



Maryland's

HISTORIC DISTRICTS

A Publication of MAHDC: The Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions

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MAHDC is sad to announce the untimely passing of its founder, George Bernard (Bernie) Callan, Jr., age 88, in Frederick, Maryland on February 13, 2020.

<https://www.staufferfuneralhome.com/obituary/George-CallanJr>



TRIBUTE TO G. BERNARD CALLAN

by Cherilyn Widell
during the Frederick County Landmarks
Foundation Award Presentation On
November 7, 2019

It is said that an old soldier never dies, he just fades away. But I am quite sure that Bernie, you, will never fade away in the hearts and minds of the Frederick County Landmarks Foundation as the hero who has most protected the historic buildings of Frederick County!

When others have stood down after years of volunteer service you kept going in Frederick and served Maryland and this nation changing the field of historic preservation. You remind me a lot of the young Teddy Roosevelt, who, while serving as Assistant Secretary of the Navy, resigned to lead a small regiment, known as the Rough Riders into Cuba during the Spanish American War. And I do know, despite your calm demeanor, at times, it has indeed has been a rough ride.

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MAHDC 2020 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM SATURDAY • MAY 9, 2020

*Under and Over: Archaeology and
Cultural Landscapes*

Historic St. Mary's City Archaeology Lab in Historic St. Mary's City

Join us on Saturday, May 9th, on the campus of St. Mary's College of Maryland where we are gathering experts in the field to explore archaeology and cultural landscapes and their growing relevance to Maryland's Historic District Commissions. Attend a behind-the-scenes tour of the recently opened Historic St. Mary's City Archaeology Lab, learn practical tools from professionals, and hear of inspiring new projects now underway to identify and preserve diverse aspects of our built environments. *Detailed session descriptions and registration information to follow soon.*

REPORT: ON THE MAHDC 2019 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM ERUCC Conference Center • Frederick, Maryland



Historic Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ where the 2019 Annual Symposium was held in the new state-of-the-art conference center.

On Saturday, May 18, 2019, the Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions celebrated its fortieth anniversary during a combined Annual Symposium and Annual Meeting in Frederick. The theme of this year's symposium was *Looking Back - Looking Forward: Considering Maryland's Historic District Legacy and Future*. Nearly sixty attendees joined over a dozen presenters and exhibitors at the Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ (ERUCC) Conference Center to explore the challenges of incorporating new sites and their stories into revised interpretations of Maryland's historic districts and meeting the demands of a changing climate. The keynote speaker was Lisa Craig, a nationally-recognized expert on the potential impacts of climate change on the historic built environment, who formerly served as the historic preservation planner in Annapolis. Among the other presenters were Nicole Diehlmann, architectural historian with RK&K, Baltimore and former National Alliance of Preservation Commissions board member; Nell Ziehl, Chief of Planning, Education and Outreach, Maryland Historical Trust (MHT); Peter Kurtze, Specialist in Survey, Administer of Evaluation and Registration for the National Register at MHT; Sarah Rogers, Executive Director of Heritage Montgomery; Kimberly Golden



Keynote speaker, Lisa Craig.

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

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Tribute to G. Bernard Callan

There was that time in the late 1970's when you were Chairman and the town almost lost the Historic District Commission. It happened over a weekend. The grown children of an elderly couple, the Shenkles, who lived in a small two story brick row house on West Patrick Street wanted to surprise their parents with a special gift for their 50th Wedding Anniversary!

The gift they chose was to hire an aluminum siding salesman to cover the house on West Patrick Street in green vinyl siding "so their aging father would never have to get on a ladder to paint the place again." The work, nearly complete, having been done without a permit on a Sunday, landed the application and the elderly couple in front of the HDC. The hearing on the case, complete with a scene of Mr. Shenkle pounding a piece of vinyl siding on the table in front of the commission played out on the front row of all of the population of Frederick County, courtesy of talented reporter Craig Windom of WFMD and the Frederick News Post. After a raucous meeting, the Commission voted not to allow the siding to stay- the whole town was in an uproar!

The next day, an editorial in the Frederick News Post boldly announced that the Commission cared more about buildings than people and maybe should be dismantled. The future of the HDC looked dim. Bernie, ever the consummate politician kept uncharacteristically silent. Then, out of the blue within a few days, the Frederick County Realtors Association made an announcement. They stated that they considered the Frederick Historic District and the HDC to be a great asset to the community - after all the work of the HDC to protect historic buildings increased the value of the real estate and protected the town's history. They offered, at their expense, to remove the green vinyl siding from the Shenkles House, carefully remove the paint and repaint the brick front of the house at no cost to the elderly couple. The family accepted the Realtors' offer and the controversy subsided. The completed work is still visible on that house today! There has never been any doubt in my mind that it was Bernie's political know how and community largess that saved the day!

