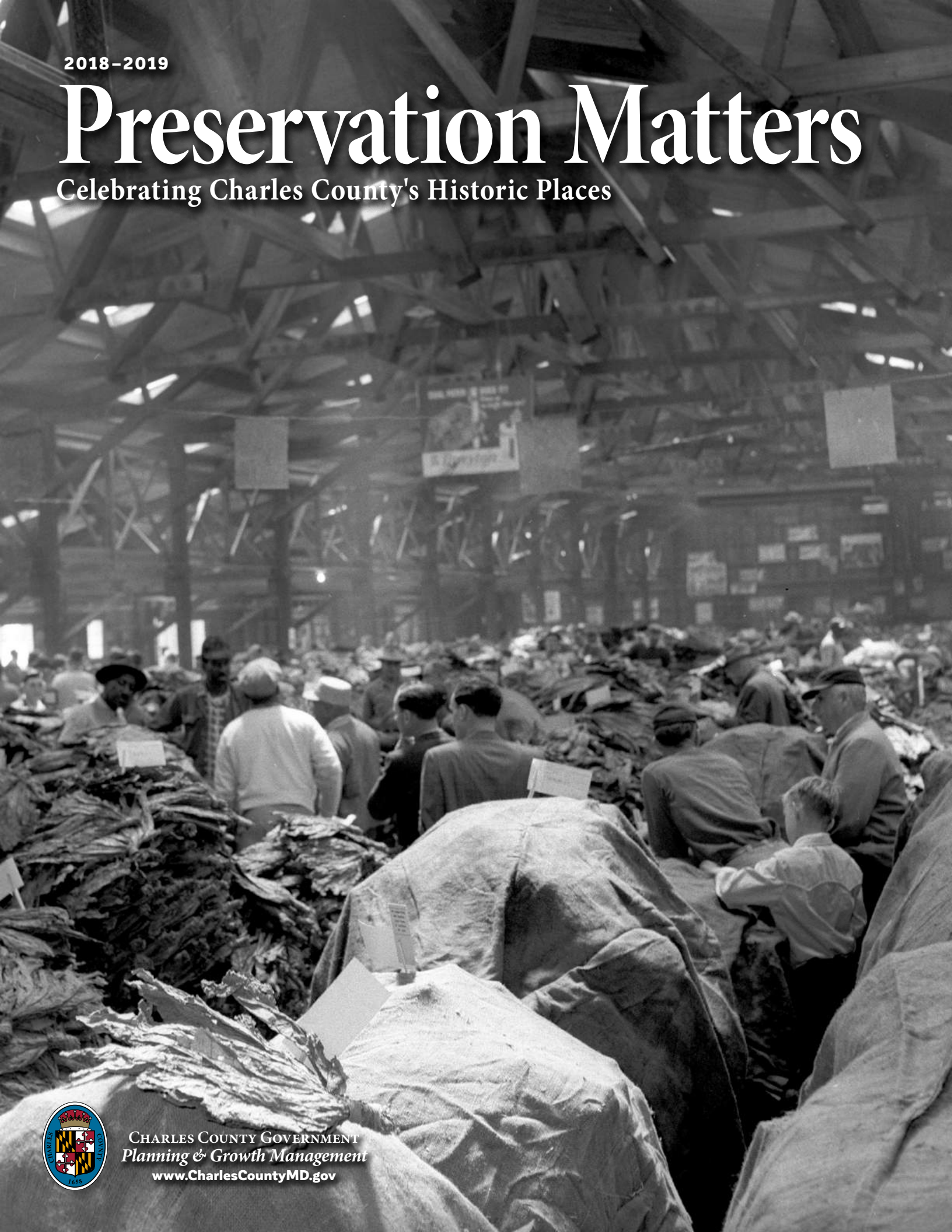


2018-2019

Preservation Matters

Celebrating Charles County's Historic Places



CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
Planning & Growth Management
www.CharlesCountyMD.gov



Department of
Planning & Growth
Management

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Would you like to be featured in an upcoming issue of the Historic Preservation magazine?

