

Report to the Governor and the General Assembly

2013 Annual Report
on the
**African American Heritage
Preservation Program**



Kennard School, Centreville, Queen Anne's County

**Maryland Commission on
African American History and Culture**
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Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
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Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor

THE MARYLAND COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE MISSION STATEMENT

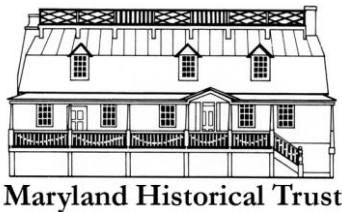


The mission of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) is to interpret, document, preserve, and promote Maryland's African American heritage; to provide technical assistance to institutions and groups with similar objectives; and to educate Maryland's citizens and visitors about the significance of the African American experience in Maryland and the nation.

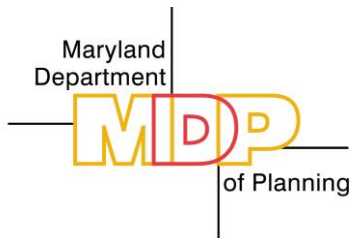
MCAAHC is housed within the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives.



MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST MISSION STATEMENT



The Maryland Historical Trust is dedicated to preserving and interpreting the legacy of Maryland's past. Through research, conservation and education, the Maryland Historical Trust assists the people of Maryland in understanding their historical and cultural heritage.



The Maryland Historical Trust is a unit of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

Background

The African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program was created during the 2010 session of the Maryland General Assembly. The Program is administered as a joint partnership of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC), a unit of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI), and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), an agency of the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). The purpose of this Program is to encourage the identification and preservation of buildings, sites, and communities of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland.

Eligible applicants for Program funding include non-profit organizations and local jurisdictions. Business entities and individuals may also apply for Program grants when seeking funds for a preservation or development project that serves a high public purpose. Eligible activities include acquisition, construction, and capital improvement of buildings, sites, or communities of historical or cultural importance to the African American experience in Maryland as well as pre-development costs directly associated with an acquisition or construction project. Such pre-development costs may cover historic structures reports and studies, the preparation of plans and specifications, necessary archeological investigations, and reasonable fees for architectural, design, engineering and other special services.

Activity of the African American Heritage Preservation Program in 2012

Fiscal Year 2014 Grants

Based on recommendations from MCAAHC and MHT, the following projects were forwarded to the Department of Budget and Management in late 2012 and were included in the Governor's Capital Budget for fiscal year 2014:

County	Project & Applicant	Description	Total AAHPP Project Costs	Grant Award
St. Mary's	<p>Project Name: Sotterley Plantation</p> <p>Project Address: 44300 Sotterley Lane, Hollywood MD 20636</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Historic Sotterley, Inc.</p>	<p>Dating to 1703, Sotterley Plantation is a National Historic Landmark and the only Tidewater plantation in Maryland that is open to the public. Sotterley has more than 20 original buildings spanning its 300 year evolution, and political, economic, and technological perspectives are presented in the site interpretation. The corn crib, which probably dates to the mid to late 18th century, will be restored and will house a new exhibit telling the story of slavery at Sotterley and will include the voices of those who stayed on as tenant farmers and slave laborers into the 20th century. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Interior and exterior rehabilitation of corn crib, including structural repairs, site work, ramp, security system, fire detection system, electrical upgrades, design and installation of exhibit, and architectural, engineering, and consulting services.</i></p>	\$128,000	\$100,000
Somerset	<p>Project Name: St. James Methodist Episcopal Church</p> <p>Project Address: Oriole Road and Champ Road, Princess Anne MD 21853</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Oriole Historical Society, Inc.</p>	<p>St. James M.E. Church, constructed in 1885 by African American carpenters and shipbuilders, is a landmark in the small community of Oriole. The church has been little altered since the beginning of the 20th century, when the front towers and tripartite window were added, lending the building a Gothic revival appearance. No longer in use as a church, St. James will be a meeting place and community center. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Interior and exterior rehabilitation, including repairs to masonry, plaster, flooring, and woodwork, installation of HVAC, fire suppression, and electrical systems, and architectural, engineering, and consulting services.</i></p>	\$100,000	\$100,000

