



## **Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources**

*Background Report*





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## Introduction

**Historic Preservation (noun):** Preserving, conserving and protecting buildings, objects, landscapes, sites, and artifacts of historical significance.

It is a short, simple definition, yet when applied to local land use and planning, many questions arise.

- What are historic resources, and why do they deserve to be preserved?
- Who makes the determination that something has historical significance?
- How can this be accomplished in a predictable, orderly way, without denying all reasonable use or creating an undue hardship on the private property owner?
- What can the County Office of Planning & Zoning do to protect our cultural heritage?

As one of the oldest counties in the United States, Anne Arundel County has a rich history that is locally, regionally, and nationally important. These local stories make Anne Arundel County the special place it is, and our history is experienced through a myriad of cultural resources including historic buildings, archaeological sites, family cemeteries, sacred sites, cultural landscapes, museums, and heritage tourism destinations. While diverse in form, type and age, these cultural resources represent a collection of invaluable and irreplaceable historic antiquities that give physical form and meaning to the County's rich heritage.

### *Why Does Historic Preservation Matter?*

Beyond the intrinsic value many citizens place on historic places, preserving the places and things that reflect and form a community's character can have beneficial effects socially, culturally, and economically. Preserving relics of the diverse archaeological and architectural past reinforces the County's identity and benefits its communities and residents through both civic pride and a sense of place. Current devotion to protecting the bounty of the Bay connects us to our predecessors. Native Americans lived in prehistoric campsites a thousand years ago, where they shucked oysters. A poor waterman's family lived in a simple 19th century cottage in Shady Side, where he scraped his living from the Bay, and shipped our world-famous oysters and crabs across the Country. Townspeople and planters in the 17th and 18th centuries built

### The Anne Arundel County Inventory of Historic Resources:

*"Properties listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, the National Register of Historic Places or the National Register of Historic Landmarks. Historic resources consist of properties, buildings, structures, districts, and archaeological sites that represent County history, that are associated with the lives of historically significant persons, that have historically significant architectural value, or that are capable of yielding information important to the County's history or prehistory."*

*Anne Arundel County Code  
(§ 17-1-101(17))*

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### By the Numbers:

*Resources protected throughout the County include:*

- *The County Inventory of Historic Resources*
  - *600 structures (excluding City of Annapolis, Federal and State properties)*
  - *57 properties on the National Register of Historic Places*
  - *3 National Historic Landmarks*
  - *4 National Register Historic Districts*
- *1,628 archaeological sites*
- *648 cemeteries*
- *153 Scenic & Historic Roads*

their fortunes at London Town, a colonial seaport that once connected Anne Arundel County to the world stage and transatlantic economy.

Historic sites help citizens of the County, both the ‘old-timers’ and new arrivals, develop a deeper understanding of physical, cultural, and ecological heritage of the County. Preservation of historic and natural resources draws people here to explore and learn about the past (while spending their money in the County). It is one of the strongest tools available to assist in smart growth redevelopment, affordable housing, and green infrastructure. Rehabilitation of historic structures fosters economic development by creating jobs for local labor and by enhancing the tax base with improved properties. Investing in historic neighborhoods and managing the kind of development that occurs within them reinforces the authentic places that locals and visitors seek, leveraging a “sense of place” as an economic asset to promote a high quality of life. Preserving and repurposing old buildings is environmentally sensitive because it reduces demolition waste sent to landfills, maximizes the use of existing infrastructure serving established neighborhoods, and thus conserves undeveloped land. Rehabilitated properties improve property values in the surrounding area and spur other private sector investments.

The State Land Use Code recognizes historic preservation as “...a public purpose in the State to preserve sites, structures, and districts of historical, archaeological, or architectural significance and their appurtenances and environmental settings” (MD Land Use Code § 8-102 (2016)). The Code also authorizes local government (see MD Land Use Code § 8-104 (2016)) to establish historic preservation programs and adopt laws to achieve the following:

1. safeguard the heritage of the local jurisdiction by preserving sites, structures, or districts that reflect elements of cultural, social, economic, political, archaeological, or architectural history;
2. stabilize and improve the property values of those sites, structures, or districts;
3. foster civic beauty;
4. strengthen the local economy; and
5. promote the preservation and appreciation of those sites, structures, and districts for the education and welfare of the residents of each local jurisdiction.