Please call Cathy Thompson at 301-396-5815, or send an email to ThompsCa@CharlesCountyMD.gov

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Sharing the Stories of Charles County's Crown Jewels

Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

Chair, Charles County Historic Preservation Commission

Welcome to the 2018–2019 issue of *Preservation Matters*, the Charles County Historic Preservation Commission magazine.

Historic preservation means different things to different people. Increasingly we learn protected places, be they a historic structure, park, farm, or open space are not only beautiful and exciting to visit, but that they contribute to good mental and physical health. These preserved resources encourage traditional learning but, with new methods of interpretation and preservation, they may simply inspire. Many of us visit a favorite place purely to imagine, envision, and yes, daydream. Recent studies show, it is not necessarily the amount of history and interpretation that attracts visitors to our historic sites but the ability of that site to let the mind wander and contemplate. Even though irreplaceable, these survivors, these artifacts from the past, are constantly in danger of disappearing from our landscape and therefore from our consciousness. The lessons and inspiration they give so freely, extinct.

There is hope. In the 2018 Maryland General Assembly our legislators have shown amazing support for preservation initiatives within the state and our county. Here are a few of the highlights: \$600k for Maryland Historical Trust capital grants; \$300k for Maryland Historical Trust non-capital, survey & research grants; \$1M for Maryland Historical Trust African American Heritage grants; \$9 million for the state Historic Tax Credit large commercial program; and \$6 million for the Maryland Heritage Area Authority. In addition, for the first time in many years, full funding for Program Open Space — a nearly \$67 million increase over last year's funding level. These programs, in addition to other bills and initiatives in 2019, have kept funding for preservation at current levels and in most cases increased it.

Our county is blessed with numerous individuals and organizations dedicated to preservation and history. We have a rich array of volunteers and professionals with a variety of skills helping to keep our county historic sites, parks, and archives moving forward. Friends of Maxwell Hall, was established this year and is a welcome addition to the many non-profits and friends groups sustaining our historic heritage. The Friends of Rich Hill, Friends of Smallwood State Park, The Friends of Chapman State Park, the African-American Heritage Society, and many others give countless volunteer hours to protect and care for Charles County's crown jewels.

Finally, it is a pleasure for me to rejoin the Commission as its Chair. I want to extend a public "thank you" to my predecessor as chair, Michael Fleming, and to our staff support; Beth Groth, Cathy Hardy Thompson, and archeologist Esther Read. Without them and their expertise, the Commission would be sorely handicapped. The Charles County Historic Preservation Commission continues to be a tool for documenting and protecting our history, ensuring its existence for those that imagine after us.

MOUNT HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH



Pictured: Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church in Nanjemoy — the site of the oldest Baptist African American congregation in Charles County.

A Day of Collaboration & Rediscovery

Reverend Ruby Thomas & Meagan Baco

Recently, Preservation Maryland convened dozens of volunteers at the Mt. Hope Baptist Church, the oldest Baptist African American congregation in Charles County, established on July 4, 1867.

Professionals, community members, and congregants met to tackle a comprehensive documentation project that included oral histories, cemetery conservation, archaeology, and historic preservation tasks at the church property and in nearby historic Poseytown.

The workday was the culmination of a year-long partnership between Preservation Maryland and the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites – an all-volunteer organization dedicated to advocating for the Marylanders who have come before us by protecting and maintaining historic cemeteries.

Volunteers from the congregation, community, the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, the Association for Preservation Technology International – DC Chapter, and regional archaeology groups joined professionals from the Charles County Government, Mosko Cemetery Monument Services, Grunley Construction, and WJE Engineers. All told there were dozens of professional and community volunteers. Tasks included:


Interviews and oral histories conducted by and with congregants and descendants, led by Rev. Ruby Brown-Thomas of Mt. Hope Baptist Church and Tina Simmons from the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites.