Queen Anne's	<p>Project Name: Kennard School</p> <p>Project Address: 410 Little Kidwell Ave, Centreville, MD 21617</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Kennard Alumni Association, Inc.</p>	<p>Kennard High School represents a historic shift from the old one-room African American schools of Queen Anne's County, providing only an elementary level of education, to a true secondary school. Kennard was built in 1936, with expansions in 1947 and 1951, and until its closing in 1966 it was the county's only secondary school for African-Americans. Music, sports, farming, and home economics programs provided additional benefits to the African-American community. The building will be used as a community center. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Interior rehabilitation, including repairs to woodwork, flooring, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems.</i></p>	\$141,565	\$100,000
Talbot	<p>Project Name: Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church</p> <p>Project Address: 18 South Higgins Street, Easton MD 21601</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Historic Easton, Incorporated</p>	<p>The church is the oldest African American church structure in Easton, and the second oldest African American church structure in Talbot County. The church was dedicated by Frederick Douglass in 1878. Asbury was a temporary high school for colored students in the 1930's and is now a community center for a historically African American enclave known as the "Hill." The building will become an education and research center. An easement on this property is in progress due to FY2012 AAHPP funding.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Exterior rehabilitation, including masonry repairs, roof repairs / replacement, restoration of belfry and bell, restoration of woodwork and doors, painting, accessibility, and signage; and architectural, engineering, and consulting services.</i></p>	\$100,000	\$100,000

Kent	<p>Project Name: Charles Sumner Post #25, Grand Army of the Republic</p> <p>Project Address: 206 South Queen Street, Chestertown, MD 21620</p> <p>Project Sponsor: GAR Post #25, Inc.</p>	<p>Charles Sumner Post #25 is the only remaining African American Grand Army of the Republic lodge in Maryland (of 28 originally constructed), and one of only two African American GAR lodges remaining today in the United States. The GAR was the principal fraternal association of Civil War veterans and America's only integrated 19th century social organization. Most of the men who founded the post were former slaves. The Post served as a hub for Chestertown's African American community until 1985. The building will be used for exhibits and events. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Interior and exterior rehabilitation, including site work, painting, installation of elevator, installation of security system, and repairs / rehabilitation of walls, floors, and utilities.</i></p>	\$143,000	\$100,000
Dorchester	<p>Project Name: Christ Rock M.E. Church</p> <p>Project Address: 2403 Rock Drive, Cambridge, MD 21613</p> <p>Project Sponsor: The Friends of Stanley Institute, Inc.</p>	<p>Christ Rock Church, along with the Stanley Institute school, is the focus of the African-American community that arose at Christ Rock, outside of Cambridge, just after the Civil War. The church was constructed in 1875 and rebuilt in 1889 and 1911; the present structure is gable-ended with a square entrance tower. The church will be rehabilitated as a cultural center and museum focusing on the African-American experience in Dorchester County. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: interior and exterior rehabilitation, including repairs / restoration of walls, floors, doors, fixtures, finishes, HVAC and electrical systems, and construction of outbuilding for utilities.</i></p>	\$100,000	\$100,000

Montgomery	<p>Project Name: Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge</p> <p>Project Address: 1310 Olney-Sandy Spring Road (Route 108), Sandy Spring, MD 20860</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Grand United Order of Oddfellows Sandy Spring Lodge #6430, Inc.</p>	<p>The Odd Fellows Lodge was built during the early 1900's as a health, burial, and life insurance agency for African Americans, and it served in this capacity for over 60 years. For decades, the Lodge played a significant societal role as African Americans pushed for civil rights and equal treatment under the law. The Lodge also became the social hub for African Americans, as a popular site for picnics and dances. The current structure was built by local African American artisans and remains the oldest surviving structure of its kind. The building will be used as an educational and cultural center. This is an existing easement property, to which more land will be added.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: acquisition of adjoining property; interior and exterior rehabilitation, including utilities and systems; and architectural, engineering, and consulting services.</i></p>	\$100,000	\$100,000
Wicomico	<p>Project Name: Charles H. Chipman Center</p> <p>Project Address: 325 Broad Street, Salisbury, MD 21801</p> <p>Project Sponsor: The Chipman Foundation, Inc.</p>	<p>The Charles H. Chipman Center is the oldest African American congregation site in the region and the first site for religious services in the region during and after slavery, the first school for children of freed slaves in the region, and the first Delmarva high school for African American children after the Civil War. It is also believed to be the oldest all wood structure in continuous use of the Delmava Peninsula. The building is currently used as a cultural center and small museum focusing on African American heritage in Delmarva. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Interior and exterior rehabilitation, including installation of sprinklers and repairs to stained glass windows.</i></p>	\$100,000	\$100,000