Anecdotal evidence abounds as to the benefits and value placed on historic preservation by citizens. Before the 1960s, Annapolis was a backwater, in financial decline, with a deteriorating building stock. Its historic district, established in 1969, is now an economic and tourism engine for the entire DC-Baltimore region. On a smaller scale, County citizens have banded together in Woodwardville, Owensville-Sudley, Linthicum Heights and Davidsonville, spending their own time and money hiring consultants to establish National Register-listed historic districts in Anne Arundel County.

In recent public outreach for Plan2040, the update to the County’s General Development Plan (GDP), citizens across the County expressed strong support for “preserving the character of established communities” and maintaining the “historic and archaeological heritage of the County.” Numerous open-ended comments expressed appreciation for and a desire to preserve and enhance historic areas and the history of the area. On behalf of the citizens of the County, the Cultural Resources Section strives to preserve and protect irreplaceable historic resources and to raise awareness of our collective heritage. Once an historic house is demolished, or a 2,000 year old Native American village site is bulldozed away, that history is lost forever.

## The Cultural Resources Section of Planning and Zoning

The Cultural Resources Section (CRS) in the Office of Planning & Zoning (OPZ) is charged with protecting Anne Arundel County's historic sites, buildings, districts, archaeological sites, cemeteries, and landscapes. In the early 1980s, the County was awarded State funding to explore and implement a local historic preservation program. With that funding, the County developed an up-to-date and comprehensive inventory of the County's historic properties and a local regulatory framework for helping preserve the County's historic assets. Hundreds of previously undocumented historic resources were systematically surveyed, documented, and recorded on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties. This work also resulted in the 1990 publication of a book titled "*Anne Arundel's Legacy: The Historic Properties of Anne Arundel County*" by Donna Ware, who spearheaded this work as the County's historic sites planner. Most importantly, the work ultimately established the Cultural Resources Section of OPZ, and launched the first codified protections for historic resources.

The CRS program evolved over the 1990s to include expansive citizen and student participation, public outreach, and educational components, with an initial focus on the archaeological discovery of Providence (1649), the County's first European settlement, and the rediscovery of a long lost colonial seaport at Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater. This effort to ensure local history was made available to the general public and shared with County citizens and school children was intended as a tool to enhance local appreciation and stewardship of irreplaceable historic resources. Public engagement remains a core principle of the CRS program today.

The Maryland Land Use Code (Md. LAND USE Code Ann. § 8-205) recognizes that it is a public purpose in the State to preserve sites, structures, and districts of historical, archaeological, or architectural significance and their appurtenances and environmental settings. The County Code authorizes the review of development activities to address and, when possible, mitigate or avoid adverse effects on resources that are determined to be locally significant and where preservation is feasible. Many of the County's locally significant sites have already been identified and are listed on the state-maintained Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) and the Maryland Archaeological Site Survey (MASS). Collectively, they comprise the County's Inventory of Historic Resources. There are historic sites that have not yet been recorded with the State, but the Code requires that even previously unrecorded historic resources be identified as part of the development process.

In 2005, the current historic preservation requirements were codified primarily under Articles 17 and 18. In brief, the current Code requires that historic resources be identified when development is proposed, and if after careful study and evaluation by professional staff, the Planning and Zoning Officer finds the resource is important and can feasibly be retained and preserved, the historic asset is protected and incorporated into the new development or plans. Under Article 15, historic resources listed on the MIHP need to be evaluated by the County Preservation Staff before they can be demolished. CRS staff, on a case-by-case basis, researches the property and makes formal recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Officer based on nationally accepted preservation standards. As with the normal development review process under Article 17, if the Planning and Zoning Officer finds the resource to be historically significant and to retain structural integrity, it must be retained, though rehabilitation and additions may be allowed. In many ways, this approach mimics the federal standard set by the National Historic Preservation Act and its Section 106 process.

The Planning and Zoning Officer has the final determination as to whether or not resources are historically significant, whether it is feasible to retain and preserve the resource, and how the developer can mitigate adverse impacts to the Inventory resource as per the criteria set forth in Article 17, Section 501-504 of the County Code. In many other local jurisdictions, this process is undertaken by a citizen-based and politically appointed Historic Preservation Commission as authorized by enabling legislation found in the MD Land Use Code (see Md. LAND USE Code Ann. § 8-205).

While the regulatory framework described above comprises the bulk of the codified mandate, the CRS has developed several other important components over the last twenty years.