Cataloging and mapping burials in the Mt. Hope Baptist Cemetery, led by Dave Mills of the Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites.

Cemetery monument conservation demonstrations, led by Robert Mosko of the Mosko Cemetery Monument Services.

Archaeological survey of an early unmarked family and community cemetery, led by Esther Read, archaeologist for Charles County, and volunteers from the Council for Maryland Archaeology.

Architectural assessment of the vernacular 19th century Carroll Family farmhouse near the church (*pictured on page 8*), led by the Association for Preservation Technology International – DC Chapter.

Continued on next page 



A work group from Mt. Hope, Preservation Maryland, Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites, and Charles County Department of Planning and Growth Management collaborated to document the site and its unique history.

A Day of Collaboration – Continued from previous page.

Rev. Ruby Brown-Thomas shared some interesting historical facts about the church, its school, cemetery, and the people who were diligent after the Civil War to work together as a united community within Nanjemoy. The surnames of many of its original members (Carroll, Posey, Dent, Jackson, Brown, Datcher, Ward) are families that still worship at the church today and they often speak with much pride of the achievements of their ancestors, many of whom were former slaves that worked on nearby plantations.




The Mt. Hope Cemetery includes a variety of handmade grave markers including this unique decorated poured concrete cross.

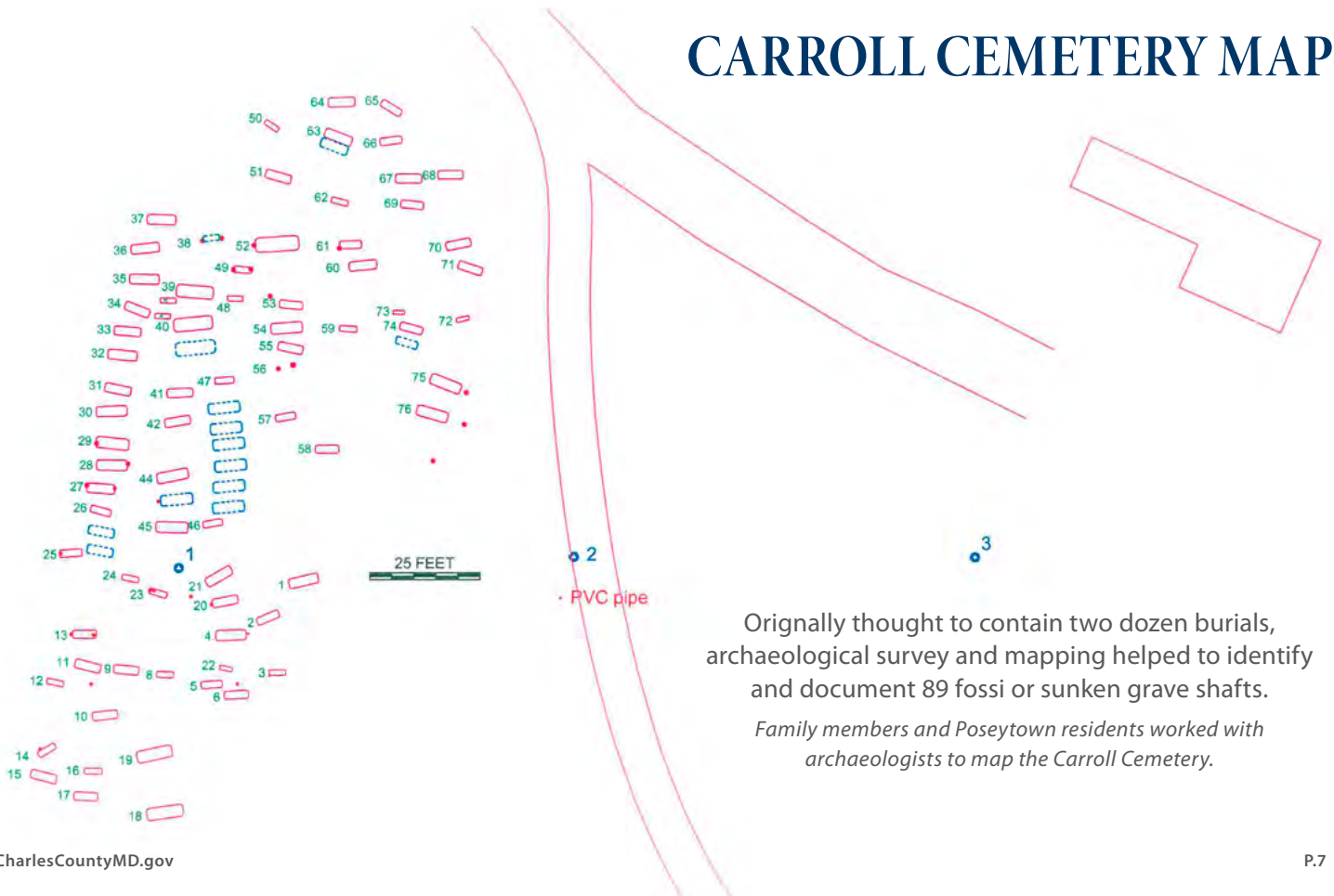
Its founders had the foresight to erect a schoolhouse for educational purposes and it also was used as a meetinghouse for religious ceremonies, before a neat little church was erected and the corner stone laid on July 4, 1867. As the community grew, so did its congregation; later three other African American Baptist churches were formed in the western region, which gave Mt. Hope the honor of being named the Mother of African American Baptist congregations in Charles County.