Baltimore County	<p>Project Name: Samuel and Ida Torsell Mini-Museum</p> <p>Project Address: 79 Winters Lane, Catonsville MD 21228</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Grace A.M.E. Community Development Corporation</p>	<p>The Winters Lane Historic District is the largest and most intact mid-19th century African American neighborhood in Baltimore County. 79 Winters Lane is one of the older African American homes in the Winters Lane community. It was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel (Ida) Torsell. From the 1920s to the 1940s Mr. Torsell produced a newsletter that provided the African American entrepreneurs with a means of advertising their goods and services, while Mrs. Torsell was the organist and pianist for the local church. The house is currently used as a museum. No easement will be required.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Exterior rehabilitation, including repair / replacement of shingles, moisture protection measures, site work, construction of an addition, and architectural, engineering, and consulting services.</i></p>	\$69,000	\$69,000
Baltimore County	<p>Project Name: Louis S. Diggs Research Center for African-American History (former "Pest House")</p> <p>Project Address: 9811 Van Buren Lane, Cockeysville, MD 21030</p> <p>Project Sponsor: The Louis S. Diggs Research Center for African American History, Inc.</p>	<p>This stone building was long the only facility for the care of poor and sick African-Americans in Baltimore County. The structure will become a historical research, cultural, and genealogical research center and library undertaking workshops, oral history projects, research on historic communities, and assistance to owners of structures significant in the African-American community. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Interior and exterior rehabilitation, including site work, utilities, HVAC, and electrical work; and architectural, engineering, and consulting services.</i></p>	\$100,000	\$100,000
Frederick	<p>Project Name: Bartonsville Community Cemetery</p> <p>Project Address: Hines Road and Bartonsville Road, Frederick MD</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Bartonsville Community Cemetery</p>	<p>Bartonsville Community Cemetery was established in 1867 as a burial site for the community's former slaves and free blacks and is still in operation. The property was donated for a cemetery and school; the school, which closed in 1940, was moved and converted into a residence. Property will continue to allow burials. No easement will be required.</p> <p><i>Project work includes: Site investigation and site work, including archaeological and consulting services, fencing, paving, and repairs to grave markers.</i></p>	\$13,000	\$13,000

Talbot	<p>Project Name: Bethel A.M.E. Church</p> <p>Project Address: 110 South Hanson Street, Easton MD 21601</p> <p>Project Sponsor: Bethel A.M.E. Church, Inc.</p>	<p>Bethel AME Church, built in 1877, houses a congregation that has been in existence since 1818. The Hill neighborhood, established by freed slaves in Easton, grew up around Bethel and the nearby Asbury AME Church. The church building may be the first structure for public use owned and operated by African Americans on the Eastern Shore. The building is still in use as a church. This is an existing easement property.</p> <p><i>Interior and exterior rehabilitation, including repairs / restoration of doors and stairs.</i></p>	\$18,000	\$18,000
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These grantees were notified of their awards in May 2013, after the approval of the FY2013 Governor's Capital Budget. A press release describing the program and detailing the grant awards was distributed on July 8, 2013.

Fiscal Year 2015 Grant Applications

Applications, instructions, and program guidelines for FY2015 funding were made available in February 2013 via MHT's website. A press release on February 14, 2013 announced the availability of the applications and also announced a series of five workshops for potential applicants in locations across the state:

Date	Partner Institution	Location
March 4, 2013	Emmanuel Episcopal Church	Cumberland, MD
March 11, 2013	Chipman Cultural Center	Salisbury, MD
March 16, 2013	South Bowie Public Library	Bowie, MD
March 20, 2013	Sotterley Plantation	Hollywood, MD
March 22, 2013	Maryland Historical Society	Baltimore, MD

One additional workshop, which was added at the request of MDP's Upper Eastern Shore Regional Planner, was held on April 3, 2013 at the Queen Anne's County Planning & Zoning Offices in Centreville.

