast at J.M. Clayton's in Cambridge was the most fun we've had in years! We raised vital funds for the organization, enjoyed the company of about 75 crabophiles and preservationists (look at all these fun-loving people and the smiles on their faces!), gave away some great door prizes, and even auctioned off a wine tasting for four from St. Michael's Winery. Thank you to board members Tish Weichmann-Morris, Chris Kirtz, and Fred Stachura for their invaluable leadership. Keep an eye out for our next big event in Annapolis after the New Year!



Crab Feast 2015



MAHDC depends on the support of our members, dedicated commissioners and individuals who understand that preservation, at its most vibrant and compelling, takes place locally.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Access to the MAHDC training programs at the discounted membership rates
- Subscription to MAHDC's timely e-newsletter
- Participation in a professional network of historic preservation commissioners, preservation professionals, and grassroots activists
- Influence in advocating for responsible government decisions affecting historic resources

PLEASE JOIN US! The membership application and payment can now be completed [online](#).



JOIN US ON FACEBOOK & TWITTER

Please "like" us on our [Facebook page](#) and follow our [Twitter feed](#) (@mahdcorg) for timely policy updates, news, and training opportunities.