The Church Cemetery is considered to be one of the historical landmarks in Charles County which has an array of headstone designs to include wooden stakes, handmade crosses, hand-painted cement tablets, and unmarked graves, which clearly denotes common elements were used to honor their family members.

One of its original founders, Sgt. Charles Henry Brown, (pictured) who served in the United States Colored Troops, First Regiment of Colored Volunteers, District of Columbia, is buried there. A story of his life and his bravery is documented in the book "Black, Copper and Bright" authored by C. R. Gibbs. The church is also associated through oral tradition with the family of Matthew Henson, who accompanied Admiral Robert E. Perry on his expedition to the North Pole in 1909.

Continued on next page 

CARROLL CEMETERY MAP



Originally thought to contain two dozen burials, archaeological survey and mapping helped to identify and document 89 fossi or sunken grave shafts.

Family members and Poseytown residents worked with archaeologists to map the Carroll Cemetery.

A Day of Collaboration – Continued from previous page.

As mentioned, the Carroll family was one of the founding families of the church. It is believed that their farmhouse served as a place of worship before the schoolhouse was erected. It is exactly one mile from the church. It began as a mid-19th-century log dwelling that was expanded over time with balloon framing to create a second story and additional space enclosing the original log construction. Volunteers measured and documented the entire farmhouse in HABS-level detail and Preservation Maryland translated them into a final set of AutoCAD drawings and floorplans.

Together, the Carroll Farmhouse with the church's late-19th century cemetery, early-20th century schoolhouse, and mid-20th century chapel, begin to illustrate a cultural landscape representative of the emergence of African American communities in rural Maryland after the Civil War, and the importance of religion and education in that evolution.

All of the products from the workday were coordinated with the congregation and will become part of the church archive and maintenance plans. When appropriate, the Church may share documents with County officials for planning purposes or with regional historical societies for archiving and educational access. ■

Preservation Maryland would like to thank Rev. Ruby Thomas and Mt. Hope Baptist Church for hosting the workday; and Cathy Thompson, Beth Groth, and Esther Doyle Read of Charles County for all of their on-the-ground coordinating and participation. Preservation Maryland is the state's first and foremost historic preservation non-profit organization dedicated to protecting Maryland's historic resources.

