

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS OF THE DIVISION OF
HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS
FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

Maryland Department of Planning

December 2025

FY25 Annual Report to the Governor and General Assembly
on the
Financial Assistance Programs of the Division of Historical & Cultural
Programs
Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Department of Planning

Includes required annual reports for the
Historic Preservation Grant Program
Museum Assistance Program
Historic Preservation Loan Fund

Submitted in accordance with the requirements of State Finance and Procurement Article §§ 5A-327(m),
5A-328(l), and 5A-353(c)

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Introduction

The Maryland Department of Planning and Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) are pleased to submit the FY25 Annual Report on the Financial Assistance Programs of the Division of Historical and Cultural Programs, including the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program, Historic Preservation Grant Program, and Capital Loan Program (Historic Preservation Loan Program). Managed by MHT, these programs promote the preservation and interpretation of historic resources and cultural traditions throughout the state, in support of the MHT's mission to "assist the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage."

Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program (State Finance and Procurement Article §5A-353(c))

Maryland is home to more than 300 museums and heritage sites, which are open to the public. To encourage continued important contributions to education, research, conservation, and heritage tourism, the Historical and Cultural Museum Assistance Program provides technical assistance, services, and financial aid in the form of grants. In FY 2025, the program did not receive general or capital fund appropriations.

Historic Preservation Grant Program (State Finance and Procurement Article §5A-328(l))

The Historic Preservation Grant Program is a state-appropriated source of funding to assist and encourage efforts to study, acquire, and preserve historic properties. The program provides grants for many types of preservation activities and is administered as two grant programs for different audiences: the Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program, which received an FY 2025 appropriation of \$600,000; and the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, which received \$300,000 via the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Fund.

Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program

MHT's Historic Preservation Capital Grant Program promotes the acquisition, restoration, and rehabilitation of historic properties in Maryland. Nonprofit organizations, government entities, business organizations, and individuals may apply for funds to rehabilitate, restore, or acquire historic buildings. Nonprofit organizations and government entities are also eligible to apply for pre-development costs that will lead to a construction project. To receive funds, properties must be listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, either individually or as contributing structures within a district. A preservation easement is required for all assisted properties.

FY25 Grant Cycle

Application materials, including instructions and program guidelines for FY 2025 funding, were made available in November 2024. A series of two in-person grant workshops were held in November (Salisbury) and December (Crownsville), in addition to four virtual webinars via the Google Meet platform from November 2024 to February 2025.

Applications were due March 17, 2025. Of the 55 applications requesting over \$4 million, MHT approved nine projects for funding, totaling \$699,000 (including \$99,000 in prior year funds).

FY25 Grant Awards

Gordon-Roberts House, Washington St, Cumberland, Allegany County

Sponsor: Allegany County Historical Society

Grant: \$86,000

The Gordon-Roberts House, home of the Allegany County Historical Society, is a rare Second Empire-style landmark building built in 1867 for Maryland State Senator Josiah Gordon. The Allegany County Historical Society will use grant funds to restore the porch, repair the gutters and soffits, and address ceiling plaster issues to help preserve this historic Cumberland site for public programs, office space, and ongoing interpretation of Allegany County's history.

First and Franklin Presbyterian Church, W Madison St, Baltimore City

Sponsor: Committee of the Presbyterian Church

Grant: \$100,000

The Committee of the Presbyterian Church in the City of Baltimore will use grant funds to repair hazardous brownstone elements at First and Franklin Presbyterian Church, a National Register-listed landmark of Gothic Revival architecture and LGBTQ+ history. Built in 1859, the church is home to Baltimore's original Presbyterian congregation and a longtime advocacy hub.

Hays House, Kenmore Ave, Bel Air, Harford County

Sponsor: Historical Society of Harford County

Grant: \$41,000

The Historical Society of Harford County will use grant funding for urgent repairs to the Hays House (c. 1788), Bel Air's oldest residence. Currently a museum run by the historical society, the house requires siding, stairs, trim, and chimney repairs to address water damage, rot, and safety concerns while preserving its historic fabric.

