



Maryland's HISTORIC DISTRICTS

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MAHDC 2019 Annual Symposium Keynote Speaker

LISA CRAIG



Lisa Craig (Courtesy
of The Craig Group)

Ms. Craig serves as Principal for The Craig Group, LLC. In this role she leads a team of design and planning professionals to support community leaders, local government and nonprofit organizations in protecting the economic value, architectural integrity and cultural heritage of historic communities. Previous to starting her own firm, Ms. Craig served for seven years as Chief of Historic Preservation for the City of Annapolis. She spearheaded the Weather It Together Initiative, a Cultural Resource Hazard Mitigation Plan identified by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a national model for resiliency planning.

Ms. Craig's background also includes contract consulting to Lord Cultural Resources Planning & Management on historic preservation, cultural tourism and corridor planning projects; serving as State Historic Preservation Officer for the District of Columbia; working for the National Trust for Historic Preservation as the head of the Southern Field Office and Director of Preservation Partnerships; and leading the Historic Preservation League of Oregon as Executive Director.

Ms. Craig has published numerous articles and presented dozens of public talks on topics ranging from planning for the impacts of climate change on historic properties, to historic military housing to conservation districts. Ms. Craig graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Historic Preservation from the Savannah College of Art & Design and went on for Master's work at the University of Oregon.

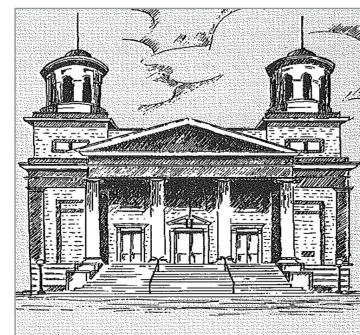
Nationally, she serves as Chair of the Cultural Heritage and Climate Change Committee for the US International Committee on Monuments and Sites, on the Board of Preservation Action and as a CAMP trainer for the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions.

May is Maryland Preservation Month!



Celebrate MAHDC'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY
at the Annual Symposium & Annual Meeting
Saturday, May 18, 2019 at ERUCC in Frederick!

The 2019 Annual Symposium of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions will take place on Saturday, May 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the beautiful Conference Center of the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) in downtown Frederick. This year's theme is **Looking Back, Looking Forward: Considering Maryland's Historic District Legacy and Future**. Sessions will address the reinterpretation of Maryland's historic districts through the addition of new stories and the challenge of meeting the demands of a changing climate. The keynote speaker is Lisa Craig, nationally-recognized expert on climate change and historic preservation. Among the confirmed presenters are Nicole Diehlmann, architectural historian with RK&K, Baltimore and former National Alliance of Preservation Commissions board member, Nell Ziehl, Chief, Office of Planning, Education and Outreach and Peter Kurtze, specialist in survey, evaluation & registration for National Register listings, Maryland Historical Trust, Sarah Rogers, Executive Director of Heritage Montgomery, Kimberly Golden Brandt, Director of Preservation Maryland's Smart Growth Maryland Initiative, and John Peter Thompson, Chair of the Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission and nationally-recognized lecturer and expert on horticulture, invasive species, and bioeconomics.



Facade of the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC). Line drawing used by permission of the ERUCC.

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

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Looking Back, Looking Forward – 2019 MAHDC Symposium in Beautiful Frederick



The 2019 Annual Symposium will mark the 40th anniversary of MAHDC's founding in Frederick in 1979 and will also include the Association's Annual Meeting. In attendance will be Cherilyn Widell, co-founder of the association in 1979 with Bernie Callan, current MAHDC board member, Nancy Schamu, former Maryland Deputy SHPO and early MAHDC supporter, and three members of the first MAHDC board of directors, Martha Graham, and Rob and Bayley Janson-LaPalme.

The African American Community Tour will follow in Frederick's historic center after the close of the symposium (space is limited to twenty-five and pre-registration will be required on the day of the symposium).

The historic Trinity Chapel across the street from the ERUCC Church and Conference Center will be open for visits during the day. ■

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN ON EVENTBRITE:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mahdc-2019-annual-symposium-tickets-59208276549>



UPCOMING MAHDC TRAINING PROGRAM CALENDAR

■ **Annapolis:**

MAY 23 • 6:00 PM: HPC 100. Design Review.
Location: City Council Chambers, City Hall.

JUNE 27 • 6:00 PM: HPC 101. Law & Procedures.
Location: City Council Chambers, City Hall.

■ **Cumberland:**

JUNE 12 • 6:00 PM: HPC 200. Connecting with your Community:
Communication, Education, and Outreach. Location: TBA.

■ **Rockville:**

JUNE 4, 11, OR 15 • 7:00 PM: HPC 100. Design Review.

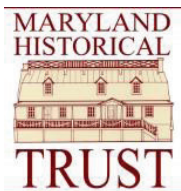
Date and Location: TBA.