**Learn more...
www.PreservationMaryland.org**



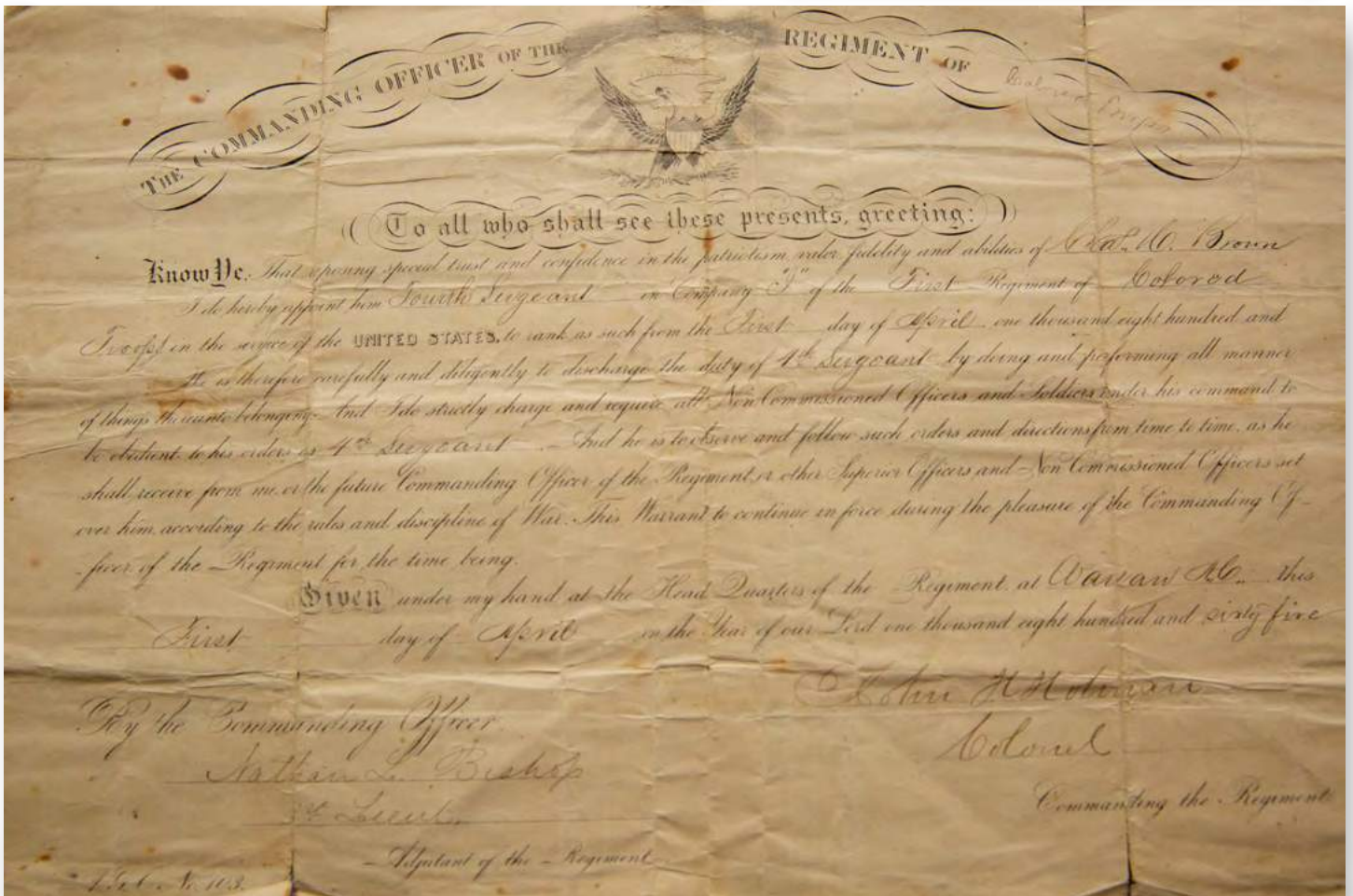
The Carroll Farmhouse was built in phases and began as a small log structure. This was the meeting place for the Mt. Hope congregation before the current church building was constructed.