### *Technical Support for County Agencies; Liaison to State and Federal Preservation Offices*

The CRS is recognized as the Countywide technical expert on managing and rehabilitating historic buildings and sites that are owned or managed by the County. In recent years, the Section has established strong inter-agency relationships and closely coordinated historic preservation issues with other County Agencies and departments such as the Department of Public Works, the Watershed Management Program, Recreation and Parks, and the Real Estate Division. CRS staff supports County agencies with State or Federally-mandated preservation permits, reviews and easement compliance, ensuring that County agencies are complying with applicable laws and best practices, and that they are setting the best example possible for responsible stewardship of historic assets.

In addition, CRS often provides comments to the State Historic Preservation Office as a consulting party under the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, which is activated when large State or Federally funded public works projects or transportation improvements may have an adverse effect on the County's historic assets.

### *Incentives: Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program*

In 2016, the County approved the Historic Preservation Tax Credit (see County Code § 4-2-311). This program offers private property owners substantial financial incentives to preserve their historic buildings and implements a goal of the 2009 GDP to “protect and preserve the historic and archaeological heritage of the County.” The tax credit program provides a substantial property tax credit if a property owner undertakes rehabilitation using the Secretary of Interior Standards and Guidelines for Rehabilitation, a nationally-accepted guidebook for responsible preservation, thereby encouraging homeowners to retain original materials or to prioritize a more expensive or time-consuming preservation method in their rehabilitation project.

The CRS also assists private property owners in identifying State or Federal programs that can support their efforts to preserve historic resources. These include state and federal tax credits to offset costs for rehabilitation, as well as tax deductions for property (such as an archaeological site) placed under protective



Friendship Parsonage used the County's Historic Preservation Tax Credit to repair siding on the 1825 structure.



easement with a certified easement holding organization, such as the County, or the Maryland Environmental Trust, the Severn River Land Trust, and the Archaeology Conservancy.

### *Anne Arundel County's Archaeological and Curation Facilities*

The County's archaeological research program is nationally known and regionally respected as an authority on archaeological research and interpretation. As a part of that three decade initiative, the County maintains archaeological laboratory and curation facilities, which the CRS manages using consultants. Those facilities, located at Historic London Town in Edgewater, include a 1,200 square-foot professional laboratory that is open to the public four days per week and a 500 square-foot environmentally-stable storage unit. The County Laboratory serves as "home base" for a robust archaeology and heritage public outreach program, which includes regular workshops, lectures and hands-on experiences for citizens and visitors to the County. The CRS also manages and maintains a larger storage facility located in Glen Burnie, which houses about 65% of the 6.1 million artifacts that the County owns and curates.

When archaeological sites are excavated as a requirement of site development, CRS requires that the artifacts and related field notes and photographs be donated to the County, thus preserving the sites in perpetuity. The County makes these artifacts available to researchers and the public for analysis that gathers information about the past.

### *Public Outreach and Education*

In 1997, CRS archaeologists began a formalized research and public education partnership with the London Town Foundation, a non-profit that manages the County-owned Historic London Town and Gardens in Edgewater. The CRS Archaeology Lab shares artifacts and archaeological discoveries through public displays and exhibits, making the site a premier heritage tourism attraction for the County, with its interpretive foundation based on the 20-plus years of public archaeology programming implemented by CRS staff and consultants. While it maintains the permanent archaeological exhibit located at Historic London Towns and Gardens, the CRS regularly develops smaller traveling museum exhibitions using the County's artifacts, taking artifacts to share with local affinity groups throughout the County, including heritage societies, local community associations, and school groups. Over the last twenty years, tens of thousands of schoolchildren, citizens, and visitors have assisted professional archaeologists working to rediscover the forgotten colonial seaport of London Town, with almost every fourth and fifth grader in the County's public school system participating in CRS-managed "hands-on" dig program. This archaeological research has resulted in the accurate reconstruction of buildings from the town's colonial era, with stories learned through this public archaeology effort told by costumed interpreters.



The c. 1760 William Brown House, centerpiece of the 23-acre Historic London Town and Gardens.