Howard County Courthouse, Court Ave, Ellicott City, Howard County

Sponsor: Howard County

Grant: \$100,000

Built in 1843, the Howard County Courthouse is a Greek Revival landmark tied to significant Underground Railroad trials. Howard County will use grant funding to restore the courthouse exterior by repairing masonry, windows, doors, shutters, and metal elements, preserving this important piece of legal history.

Kent News Building, High St, Chestertown,, Kent County

Sponsor: Sultana Education Foundation

Grant: \$74,000

Constructed in 1859, the Kent News Building has served as a church, school, newspaper office, and film theater. Today, the Sultana Education Foundation uses the building as its headquarters and for classroom space for history and environmental science programming. The building suffers from deterioration of its brick walls. The Foundation will use grant funding to replace bricks in the foundation and repoint using lime mortar to preserve the building's integrity.

Tudor Hall, Tudor Pl, Leonardtown, St. Mary's County

Sponsor: St. Mary's County Historical Society

Grant: \$75,000

Built c. 1785, Tudor Hall is a Georgian-style estate linked to Revolutionary War figures and the Key family. It is now home to the St. Mary's County Historical Society, which will use grant funding to support a condition assessment, rehabilitation planning, and cost estimates to guide future preservation efforts at the historic home.

Easton Railroad Station, Pintail Drive, Easton, Talbot County

Sponsor: Town of Easton

Grant: \$40,000

The Easton Railroad Station, a brick and cedar-shingle building built in 1920, has historically been a key community and commercial hub. The Town of Easton will use grant funds to replace shingles, repair structural damage, install copper flashing, and restore gutters to preserve this historic Rails-to-Trails landmark in the Easton Historic District.

Teackle Tenement, Mansion St, Princess Anne, Somerset County

Sponsor: Somerset County Historical Trust

Grant: \$100,000

The Somerset County Historical Trust will use grant funds to repair the foundation, replace the cedar shingle roof, and address the structural framing of the c. 1810 tenement house at Teackle Mansion. Once restored, it will serve as a museum interpreting the lives of artisans, slaves, and servants who worked at the historic estate.

Easton Armory, South Harrison St, Easton, Talbot County

Sponsor: Waterfowl Chesapeake

Grant: \$100,000

Constructed in 1927 with Medieval Revival elements, the Easton Armory now hosts the Waterfowl Festival. Waterfowl Chesapeake will use grant funds to remove old roofing, repair damaged decking, and install a new roof, metal coping, gutters, and downspouts, ensuring the building's continued use for community events.

La Grange Plantation and Smokehouse, La Grange Street, Cambridge, Dorchester County

Sponsor: Town of Easton

Grant: \$29,905

The Meredith House, or LaGrange, is one of the few Georgian houses remaining in Cambridge. This 18th-century house has changed over time, with additions representative of the late Victorian period. Currently operated as a house museum by the Dorchester County Historical Society, the grant funds will support repairs to the dormers and smokehouse.

FY26 Grant Cycle

Application instructions and program guidelines for FY 2026 funding will be made available in November 2025. Grant workshops will be held virtually and in person beginning in December 2025 and continue in January and February 2026. Applications will be made available in February 2026 and are due March 2026.

Project Highlights

Bostwick House, 48th St, Bladensburg, Prince George's County

Sponsor: George A. and Carmel D. Aman Memorial Trust

Built in 1746 for merchant Christopher Lowndes, Bostwick House is one of four pre-Revolutionary structures in Bladensburg. Overlooking the Anacostia River at the former Port of Bladensburg, the two-and-a-half-story brick house later became home to Benjamin Stoddert, the first Secretary of the Navy, in the 1790s. Today, it serves as a classroom for the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Program and a site for Anacostia Watershed Society programming.

During his ownership, Benjamin Stoddert added a unique buttress to the south end of the house, likely to stabilize the brick masonry on the sloping site. The buttress reflects an early and unusual structural solution that has become one of Bostwick's most distinctive features. After a severe storm in 2012 caused major damage, a temporary steel support stood in its place for nearly a decade. The restoration required careful documentation, brick salvage, and archaeological study. With the buttress reconstruction completed, the partnership at Bostwick House can focus on a larger planning effort around the future of the site.

Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program

MHT's Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program supports a wide variety of research, survey, planning, and educational activities involving architectural, archaeological, or cultural resources. Eligible activities may include preservation plans, historic and cultural resource surveys, educational outreach programs and National Register nominations. Nonprofit organizations (including state agencies) and local jurisdictions are eligible to apply.

FY25 Grant Cycle

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY 2025 funding were made available in May 2024. A virtual workshop recording was released via MHT's YouTube channel in May 2025, and promoted via Facebook and MHT's web page. Intent to Apply forms were due June 30, 2024, and full applications were due August 1, 2024. In FY 2024, MHT received 24 applications for archaeological and architectural non-capital projects, totaling more than \$1.4 million in requests. Upon the recommendation of the MHT approved funding for eight projects throughout the state.

FY25 Grant Awards

Maryland LGBTQ Heritage Multiple Property Submission and National Register Nomination, Baltimore City

Sponsor: Baltimore Heritage

Grant: \$30,600

Baltimore Heritage will use a previously completed historic context study to produce a Multiple Property Submission to the National Register for LGBTQ history in Maryland. The project includes preparing a new National Register nomination for an individual resource in Baltimore and updating the draft nominations for Leon's Bar, the Chase Brexton Building, and Monumental Elks Lodge #3.

African American Historic Resources of Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, Prince George's, Calvert, Charles, and St. Mary's Counties

Sponsor: Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland

Grant: \$58,000

The Tri-County Council for Southern Maryland will research and document African American historic resources in Southern Maryland through a National Register Multiple Property Documentation Form, one supporting National Register nomination for an individual resource, and five to seven Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP) survey forms. Results of the project will be shared via a public presentation.

Documenting Baltimore's Laurel Cemetery, Baltimore City

Sponsor: Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project

Grant: \$15,000

The Laurel Cemetery Memorial Project will prepare a National Register nomination for Laurel Cemetery, Baltimore's first nondenominational cemetery for African Americans, founded in 1852. This project will also include continued cemetery research, burial database digitization, and two public walking tours.

Documenting the Maryland Park Service's Modern Structures, Allegany, Baltimore, Frederick, Harford, Howard, and Washington Counties

Sponsor: Preservation Maryland

Grant: \$60,000

This project will involve a survey of Cunningham Falls, Greenbrier, Gunpowder Falls, and Patapsco Valley State Parks, focusing on structures built between 1950 and 1980 in the distinctive Park Service Modern style. Preservation Maryland will use project funds to hire a consultant to prepare four to six MIHP forms and a historic survey report.

Enhancing the Social Context of Historic Sites, Montgomery County

Sponsor: Sandy Spring Museum

Grant: \$30,400

Building on an archival project focusing on Black history, Sandy Spring Museum will update documentation in the MIHP on historic resources in the Sandy Spring area to include a broader social context and the contributions of African Americans. The project will produce approximately seven Addendum forms for selected properties.

Ground Penetrating Radar Survey of Fort Cumberland, Wills Creek Museum/Emmanuel Episcopal Campus, Allegany County

Sponsor: 28 Washington St., Inc.

Grant: \$18,000

28 Washington St., Inc. will use ground penetrating radar to survey around Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland to locate cultural remains buried beneath lawns, sidewalks, and roads. The non-invasive work aims to locate archaeological features possibly linked to 18th-century Fort Cumberland and later site use.

Infusing Archaeology in Education to Cultivate Authentic Inquiry, Baltimore County

Sponsor: Towson University

Grant: \$38,000

Towson University will host a multi-day workshop at North Point State Park, offering K-12 teachers hands-on archaeological experience in fieldwork, lab, and classroom settings. Participants earn Continuing Professional Development credits from the Maryland State Department of Education and join a cohort promoting responsible archaeology through classroom engagement.