Sergeant Charles Henry Brown

Sergeant Brown served in the United States Colored Troops (USCT) between 1862 and 1866. During the Civil War, he escaped slavery to join the Union Army, arriving at Mason's Island, an African American recruitment station in the middle of the Potomac River just south of Washington D.C. Brown and several friends enlisted together and later saw service in North Carolina and Petersburg, Virginia. In 1865 he was wounded in Wilmington but refused treatment, continuing to serve until the Confederate forces surrendered the city. He returned to Charles County a hero in his community and built a log cabin and later a beautiful two story Victorian dwelling that still stands today.

Brown was one of a handful of men who established the Mount Hope Baptist Church and he served for many years on the church's trustee board. He is buried at Mt. Hope Cemetery (photo page 8) along with many other war veterans from the Mount Hope/Nanjemoy community.

Pictured here is his portrait and military discharge papers — family heirlooms cherished by his great-granddaughter and her family.



The Warehouse District

The Rise and Fall of Hughesville's Loose-leaf Tobacco Markets

The most consequential development in Hughesville's history was the advent of loose-leaf tobacco auctions that altered how tobacco was marketed and sold.

Tobacco bales and hacked hands were moved to the warehouse floor after being weighed.

Photo Credit: The Southern Maryland Studies Center, Headen Collection



Tobacco sales in Maryland operated in nearly the same way from the time of settlement until 1939. Under the “closed” market system, growers would ship large, 600-pound hogsheads, or wooden barrels, of tobacco to a warehouse where they were upended, and tobacco samples were removed and graded by a state inspector. Based on the sample, buyers submitted sealed bids for the hogshead, and the tobacco was sold to the highest bidder.

The “open,” or loose-leaf market, operated quite differently. The tobacco was sold in open baskets, generally weighing between 50 and 150 pounds, where all tobacco is visible. The tobacco is stacked high along narrow aisles in a large warehouse through which an auctioneer moves selling lots one at a time. Loose-leaf markets began before the Civil War in Danville, Virginia, and quickly spread through the southern tobacco belt. Maryland was the last of the tobacco-growing states to adopt this system.

The shift from hogshead sales to loose-leaf was hotly contested in Maryland and came to a head in 1938 after the abysmally low prices obtained by farmers on the closed market. Major buyers, including the American Tobacco Company and the French government, had dramatically reduced purchasing on the hogshead market. Complaints against the hogshead market were myriad. Farmers were frustrated because they had to wait several days after sale before they received payment. Buyers didn’t like the closed market because some dishonest

farmers adulterated their crop to increase the weight. Because the buyer could only view samples, it was hard to discern if a lot was damaged or inferior. Loose-leaf auctions were seen as the solution.

Crosby Wyche, a University of Maryland student from Charlotte Hall, is credited with pushing through the change to the loose-leaf market. Every domestic cigarette and tobacco manufacturer agreed to be present at the loose-leaf auctions, as well as have buyers on the hogshead market, at least for the 1939 season. Wyche raised capital for a warehouse and brought in Holt Evans, a veteran warehouseman from North Carolina to run the operation. The first loose-leaf market to open in Maryland was in Hughesville on May 1, 1939. It is unclear in what building this first auction occurred, but it likely took place in an existing barn on property that the W.H. Winstead Company, a tobacco leaf dealer, had purchased in Hughesville in 1918. A second auction facility, the Marlboro Tobacco Market, opened in Upper Marlboro the following day. Farmers were



Left: The tobacco auction in Hughesville, 1987.

Opposite Page: Weight sheets recorded the weight of each basket as well as price per pound as it was auctioned. A runner would take the sheets to the office where weight and dollar amount for each basket of tobacco was calculated, fees were deducted, and the grower was paid that day.