These workshops, which were specific to this grant program, reached and informed at least 110 interested individuals. Throughout the spring and summer, MHT and MCAAHC staff responded to specific inquiries from potential applicants and provided guidance about the application process.



Left: Workshop attendees with representatives of MCAAHC and MHT at the workshop at Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Cumberland.

Twenty-eight eligible applications for FY2014 funding were received by the postmark deadline of July 15, 2013. The total funding request was approximately \$2,341,000; the majority of the funding requested was for rehabilitation, with the remainder for predevelopment costs. Applications represented 12 counties and the City of Baltimore.

After a threshold review of the applications by MHT staff, MCAAHC evaluated eligible applicants in accordance with the project selection criteria during September of 2013. On September 25, 2013, MCAAHC will meet to rank and develop recommended funding levels for FY2014 and will transmit recommendations to the MHT Board on October 3, 2013.

On or before November 1, MCAAHC and MHT will forward the list of projects and grantees recommended by MCAAHC and the MHT as a recommendation to the Department of Budget and Management for inclusion in the Governor's Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2015.

Ongoing Program Activity

MHT and MCAAHC staff, along with staff from MHAA, DHCD, SHA, the Maryland Humanities Council, and Preservation Maryland, have in past years offered grant workshops covering a range of funding options for preservation projects. The African American Heritage Preservation Program has been featured in these workshops. Future workshops are not currently scheduled due to a decrease in funding for many of the programs.

AAHPP Applications for fiscal year 2016 funding will be available through MHT's website early in 2014; applications must be postmarked by July 15, 2014.

Notable Accomplishments & Project Updates

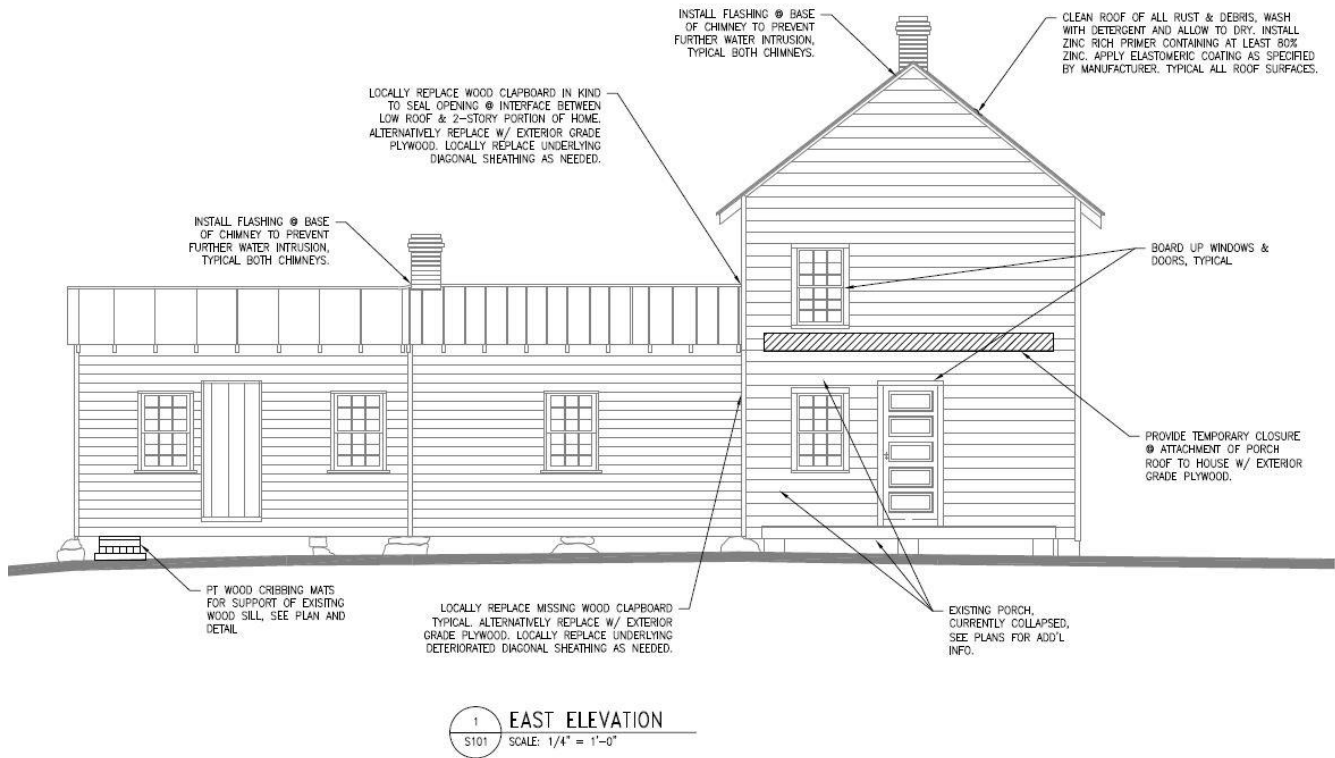
George Rice House & Outbuildings at Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, Calvert County:

The George Rice House and outbuildings are the centerpiece of the Biscoe Gray Heritage Farm, under development by Calvert County's Division of Natural Resources. The farm, which takes its name from an African American farmer and landowner, will provide a basis for interpretation of the African American experience in rural southern Maryland. The current grant provides assistance for the stabilization of the house, barn, corn crib, and meat house.



Above: MHT Easements Administrator Amy Skinner, Calvert County Historic Preservation Planner Kirsti Unila, and Calvert County Division of Natural Resources Chief Karyn Molines in front of the George Rice House

Below: Stabilization drawing for the George Rice House, showing work to be accomplished under the current AAHPP grant. Drawing courtesy of Swanke Hayden Connell.



San Domingo Rosenwald School, Wicomico County:

Interior rehabilitation has been progressing well over the past year under the guidance of Newell Quinton of the John Quinton Foundation. Former classrooms are once again illuminated by banks of windows, dark paneling has been removed, and all new systems have been installed. One of three surviving Rosenwald schools in Wicomico County, the restored building will resume its role as a community center.



Above: The second-floor rear classroom before (top) and during (below) rehabilitation. This classroom features a small stage for school performances and community gatherings. This classroom was joined to an adjacent classroom by a large folding partition, allowing maximum space for an audience.

Above: Large banks of windows had been obscured on the exterior and on the interior (top). With the restoration of the windows, one of the most significant design features of this Rosenwald school regains prominence (bottom).

Kunta Kinte – Alex Haley Memorial, Annapolis, Anne Arundel County:

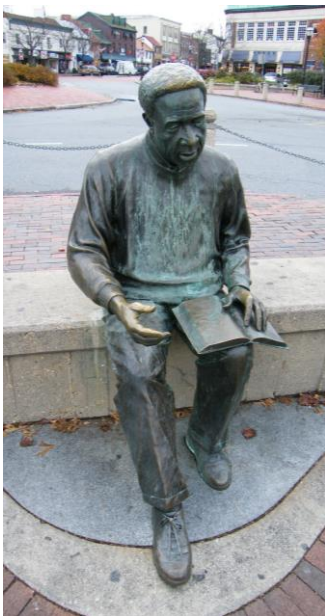
Located near the Market House on the Annapolis waterfront, the Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial was constructed between 1991 and 2002. The memorial is located at the port where 48 ships carrying approximately 2,000 enslaved Africans cleared customs between 1756 and 1775. The memorial consists of a compass rose and interpretive panels in the open space adjacent to the Market House, along with a sculptural group and plaques along a story wall, which are immediately adjacent to the water. The entire memorial has flooded several times since its construction, which means it requires frequent and intensive maintenance. Through an AAHPP grant to the Kunta Kinte – Alex Haley Foundation, a nonprofit, conservator Howard Wellman performed a comprehensive assessment and treatment of the monuments.



Left: Conservator Howard Wellman removes a loose plaque from the story wall.



Right: Wellman re-sets the plaque with wedge lead around its perimeter.



Above: The figure of Alex Haley is popular with tourists, who love to pose for photographs with the sculptural group. The figure's outstretched right hand shows the effects of constant human contact, which has brightened the surface (left). The sculptural group was carefully cleaned, stained areas treated, and all figures re-waxed (center). Howard Wellman touches up the wax on the Haley figure (right).