This model for archaeological research and public engagement has been incorporated at other County parks and has helped to salvage historically significant archaeological resources on private lands that could not be protected by regulatory action. The CRS has developed a robust cooperative program in recent years with the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, which happens to hold a complex of dozens of Native American camp sites, villages and sacred spaces, some dating to 10,000 years ago. In cooperation with the Jug Bay staff, the Friends of Jug Bay non-profit and other affinity groups, it promises to reveal many secrets about the County's prehistory. Similar programs could be initiated at places like Rockhold Creek Park in Sudley, Wilson Park in Galesville, Fort Smallwood Park (which has four historically significant archaeological sites), Kinder Farm and Bacon Ridge Natural Area, both of which hold numerous prehistoric and historic sites of public interest, and of course sites such as Hancock's Resolution. With increased coordination, partnership, and staffing under the Department of Recreation and Parks, all of these County-owned sites could offer heritage-based programs for the public.



A sampling of artifacts uncovered from Fort Smallwood archaeological sites.

Salvage excavations on private lands, conducted when regulatory action cannot adequately protect archaeological assets during development, also has resulted in regionally and nationally significant discoveries, such as a Native American burial complex dating to 300BC to 300AD, the ancestral 17th century home site of former Vice-President Dick Cheney, and eight sites in the 1649 settlement of Providence (the predecessor to our Capital City).

The CRS also offers an exceptional academic internship program which assists the three-person staff in managing and running the County Archaeological and Curation Facility. CRS hosts between ten and twenty college and post-graduate interns to work with the County collections and publishes information from their discoveries. Additionally, an average of 75 individual volunteers donate thousands of hours each year in support of the County archaeological programs.

### *Support for Non-Profits and Affinity Heritage Preservation Organizations*

There are over forty individual heritage societies, historic house museums and community organizations in the County that, at least in part, work to protect historic resources. The CRS assists them in many ways, from offering technical advice on maintaining or restoring buildings, to providing advice on interpretation, to assisting them with identifying and applying for grant funding to support their heritage preservation missions.

Below is a brief list of some of the more active heritage organizations in the County that have had broad impacts across the County supporting the efforts of the CRS.

- The Four Rivers Heritage Area ([www.fourriversheritage.org](http://www.fourriversheritage.org))

The Annapolis, London Town and South County Heritage Area, Inc. (ALTSCHA, Inc.), known as the Four Rivers Heritage Area, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is one of Maryland's 13 certified heritage areas. Four Rivers is a partnership among the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, Anne Arundel County, the City of Annapolis, the Town of Highland Beach, and heritage-related organizations and businesses. Their mission is to protect and strengthen the natural, historic, and cultural resources of the heritage area, to nurture their discovery through educational and recreational experiences for visitors and residents, and to promote the region's rich legacy. As an economic development tool, Four Rivers develops and supports activities and projects that enhance heritage tourism, a growing segment of the lucrative tourism industry. Four Rivers receives funding and support from the County annually, and the group serves as an advocate and voice to help promote heritage preservation initiatives across the County. The CRS manages their annual grant from the County and serves as an advisor to them on their Coordinating Council.

- The Ann Arrundell County Historical Society ([www.aachs.org](http://www.aachs.org))

For over 50 years the Ann Arrundell County Historical Society has continued to pursue its mission of collecting, preserving and sharing its collections of books, photographs, documents, and artifacts on the rich history of this area. The society is custodian of the historic Benson-Hammond House, built in circa 1820. It is on the National Registry of Historic Places and is the last standing farmhouse on the large tract of land that became Baltimore-Washington International Airport. The rooms of the house display antique artifacts of farm life, furniture, textiles, and more.

- The Anne Arundel County Trust for Preservation, Inc. ([www.annearundeltrust.org](http://www.annearundeltrust.org))

The Anne Arundel County Trust (ACT) for Preservation, Inc. was formed in 1973 with a purpose to "preserve and maintain historical, aesthetic and cultural properties, buildings, fixtures, furnishing, and appurtenances pertaining in any way to the Province of Maryland from our earliest times." The nonprofit's volunteers help foster an awareness of historical and archaeological preservation, easements, National Register nominations, and public education throughout the County. ACT co-sponsors an annual lecture series on historic preservation related topics at St. John's College and awards matching grants for preservation activities in the County.

- The Lost Towns Project, Inc. ([www.losttownsproject.org](http://www.losttownsproject.org))

The mission of the nonprofit Lost Towns Project is to support the work of academics, professionals, and students in the preservation, academic study, and stewardship of public and privately-owned cultural resources, historic structures, and archaeological sites in the County, State, and the Mid-Atlantic region. In cooperation with the CRS, this organization has helped support dozens of archeological research projects by sponsoring research grants and funding scholars to assist the County when public funding was not available.