Archaeological Investigation of 18WO220, South Point Site, Worcester County

Sponsor: Beach to Bay Heritage Area

Grant: \$20,000

The Beach to Bay Heritage Area will support fieldwork by the Archeological Society of Maryland at the South Point Site in Worcester County, which faces threats from erosion and sea level rise. Efforts to salvage archaeological data at the site include mapping, documenting, and excavating an Early Woodland/Meadowood site with a midden. The team will document findings in a detailed technical report before the site is lost to climate change.

Keyser Complex Chronology Project, Frederick County

Sponsor: American Chestnut Land Trust

Grant: \$30,000

The College of William and Mary will refine the Late Woodland period chronology in Maryland's Potomac River valley through new radiocarbon dating, ceramic analysis, and drought data. Focusing on the Keyser Ceramic complex, it will model how climate, trade, and settlement patterns shaped community interactions during the period's final centuries.

FY26 Grant Cycle

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY 2025 funding were made available in September 2025, which was promoted via MHT's social media MHT's web page. Intent to Apply forms for Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants were due on October 15, 2025. The deadline for completed applications was November 17, 2025. Grant awards will be announced in early 2026.

Project Highlights and Successes

Documenting Threatened Sites on the Lower Eastern Shore

Sponsor: Somerset County Historical Trust

With support from the Historic Preservation Non-Capital Grant Program, the Somerset County Historical Trust completed Phase II of its Threatened Sites Survey, which produced ten MIHP Architecture Forms. This multi-phase project documents Lower Eastern Shore sites threatened by climate change, neglect, and redevelopment.

The second phase of work focused on Dorchester County's Neck District, a peninsula west of Cambridge, once inhabited by Algonquian peoples. The area supported agriculture and shipbuilding, with surveyed sites ranging from the colonial-era Spocott plantation to early 20th-century landmarks such as Lloyds Store (a 1938 general store serving watermen and farmers), Emory AME Church (built in 1903 by a Black congregation on land donated by Civil War veteran Isaiah Turner), and Snug Harbor (a c.1945 hunting lodge).

Documenting Maryland's First Peoples Using Deep Testing Machinery (Allegany County)

In collaboration with the Archaeological Conservancy and ArchaeologyX, MHT archaeologists conducted significant fieldwork at the Barton Site, a deeply stratified prehistoric site in Western Maryland. While prehistoric occupation at the site has long been documented, this phase of fieldwork focused specifically on uncovering evidence of Clovis-period (or Early Ice Age) activity buried beneath several meters of soil. To investigate these deep cultural deposits safely and systematically, the team employed the PaleoDigger, an innovative mechanized system capable of excavating 50-centimeter diameter test pits in 10-centimeter increments to depths of up to seven meters.

Volunteers screened the excavated soil to recover artifacts, and the project successfully documented material over two meters below the surface, including a charcoal feature radiocarbon dated to between 8,836 and 10,284 years before present. These findings contribute significantly to our understanding of the region's earliest inhabitants and their adaptation to changing environments. The project's success resulted in multiple conference presentations, media attention, and strong support for bringing the PaleoDigger back to the Barton Site in the fall of FY26. To see the PaleoDigger in action at the Barton Site, visit bit.ly/4laaREc.

Historic Preservation Loan Fund

State Finance and Procurement Article §5A-327(m) provides for the Historic Preservation Loan Fund, which offers low-interest loans to nonprofit organizations, business and government entities, and individuals. Borrowers may use loan funds to refinance, acquire, or rehabilitate a property that is listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. MHT can also expend funds to rehabilitate historic property owned by MHT. In addition, pursuant to SB425 of the 2023 General Assembly session, certain nonprofits are now eligible to apply for a non-repayable transfer of funds from the program. This component of the program is only available to a "qualified cooperating nonprofit organization," meaning a nonprofit organization that is based in the state, operates statewide, and has demonstrated experience rehabilitating historic structures, managing preservation funds, and holding preservation easements. Eligible costs under the transfer program are limited to acquiring, rehabilitating, or restoring historic properties for resale or lease; providing loans to other nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and businesses to acquire, rehabilitate, restore, or refinance historic properties; providing loans to individuals to rehabilitate or restore National Historic Landmarks; and certain administrative costs and programmatic expenses.

In FY25, MHT did not receive any qualified loan applications or any transfer applications.