Though a leader in historic preservation, Bernie never let us forget that first and foremost he was a businessman and that Preservation was good business. One only needs to peer out the front door of this meeting place tonight down Market Street to see the results of that slogan. Through his testimony at every level of government and visits to countless cities and towns nationwide, one by one Bernie changed the way people looked at preservation from a hobby of the elite to a tool for the revitalization of our main streets way before the Main Street program even existed.

But if necessary, he has stood with the elite too. He testified before Committees in both the US Senate and House of Representatives. Bernie even appeared before the New York State Legislature, on the same roster with Jacqueline Kennedy, to testify against attempts to exclude religious properties such as St. Bartholomew's on Park Avenue in New York City from local landmark designation. Artfully he recited, from John Greenleaf Whittier's poem Barbara Fritchie, "Up from the meadows rich with corn, cool on a clear September morn, the clustered spires of Frederick stand, green walled by the hills of Maryland." Then he explained to the NY legislators that those clustered spires still stood today in part because of the work of the Frederick Historic District Commission.

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APPOINTMENT OF MAHDC BOARD MEMBER: **SHEILA BASHIRI** TO MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Maryland Association of Historic District Commissions Board Member and "City of Rockville Preservation Planner, Sheila Bashiri will serve as a trustee for Montgomery County on the 15-member board of the Maryland Historical Trust, a state agency committed to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past.

Bashiri was among 124 people nominated by Gov. Larry Hogan as "green bag" appointments to boards and commissions across the state, so named for the color of the satchel in which the names are traditionally presented for approval from the Senate Executive Nominations Committee.

"Marylanders deserve the most capable and dedicated representatives for these critically important positions, and we are extremely proud of the qualified individuals being submitted today," Hogan said in a press release." ■

READ THE REST OF THE ARTICLE HERE: <https://rockvillereports.com/bashiri-appointed-to-four-year-term-on-maryland-historical-trust/?fbclid=IwAR3XV3FQSLZ5PN-PzqSJDWqnHY0lbOZgW3vY0TBJ4soLMFMym8ftOefIVrs>



Breakout session with MAHDC Board Member Sheila Bashiri as moderator.

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Tribute to G. Bernard Callan



MAHDC Co-founders G. Bernard (Bernie) Callan and Cherylyn Widell with early board member Martha Graham and current board chair Fred Stachura.

business and preservation are not looked at as opposites but as partners in Frederick. And this has made Frederick one of the best revitalized main streets and dynamic historic districts in this country.

In 1910, about the time Bernie was born (ha,ha) our celebrated conservation president, Teddy Roosevelt who created the

In truth, Bernie Callan is one of the reasons Maryland's historic districts, from Cumberland to Berlin, have been so skilled at protecting this state's most special places, and why the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, which he founded, has become a primary force for historic preservation in the US. Because of Bernie,

Antiquities Act, the law which has protected National treasures from the Grand Canyon to Fort Monroe gave a most memorable speech. It was about the embodiment of the man in the arena which I believe perfectly captures George Bernie Callan: It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

Thank you Bernie for spending yourself in the worthy cause of preserving our beloved Frederick County landmarks.

No words can possibly capture our appreciation now or ever. ■



DOCUMENTING HISTORIC AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE *in Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven*

By Karen Mierow, AICP,
Maryland Capital Park and Planning Commission

Collage of images collected for African American heritage trail project. Credit: UMD Webpages

The historic Aquasco village area, near the southeast corner of Prince George's County, had a large population of enslaved persons before the Civil War. After emancipation, many remained in the area to work as tenant farmers. Near the southeast edge of the village, roads lead east to Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven on the Patuxent River, two settlements established as African American summer communities in the early twentieth century. Many African American families still farm the nearby land; however, there are few physical reminders of the considerable early black population of the area, and the public record is often incomplete.

Two projects sponsored by the Community Planning Division of the Prince George's Planning department and in collaboration with the University of Maryland seek to build a more complete narrative of historic African American life in the area.