- The Arts Council of Anne Arundel County Foundation ([www.acaac.org](http://www.acaac.org))

The mission of the Arts Council mission is to encourage and invest in the visual arts, performing arts and historic preservation for the people of Anne Arundel County. They are a premier resource

supporting the cultural arts community. Through leadership in advocacy, funding, programming and promotions, the Council helps create a vibrant cultural arts community that enriches the quality of life for every County resident. A substantial part of the Arts Council grant program directly benefits historic preservation initiatives and heritage organizations.

Below are other site or community specific heritage groups or organizations that CRS has worked with over the years and who serve as stewards of the County’s important historic sites and districts.

Advocates for Herring Bay	Friends of Kinder Farm	North Arundel Cultural Preservation Society
Anne Arundel County Free School	Friends of Linthicum Walks	Odenton Heritage Society
Anne Arundel Historical Society Cemetery Inscription Committee	Galesville Community Center	Ralph Bunche School/ Mill Swamp
Archaeological Society of Maryland/ Anne Arundel Chapter	Galesville Heritage Society	Rockbridge Academy (Belvoir Plantation)
Arnold Preservation Trust	Generals Highway Community Organizations	Severn Crossroads
Banneker Douglass Museum	Gibson Island Historical Society	Severn River Association
Capt. Salem Avery House	Glen Burnie Improvement Association	Severn River Land Trust
Columbia Beach Improvement Association	Goshen Farm Preservation Society	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center
DAR/ Rising Sun Inn	Growth Action Network	South River Federation
Davidsonville Civic Association	Highland Beach	Spriggs Farm Preservation Society
Deale Area Heritage Society	Keuthe Library	West River Improvement Association
Friends of Downs Park	Linthicum Shipley Improvement Association	West/Rhode River Keeper
Friends of Hancock’s Resolution	Londontown Foundation	Woodwardville Historical Society
Friends of Jug Bay	Magothy River Association	

## What Are Historic Resources and How Does the County Protect Them?

The County Code defines historic resources as “.....*properties, buildings, structures, districts, and archaeological sites that represent County history, that are associated with the lives of historically significant persons, that have historically significant architectural value, or that are capable of yielding information important to the County’s history or prehistory*” (§ 17-1-101(17)). This definition also calls out any properties already listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, the National Register of Historic Places, or the National Historic Landmarks as part of the County Inventory of Historic Properties. The Code has provisions for protecting historic structures, archaeological sites, historic cemeteries, and scenic and historic roads that are determined by the Planning and Zoning Officer to be significant to the County history or prehistory.

Listing on the County Inventory or the MIHP does not unilaterally mandate retention or preservation, but it triggers the County’s formal assessment and a determination by the Planning and Zoning Officer of the significance of historic properties, which may require preservation action. In these cases, preservation is often accomplished by a combination of sensitive planning and design of development. If there is historic, physical or cartographic evidence that a historic resource meeting the definition under Article 17 is likely present on the subject property, it does not have to be previously identified on the MIHP or MASS to prompt the County’s assessment. For highly significant resources, a protective easement is placed on the site to protect it in perpetuity.

In addition to protecting the buildings and structures, and some archaeological assets listed on the MIHP and the MASS, the CRS maintains a database of more than 600 documented, known and reported historic or family cemeteries for protection. Also, the Scenic and Historic Roads program, established in 1985, regulates development along designated roads and thoroughfares that retain the historic character of different parts of the County (see Article 3, Title 10 of the County Code).

Resource identification is an ongoing process, and our communities’ appreciation and recognition of historic sites are ever-evolving and can change as generations pass. Buildings or sites overlooked previously may well meet the professional standards for being considered historic by current perspectives. Today, history is more inclusive than previous interpretations, seeking to represent a broader understanding of our past from the perspective of all walks of life. Historic sites representative of the common man’s experiences, women’s history, and African-American heritage are a few historical themes felt by some to have been under-represented by historic preservation in the past. Historic preservation efforts are recognizing that historic places must include sites, buildings and special spaces that reflect our collective heritage.

## Determining Historic Significance

Once historic resources are identified, the next step in the process is to determine if they are historically valuable and in a condition that makes them worthy of preservation. To objectively make that determination and, in turn, recommend preservation to the Planning and Zoning Officer, CRS staff researches, studies, and evaluates each historic resource for its historic significance and its value and importance to the County’s history or prehistory. Assessing the significance of historic resources is an objective process based upon the nationally accepted “National Register of Historic Places” criteria for evaluation, established by the United States Department of the Interior. These Federal criteria are adapted locally to evaluate the local significance of historic resources. The following four criteria are

used to determine whether a historic resource might be considered locally significant to Anne Arundel County.

1. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of County history;
2. It is associated with the life of a significant person(s);
3. The building or site embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; and/or
4. The site has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or pre-history.

### *Evaluating the Integrity of an Historic Resource*

To warrant protections under the County Code, a property must not only be shown to be historically significant under one or more of the criteria noted above, but must also retain integrity, or the ability of a property to convey its significance. This is expressed in County Code §17-6-501(a) which requires that “... the Planning and Zoning Officer shall evaluate and determine the extent to which each historic resource can be retained and preserved based on whether the historic resource retains its structural and historic integrity and can still convey historic significance.” The professional staff and consultants within CRS rely upon the industry standards to make recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Officer, evaluating each historic resource based on the following seven aspects of integrity:

- Location
- Design
- Setting
- Materials
- Workmanship
- Feeling
- Association

Evaluating and balancing the seven aspects of integrity is grounded in an understanding of a property’s physical features and how they relate to its significance. Historic resources must retain a preponderance of the seven aspects of integrity for it to convey its significance. (For a more detailed discussion of how to assess and evaluate these criteria and integrity, see National Register Bulletin 15 at [www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15)). Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is historically significant, and this interpretation of what is historically important evolves over time.

### *Historic Contexts: Temporal and Thematic Heritage Themes*

In order to fully understand and explain a resource’s historic significance, to assess its physical integrity, and fully understand how it contributes to Anne Arundel County’s history, it is important to understand local historical contexts – the temporal and thematic patterns or trends that have driven, informed and influenced Anne Arundel County history—and present. Since the last General Development Plan was adopted in 2009, the CRS has recognized a need to better identify, develop,

and share the County's significant heritage themes, in order to provide an improved framework for evaluating the significance of historic resources in the County. In October 2017, CRS was awarded a State Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant to begin a comprehensive review and development of the historic contexts and heritage themes relative to Anne Arundel County. Placing resources in a well-defined historic context will better enable CRS to make timely and justifiable determinations and recommendations to the Planning and Zoning Officer, and will ideally make the evaluation process more transparent for property owners, the public, developers, consultants, citizens, and even other agencies within County government.

Anne Arundel County's historic narrative can be told both thematically and temporally. Rather than provide an entire local history narrative, CRS has begun developing a historic context timeline that summarizes the County's history chronologically, beginning with early Native American archaeological sites some 13,000 years ago. Along that temporal presentation, major historic events and themes (major wars, world events, technological advances, and key changes of political leadership) will be integrated to contextualize the broad shifts in our County's historical trajectory. For example, the modern day land use divide in the County - the northern area being more heavily and densely developed while "South County" is rural - is a settlement pattern that was set by the time of the Revolutionary War. With the influence of the Port of Baltimore and industrial sites such as the Curtis Creek Iron Furnace, and their need for workers, denser development in the north of the County was inevitable, setting a trend that not only continues today, but is a pattern of physical development that the citizens of the County passionately protect. As the CRS develops this historic context project, extant historic buildings, sites, and places will be embedded in this timeline to provide examples of the historic resources that are important to the County's history and prehistory and how the past has shaped the County physically, socially, and culturally. Having a firm understanding of those patterns and influences is paramount in making development decisions today.

Following best preservation practices, thematic studies are used as a tool to understand our local history and to place sites, events, and people (i.e. historic resources) in their historical contexts so they can be objectively evaluated for their significance and contribution to County history. Moreover, placing these resources in defined historic contexts will help the County protect these resources from adverse impacts, and will better communicate to developers, consultants, citizens, and even other agencies within County government why certain sites are significant to the collective heritage of Anne Arundel County and worthy of preservation.

## **Assessment of Cultural Resources Section Programs since the last GDP**

Chapter 4: Community Preservation and Enhancement, of the 2009 GDP stated a goal "To protect and preserve the historic and archaeological heritage of the County." Four policies were proposed to achieve this goal:

1. Develop stronger incentives to encourage preservation, and stronger deterrents to prevent destruction of historic resources;
2. Strengthen land use policies and regulations for cultural resources protection;
3. Improve interagency coordination to enhance historic preservation efforts, and;

4. Enhance public education and community outreach efforts to promote historic preservation and stewardship.

Further detail regarding the status of these recommendations can be found in the background report for the 2009 GDP Implementation Report located at [www.aacounty.org/Plan2040](http://www.aacounty.org/Plan2040).