Contact Sheila Bashiri, sbashiri@rockvillemd.gov for information.

A Brief *History* of the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions

The Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions was born 40 years ago in Frederick, Maryland because two historic district commissioners went looking for help. They found commitment, but no communication, and realized the value of commissions coming together in their common cause.

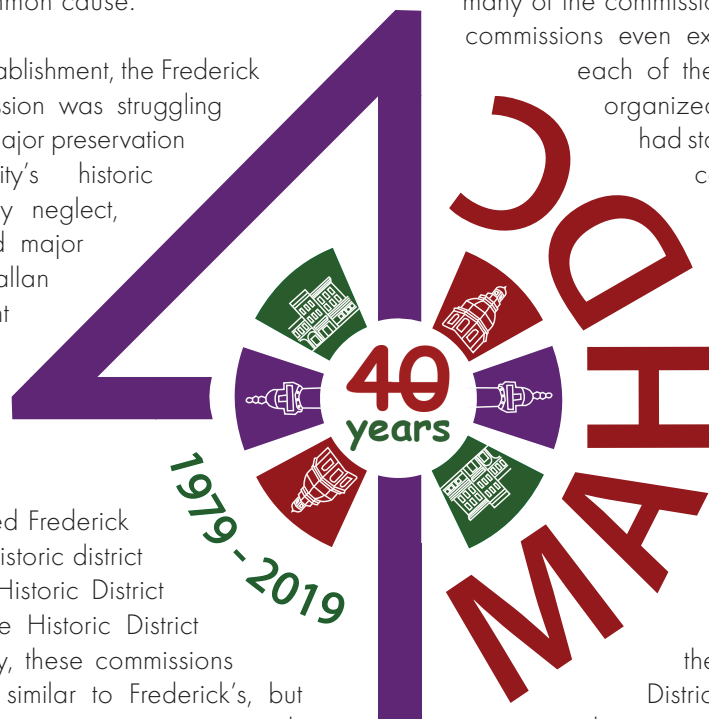
In 1979, 25 years after its establishment, the Frederick City Historic District Commission was struggling with how to address several major preservation issues plaguing the city's historic building stock—demolition by neglect, inappropriate additions, and major alterations. Chair Bernie Callan and Commission Consultant from the County Office of Historic Preservation, Cheryl Widell, decided for the first time to look beyond the city for some advice. First, they approached Frederick County's other two existing historic district commissions: New Market Historic District Commission and Burkettsville Historic District Commission. Not surprisingly, these commissions had preservation problems similar to Frederick's, but the commissions themselves were inconsistent in their approaches to addressing them. Callan and Widell broadened their search for other historic district commissions statewide, and discovered that virtually none of the identified commissions in Maryland communicated with each other. And, while most commissions had similar ordinances, none of them followed the same procedures or standard meeting protocols. In fact, there were no "standard" procedures until MAHDC established them.



With the support of the Maryland Historical Trust, the soon-to-be Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions founders approached the state's other commissions with the idea

of holding a gathering of commissions to exchange ideas and to discuss common needs, issues and problems. This first meeting was held in late 1979 and included representatives from 20 commissions from across Maryland from Salisbury to Cumberland to Port Deposit. Until this meeting, many of the commissions had no idea that other such commissions even existed. And yet, the actions of each of these commissions, most of them organized under State Code Article 66-B, had statewide implications on the other commissions. Any local historic district case could establish legal precedence for another locality. Many commissioners recognized the seriousness of the legal ramifications, and understood the need to educate the various commissions.

The Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions (MAHDC) was thus born. Attorney Jim Boss, then chairman of the Laurel Historic District Commission, drafted the legal language and charter establishing the statewide MAHDC organization.



A complete history will be available at the MAHDC 2019 Annual Symposium and Annual Meeting in Frederick, Maryland on Saturday, May 18, 2019. Please see <http://mahdc.org> for detailed information on the program and registration. ■

Source: <http://www.zoominfo.com/s/#!search/profile/company?companyId=66242659&targetid=profile>



Maryland Milestones / Anacostia Trails Heritage Area begins developing Prince George's County Civil Rights Trail

Maryland Milestones/ATHA, based in Hyattsville, MD, and serving as the technical and grants lead for the Prince George's County History Consortium, has received \$85,000 for the development of an innovative thematic trail for Prince George's County based on the history of Civil Rights struggle in the region. This funding is from the National Park Service and the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority. The National Park Service's African American Civil Rights Grant Program supports 20th century African American Civil Rights site identification and documentation. The Heritage Area Authority funding is for sites within the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area and will address a



wider range of civil rights issues as well as the development of a contextual essay series. The Prince George's County Civil Rights Trail project will interpret and educate the public about the history of African American Civil Rights in Prince George's County - the most affluent African American majority county in the nation. This will be achieved through the installation of at least fifteen interpretive signs, production of a printed brochure, and development of a website that will hold the full stories for those locations that have signs.