Left: Christ Rock Church after restoration of doors, windows, and siding.

Christ Rock Church, Dorchester County:

Exterior rehabilitation continues under several consecutive AAHPP grants to the Friends of Stanley Institute nonprofit organization. Also in 2013, a team of archeology students from Salisbury University, led by Professor Jason Boroughs, performed a Phase I archeological investigation on the site. The archeological study will assist in planning for the reconstruction of the fellowship hall and other outbuildings. The church will become a museum and community center and is located along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway.



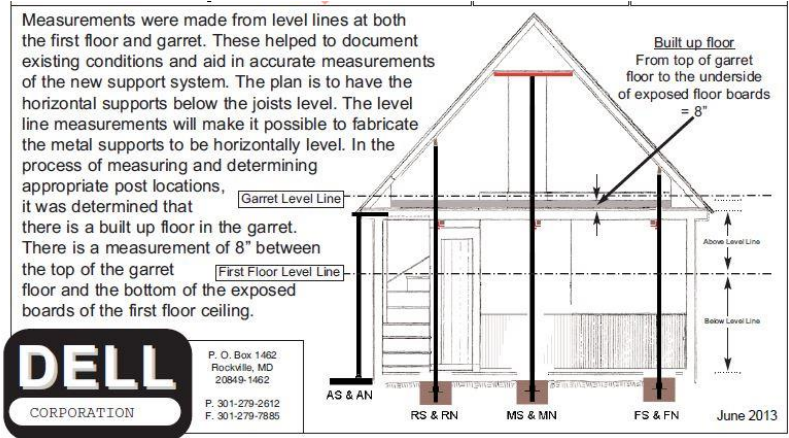
Above: Church during lifting and foundation repairs phase in the fall of 2012.



Above: In a public presentation on August 21, Professor Jason Boroughs of Salisbury University gave an overview of the archeological investigation at Christ Rock Church, while Professor Dale Glenwood Green discussed the history of the site. They are pictured along with Delegate Rudolph Cane; MCAAHC Chairman Theodore Mack, and Friends of Stanley Institute president Herschel Johnson.

Two Sisters' Houses, 612 & 614 S. Wolfe Street, Baltimore City:

These two small, fragile structures are the only survivors of a wooden building type that was once the predominant housing stock for lower and middle classes in Baltimore. Census records show the houses being inhabited by African American ship caulkers, and it is hoped that archeological and architectural investigations can shed light on the lives of the former inhabitants. A permanent stabilization plan for 614 has been developed which requires minimal impact to the historic fabric; long-range plans call for 614 to be preserved as it exists, allowing for future study as a "conserved ruin". The conservation approach to 612 will be different, as it is in worse condition structurally; existing structural members will be reinforced and the entire structure restored for interpretation. The properties are owned by the Society for the Preservation of Federal Hill and Fell's Point.



Above: Schematic diagram of stabilization plan for 614 S. Wolfe Street, courtesy of the Dell Corporation.



Above: 614 (left) and 612 (right) South Wolfe Street are the only two survivors of what was originally a group of 6 modest frame houses. The other houses in the group were gradually replaced by more substantial brick rowhouses.

Left: Archeologist Esther Read of UMBC conducts archeological excavations in the locations of the footers shown in the diagram above. Photo courtesy of Lynn Collins.

Tolson's Chapel, Sharpsburg, Washington County:

Repairs to this 1866 structure, which initially served as both a school and a place of worship for newly freed black families, were largely completed in 2011 using MHT Capital Grant funding. Using FY2013 AAHPP funding, the Friends of Tolson's Chapel hired a cemetery conservator to undertake a conditions assessment, develop recommendations for repairs, and perform ground-penetrating radar (GPR) investigation of the site to identify the locations of unmarked burials. Future work will include stabilization and repairs to individual grave markers. The cemetery includes graves of former slaves, notable local residents, and USCT soldiers, helping to tell the story of the African American community.



Above left: Tolson's Chapel from High Street.
 Above right: Jonathan Nichols of GEL Engineering operates ground-penetrating radar equipment.
 Below: Map of the cemetery at Tolson's Chapel developed through the use of ground-penetrating radar (GPR). Courtesy of the Chicora Foundation and GEL Engineering of NC.