The division's Planning Assistance to Municipalities and Communities (PAMC) program is supporting the Cedar Haven on the Patuxent Civic Association and the Town of Eagle Harbor's interest in developing heritage tourism models for the area. This program offers planning, design, technical, and financial assistance for planning-related projects to local municipalities and community organizations in response to requests for their revitalization efforts. This study will build on the existing inventory of cultural resources and undertake supporting documentation, and then compile an African American oral history of the area.



PALS team open house, 2016. Credit: UMD Webpages

Last Fall semester, graduate Architecture students from the University of Maryland's Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program created a navigable narrative of life and culture

for the Aquasco area. Students compiled an historic trail guide to follow the scenic/historic roadways Aquasco (MD-381), Eagle

Harbor, and Trueman Point Roads using existing documentation, supplemental oral histories, and supplemental research to detail the local history, culture, and cultural resources of the area. The class also created a trail map to identify important sites along the route, created design layouts for a series of trail markers depicting and interpreting various sites and resources along the trail. Students also created a script and a studio audio copy of a podcast to accompany the Trail for future use by cyclists and motorists.

The PALS program is administered by the National Center for Smart Growth at the University of Maryland. It is a campus-wide initiative that uses the talents of faculty and students to help Maryland communities



Exhibition table: African American Resources- Cultural and Heritage, a Frederick heritage organization.

become more environmentally, economically, and socially sustainable. Students benefit through the real-world application of course content and working with clients. The Prince George's County Planning department has partnered with the PALS program to develop the Heritage Trail course and six others during the Fall 2019- spring 2020 academic year; including community engagement for the flood-prone municipalities of East Riverdale and Beacon Heights through the School's Environmental Science and Policy Program, Tactical Urbanism projects, and a feasibility study for a vacant mall in Landover, Maryland. ■

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 expert on horticulture, invasive species, and bio-economics.



MAHDC Board Member Aaron Marcavitch, Session Moderator, with Presenters: Nicole Diehlmann, Sarah Hughes and Peter Kurtze.



Presentation of Citation from State Senator Ronald Young by his Chief of Staff during the Annual Meeting in the ERUCC Sanctuary.

During the morning session, participants were invited to re-examine the historical significance of several of Maryland's historic districts by local preservationists, who shared examples of how their community legacies were enriched by the addition of the stories of recently documented industrial and domestic structures. Nicole Diehlmann, architectural historian, RK & K Baltimore, presented findings on Hughesville's surviving tobacco warehouses and their role as remnants of the state's now vanished, loose leaf tobacco market. Sarah Hughes, Director, Heritage Montgomery, provided fresh insight into how the restoration of an African-American owned property in Montgomery County brought out significant, but overlooked, facets of the history of Poolesville. Peter Kurtze, Administrator, National Register Program, Office of Research, Survey and Registration, at MHT, discussed the challenges of documenting and preserving historically and architecturally significant properties. At the close of the session, participants had the opportunity for extended Q & A and the sharing of local experiences with the presenters and MAHDC board members in two lively break-out groups.



Nell Ziehl, Chief of Planning, Education and Outreach at MHT, moderated session on climate change in historic districts.

of Smart Growth Maryland, Preservation Maryland, and John Peter Thompson, horticulture expert with the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, joined Ms. Craig and Ms. Ziehl for a lively Q & A with the audience. Following the official closing of the 2019 symposium by Mr. Stachura, participants had the opportunity to participate in a tour of significant African-American sites in Frederick with the AARCH Society and visit the historic Trinity Chapel across the street from the ERUCC. ■



John Peter Thompson, expert on horticulture, invasive species and bio-economics.



Lunch by Renaissance Catering of Frederick in the main hall.



MAHDC Board President Fred Stachura welcoming 2019 Annual Symposium participants.



Fred and Elizabeth Hughes, Director, Maryland Historical Trust.

Following a delicious lunch, provided by Renaissance Caterers, and the cutting of a special anniversary cake, attendees gathered in the historic sanctuary to mark MAHDC's founding in Frederick in 1979. Frederick A. Stachura, MAHDC Board President, opened the Annual Meeting. After welcoming attendees and presenting the agenda, Fred presented the slate of board members that received unanimous approval. Next, he introduced Lara Roholt Westdorp, Chief of Staff of State Senator Ron Young, who presented a Certificate of Appreciation to MAHDC on behalf of the Senator, acknowledging the organization's role in preserving historic districts and their irreplaceable sites and cultural and natural landscapes around the state. Then Fred recognized Elizabeth Hughes, Director of the Maryland Historical Trust and State Historic Preservation Officer, and presented her with a Certificate of Appreciation from MAHDC for MHT's ongoing support, especially that of Nell Ziehl, Chief of Planning, Education and Outreach, and Suzanne Mbollo, Grants Manager. Next, Fred introduced Bernie Callan and Cherylyn Widell, MAHDC co-founders; Martha Graham, a member of the first board of directors; and two past MAHDC Executive Directors, Lisa Wingate (1995-2005) and Melanie Lytle (2013-2018) and presented each with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting, the symposium program resumed with an afternoon session on climate change and historic preservation. Noted preservationist and climate change expert, Lisa Craig gave the keynote speech on the critical issues currently facing historic districts in Maryland due to the impact of a changing climate. Ms. Craig's informative talk was followed by panel discussion led by Nell Ziehl. After individual presentations, Kimberly Golden Brandt, Director