Additionally, this project will fund at least four educator workshops for museums and schools.

While this sort of program is not specifically focused on historic districts, Prince George's County has multiple historic districts based in African American established municipalities. North Brentwood and Fairmount Heights are both historic districts with strong African American legacies. Additionally, communities that have historic districts also were part of the Civil Rights struggle, such as Bowie and Laurel. Historic districts have stories of segregation, integration, and complex legacies. This project will not only tell the story, but will also work with historic districts to find better ways to capture the legacy in the design and landmarking of the community.



In this year's MAHDC symposium, Maryland Milestones Executive Director Aaron Marcavitch will moderate a session on "looking back" where historic districts go through a re-evaluation process to find the stories that might not have been told during the initial development of the district. The connection of the Civil Rights history to Prince George's County communities is an example of this re-evaluation and reconsideration of community history. ■

Maryland is fortunate to have 47 local Historic Preservation Commissions throughout the State. These Commissions are diverse in size, scale, and geographic area, and range from county-wide preservation programs to single closely-defined historic districts. Commission members are also diverse and range from specialized experts in various preservation fields to historic property owners and local historians. Whatever their background, Maryland Historic Preservation Commissioners are responsible for protecting the irreplaceable throughout the State and ensuring that these unique places are preserved for future generations.



In this issue, we have an opportunity to spotlight the **FREDERICK COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION** and to learn more about their unique activities and challenges from **Denis Superczynski, Principal Planner and staff liaison to the HPC**.

■ HOW MANY RESOURCES ARE LOCALLY DESIGNATED?

Our 13th County Register site was officially designated by our County Council this past week, on April 2nd. Our 14th site will likely be approved in June of this year. Since 2011, we have listed an average of one site per year, with an additional half-dozen that have been deemed eligible, but that have not ultimately moved forward to the County Council. In the 20 year history of the program, only one site has been deemed eligible and then denied by the legislative body (Trout Run/Richey Lodge on Catoctin Mountain near Thurmont).

■ WHEN WAS THE DISTRICT LOCALLY DESIGNATED?

The Frederick County Register of Historic Places (CR) was established in 1999 and is not a conventional historic 'district' per se. Although the sites and buildings that are listed on the CR are subject to oversight by our Historic Preservation Commission, the initial listing on the CR is voluntary. Our sites are scattered throughout the County and range in size from a few thousand square feet (Urbana's Smith Store) to 131 acres (Capt. Samuel Cock Farmstead near Mount Pleasant).

■ PLEASE PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF AN IMPORTANT OR REPRESENTATIVE LANDMARK THAT REPRESENTS YOUR COUNTY'S UNIQUE HISTORY?

This is like being asked to name your favorite child! But if I had to choose one place to represent the complex history of Frederick County, I would choose the village of Catoctin Furnace. In this place, the early industrial history of the nation merges with the larger historical and political events of the critical period between

the latter half of the 18th and the first half of the 20th centuries. But what makes this village, and its tangible historic and archaeological resources really come alive, are the stories of its founders, its residents, and its workers, including the enslaved community that brought the furnace to life. The icing on the cake, however, is the fact that the history of Catoctin Furnace is one that continues to be written by the people who have stood up to acknowledge and protect the place over the decades. The community collaboration has been spectacular, and the ability of the Catoctin Furnace Historical Society to build partnerships between government agencies, private landowners, research institutions, and engaged students, is nothing short of amazing. So, at the end of the day, Catoctin Furnace represents the very best of historic preservation in Frederick County, telling a complex story in a way that benefits even those who have never visited, by adding to the collective understanding of our own history. <https://catoctinfurnace.org/village/>



■ WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CHALLENGES FACING YOUR COUNTY?

There are three major challenges facing Frederick County's historic preservation program:

1) Geographic scale - As Maryland's largest county, the scale of Frederick County presents a significant challenge to those documenting and protecting historic and cultural resources. For example, the County has not updated its historic resource inventory in over a decade, leaving some parts of the jurisdiction under-surveyed. There are a few small areas for which no modern inventory has been completed, which is problematic when facing even modest development or redevelopment activity that has the potential to diminish or destroy resources and the knowledge they bring to us.