A major milestone for the CRS under the previous GDP was passage of the Historic Preservation Tax Credit in 2016, a program that has been utilized by several property owners already. While no other legislative changes have been passed to offer stronger deterrents, internal discussions are underway on possible methods and examples could establish meaningful deterrents to demolition by neglect and willful destruction of historic resources. This will be discussed in more detail in the following section that details ideas for strengthening the CRS program.

CRS has implemented internal systems, tools, and policies within OPZ that have effectively strengthened and standardized review of cultural resources and improved internal communication and coordination. CRS has compiled and published, both online and in interactive map form, a tool for all County reviewers, developers and property owners to determine if there are previously identified historic resources on their land. Ongoing efforts seek to improve opportunities for CRS to review grading and building permits for potential impacts to archaeological sites and other historic resources.

Additional progress has been made in interagency coordination. Recreation and Parks, as the public steward of large swaths of public lands is responsible for protecting more than two dozen historic buildings, along with over 150 archaeological resources and historic cemeteries. Similarly, the Department of Public Works, in its role overseeing and managing major capital projects, often interacts with countless historic resources. CRS provides technical advice as needed, since neither of these Departments has a qualified historic preservation professional on their staff. The recent implementation of a new system for coordination of Capital Project reviews and comments will enhance the ability for CRS to assist other County agencies in the future.

CRS public outreach and education efforts have maintained and expanded a robust program that brings history to citizens, students, and heritage tourists across the County. Standing programs include regular workshops in archaeology and history, hands on field experience at archaeological sites on County land, partnerships with local schools, such as the annual STEM field trip in archaeological science with Central Middle School students, and regular public lectures and presentations to community groups across the County. Between staff and consultants, CRS presented nearly fifty public presentations just last year.

In all, the CRS has effectively achieved the goal stated in the 2009 GDP and implemented nearly all of the policies in that document. While much progress has been made, CRS seeks to further improve, streamline and enhance its program over the next decade, making it more accessible and transparent for citizens interested in our heritage, and for property owners seeking permits.



## Future Considerations for Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources

A 2015 internal review of the CRS systems, policies, and operating regulations considered the strengths and weaknesses in both regulatory and management aspects of the CRS program. That assessment identifies areas of challenge and potential opportunities for improving the outcome of CRS work. Highlights from this review include the following:

- While there is generally broad support among citizens and policymakers for preservation activities, there is some misunderstanding about the County’s preservation requirements, which highlight the need for enhanced transparency of the County’s historic preservation policies, regulations, and processes and more agreement on what constitutes a historic resource.
- Current Code does provide tools that have proven moderately effective in protecting historic sites. The County’s Scenic and Historic Roads and Archaeological programs, for example, serve as statewide models for effective preservation at the local level. However, the regulatory protections for historic resources are found across multiple Articles of the County Code and can be difficult for the citizens, property owners, and even staff, to navigate. There are inconsistencies in definitions related to preservation topics, and several minor Code changes would address these and improve upon the historic resource’s identification and evaluation process.
- The CRS should develop and adopt a Cultural and Historic Preservation Master Plan. Such a coordinated effort would serve to engage the citizenry and County colleagues, and improve the capacity and effectiveness of the CRS program by establishing a higher degree of transparency for property owners and County agencies that are faced with managing preservation issues. This functional master plan (which may include elements of specific planning studies, or even “sector” studies to focus on historic communities) could also help guide the growth and ongoing enhancement of the CRS by establishing a clearer mission and an increased clarity of purpose. A Master Plan would serve to better explain the CRS’s near and long-term goals, clarify and solidify the CRS role with the development process and County government, and better define its relationship to other Agencies.
- Other challenges to the CRS mission were identified, including the need for policy and program efforts to address:
  - i. more innovative tools to encourage preservation;
  - ii. expanded staffing for management of archaeological research and laboratory functions;
  - iii. improved standards and capacity at the laboratory and curation facility;
  - iv. a concise historic context framework, tailored to Anne Arundel County;
  - v. enhanced coordination and data sharing between County agencies and CRS;
  - vi. improved coordination between AAEDC, ACDS, and CRS for historic preservation in housing and economic development; and
  - vii. increased public outreach, including interpretation, use of new technology, expanded programs, and promotion of the historic tax credit.