UPCOMING MAHDC EVENTS CALENDAR



ALL EVENTS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

We will keep you informed on any future dates, details and announcements.

- **MAHDC 2020 ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM / ST. MARY'S COLLEGE OF MARYLAND, LEONARDSTOWN, MD • MAY 9, 2020**

- **THE ROCKVILLE-GAITHERSBURG MAHDC TRAINING ON SUSTAINABILITY APRIL 2, 2020 • 7 P.M.**

To be held in the Gaithersburg Council Chambers at 31 S. Summit Avenue. Contact Sheila Bashiri at sbashiri@rockvillemd.gov or Chris Berger at Chris.Berger@gaiithersburgmd.gov for information.

- **VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE FORUM 2020 / SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS • MAY 6-9, 2020**

Message from Claire W. Dempsey, VAF President, dated March 13:

"The VAF Executive Committee and the Conference Planning Committee have decided to **postpone** our San Antonio Conference, originally scheduled for May 6th through 9th, 2020. We are of course very sad to have to do this and want to be sure that Brent Fortenberry, Ken Hafertepe, Clifton Ellis, and all those who have worked so hard on this conference, know how appreciative we are.

We are at work investigating our options for rescheduling the event for a future year and for rethinking our paper and poster sessions. We will also arrange for mail-in and/or electronic voting for our annual meeting. We will of course be refunding **all conference registration payments**, with no administration fee. We encourage you to cancel your hotel reservations. Paper and poster presenters, ambassador advisors, and award winners will be contacted individually to work out the details of their outlay and reimbursement. We will keep you informed as our plans unfold. We are confident that the VAF will pull together during this difficult time and look forward to seeing you at our next gathering." www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org

- **NAPC FORUM 2020: PRESERVATION COAST TO COAST / TACOMA, WASHINGTON JULY 22-26, 2020**

From the NAPC Board and Staff, dated March 12:

"The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) has been closely monitoring the outbreak of the respiratory disease COVID-19. As the organizer of FORUM 2020, our national conference scheduled to be held in Tacoma, Washington, July 22-26, 2020, and a provider of on-site training through our Commission Assistance Mentoring Program (CAMP), we wanted to offer an update on the status of these trainings and address concerns and possible impacts. Above all else, we prioritize the safety and welfare of our members, CAMP and FORUM attendees, CAMP trainers and staff. This is a rapidly evolving situation, and as we have all come to learn, changes dramatically day-by-day.

Given the fact that FORUM is more than four months away, we are moving forward as planned with the expectation of an on-site conference. We hope that you will continue to keep FORUM on your calendars and travel plans in the event that the outbreak is curtailed, and we can enjoy each other's company and exchange ideas in Tacoma as planned.

Of course, there are many unknowns in this uncharted territory for all of us, so we are reviewing our cancellation policies and procedures to address the current climate. We're also exploring alternative platforms and delivery methods in the event that the outbreak of COVID-19 continues through the spring and summer. The health and welfare of our attendees, speakers and partners is our highest priority." <https://napcommissions.org/>

2020 MAHDC TRAINING PROGRAM: Reserve your dates now for MAHDC courses on design review, law and procedures, sustainability, etc. for Historic District Commissioners, CLG staff and preservation partners. Information about the courses is available on the MAHDC website: www.mahdc.org.

CONTACT: LESLIE GOTTERT, MAHDC Executive Director
at DIRECTOR@MAHDC.ORG to schedule a program.

UPDATE ON THE CLG EDUCATION & TRAINING GRANT: Current CLG Education and Training Grant funding allocations for FFY 2019 need to be used and/or programmed and pre-paid by June 30, 2020. The funds may be used for MAHDC courses and attendance at preservation training programs and conferences. For details, please check the links in the Events Calendar.



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