2) Staff support - The County has had to maintain a functional historic preservation program with a single staff person committing an average of 10 work hours a week to the tasks that were - prior to 2011 - handled by a full-time employee. Our County Executive, recognizing this gap in staffing, has authorized the hiring of a new, full-time historic preservation planner which will be filled this Spring. The challenge for the new person in that role, will be to quickly assess the program

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MILL POND HOUSE

..... *at Wormans Mill Community*

By Christina Martinkosky, Historic Preservation Planner, City of Frederick

Within the Wormans Mill community, located in the northern part of the City of Frederick, are the remnants of a structure that can be traced back to the earliest years of Colonial era development. In fact, the stone ruins known as the Mill Pond House may be the oldest known remains of a European-style dwelling in Frederick County. The building, which dates to the mid-eighteenth century, fronted the old Annapolis Road, which is no longer extant in the immediate area. The site is positioned along the Tuscarora Creek near its entry to the Monocacy River and is associated with a mill, which is now lost.

The surrounding development of Wormans Mill went through the Planning Commission review process during the 1990s. The remnants of the old dwelling were simply incorporated into a tract of land adjacent to the Tuscarora Creek that will be incorporated into the City's parkland system. Otherwise, there was no specific plan for the maintenance or preservation of the structure. At the time, the City lacked an archeological review ordinance, which was not enacted until 2006. The construction of new homes and associated building projects so close to the historic site undoubtedly impacted the building and any potential archeological information.

Still, nearby residents of the modern community are charmed by the rustic stone walls and ghosts of former windows and doors. A walking path is located adjacent to the ruins, so it is a well-known and much loved site. Although much of the wooden elements have been cleared away, the remaining stone walls and vaulted stone cellar offer tantalizing clues of era long past. The cellar is well preserved and spans the eastern half of the old structure. It still retains elements that that illustrate German building traditions. It includes a stone ventilation chute on the northern elevation and the interior stone walls have recessed niches for storage. The cellar, with its arched form, ventilation chute and niches can also be seen at Shifferstadt, considered one of America's finest examples of German colonial architecture.

Over the years residents began contacting City officials in the hope of saving the remaining features of the Mill Pond House. In response, the Historic Preservation Commission created the Mill Pond House Ruins Committee in 2017. This group, made up of concerned citizens and preservation professionals, was formed with the goal of obtaining grants to research, document, stabilize and interpret the site.

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Mill Pond House (Continued from page 6)

Last year, the City of Frederick obtained a grant from the Maryland Historical Trust to perform an archeological investigation. The goal of the investigation was to better understand the history of the site and to determine if it was eligible for the National Register of Historic Places for its archeological potential, which would make it a possible candidate for a capital grant from the Maryland Historical Trust.

Unfortunately, initial assessments of the yard surrounding the ruins appear to lack any archaeological features. There is also an absence of depositional integrity and meaningful material patterning that would make the site eligible for the National Register. This is a setback for the project and funding for future stabilization and interpretation efforts have not yet been identified.

Still, there is a lesson to be learned from the Mill Pond House, and there is value in the archeological work that has taken place. The recent development around the site, and the likely negative impact it had on the underground deposits, reinforces the importance of

an archeological review process before construction starts. In many ways, the recent efforts put forth by the Mill Pond House Committee and the City of Frederick is mitigating the lack of preservation planning in the 1990s. Still, there are successes with our recent work. A series of public events has produced

a good deal of interest in the Mill Pond House. These events include allowing the public controlled access to the site during fieldwork, a lecture series, and a documentary premier which has generated a greater appreciation for the site's colonial history. Just as important, the Mill Pond House has served as an opportunity for the public to learn about archeological principles and foster an appreciation for historic preservation planning. ■



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Frederick County Historic Preservation Commission

deficits and develop a prioritized work plan that will allow the county to 'play catch up'.

3) Telling Everyone's Story - With a broad range of historic and cultural resources representing the full span of American history in the region, Frederick County - not unlike other Maryland jurisdictions - must find creative and engaging ways to identify, acknowledge, and protect those historic, cultural, and archaeological resources that tell the multitude of stories of the people who live and work here. The county's African-American communities - and the historic resources that represent those experiences which helped to shape the county we know today - need particular attention. The stories behind these resources are often beautiful, and sometimes devastatingly tragic, but if we fail to tell ALL of our stories, we are leaving truth in the darkness which diminishes us all.



■ ARE YOU A CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT?

Yes, the County program is one of three Certified Local Governments in Frederick County. The preservation planners in the City of Frederick have been a great help over the years in

helping to bring CLG training events to the region and allowing county HPC commissioners to attend. Kudos to Lisa and Christina!

■ HOW CAN MAHDC BETTER SUPPORT YOUR EFFORTS?

Convenient and affordable CLG training opportunities for local commissioners would be at the top of the list of ways in which MAHDC can support its members. A combination of live events, streamed webinars, and core online curricula (perhaps with online testing as well) would make it easier, cheaper, and much more attractive to commissions in the state. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Denis Superczynski at DSuperczynski@frederickcountymd.gov.

If you have suggestions for additional HPC's to spotlight or useful question, please contact Cathy Thompson at thompsca@charlescountymd.gov.



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 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](#).



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