Photo Credit: DeMarr Collection

initially hesitant to sell on the open market. On the first day in Hughesville, many farmers didn't risk selling their best crop and only sold lower grade tobacco to test the market.

Despite this initial hesitation, the loose-leaf market grew rapidly. By the middle of May 1939, before the auction season had even finished, the auction houses in Hughesville and Upper Marlboro announced plans for enlargement of their facilities. There was a flurry of property sales in Hughesville near the Winstead property, with investors clearly planning for expansion of tobacco facilities in the town. There was an

announcement "that preliminary work had already started on construction of a warehouse three times as large as the present one" in Hughesville. Warehouse construction and operations involved a complex web of partnerships that in the earliest days involved players from the southern tobacco markets of Virginia and North Carolina, but eventually ownership transferred to locals. Just to the south of the Winstead building, John Mott Robertson, of Lynchburg, Virginia, purchased a lot and constructed a large warehouse referred to at different times as the Southern Maryland Warehouse, Farrall and Strickland Tobacco Warehouse, and ultimately the Hughesville Warehouse. In June 1939, Joseph and Lucy Higdon sold the parcel just north of the Winstead property to the "Hughesville Tobacco Warehouse Corporation," but it appears that the Higdon's were in control of the business. The building on the site is now known as Farmers Warehouse #3 and was likely constructed in 1940.

The 1939 season closed on September 14, exceeding initial sales estimates—more than 7 million pounds of tobacco were sold, and at prices higher than in previous years. This represented 26 percent of the total Maryland tobacco crop. While sales were less than the amount of tobacco sold on the hogshead market in Baltimore, sales were robust enough to indicate the future success of the loose-leaf market.

The debate over the loose-leaf market continued into 1940. Investment in Southern Maryland loose-leaf facilities had exceeded \$300,000. In early April, the Farm Bureau hosted a series of meetings in conjunction with the University of Maryland to discuss the issue, and an overwhelming majority of farmers voted in favor of keeping the hogshead system. Clearly, the growers were hedging their bets in wanting to keep the Baltimore option open in case of poor sales; but as long as buyers were purchasing on the loose-leaf market, growers were willing to take their chances on the open auction floor.

By the 1940 season, there were six loose-leaf markets operating in Southern Maryland—two in Upper Marlboro, two in Hughesville, one in La Plata, and one in Waldorf—and a third was under construction in Upper Marlboro. The auction facilities in Upper Marlboro and Hughesville increased in size and associated warehouses and packing plants

TOBACCO SALE BILL				
BILL NO.	REMARKS			SALE DATE
1177				
SELLER	WAREHOUSE			
	Farmers Tobacco Auction Whse., Inc. Hughesville, MD			
TENANT	OPR. SHARE			
	%			
F.C. NO.	TEN. SHARE	NAME		
	%			
F.C. NO.	TEN. SHARE	NAME		
	%			
SHEET I.D. NO.	BUYER AND GRADE	POUNDS	PRICE	AMOUNT
34-38		101 101	170.70	171.70
39		79 79	170.70	134.23
40		51 51	170.70	86.06
41		42 42	125.25	52.71
42		53 53	125.25	66.38
43		78 78	125.25	97.78
44		64 64	150.50	96.32
45		141 141	175.75	247.81
46		77 77	140.40	108.11
47		96 96	175.75	168.72
48		78 78	140.40	109.51
49		80 80	140.40	112.32
50		76 76	130.30	99.02
51		77 77	130.30	100.31
52		105 105	130.30	136.82
53		60 60	130.30	78.18
54		48 48	130.30	62.54
REF.	1306		2380	
MAR 21 1939		WHSE. CHARGES	COMMISSIONS	TOTAL CHARGES
		HADING	CHECK OFF	ADVANCES
		STATE TAX	NET AMOUNT	
BILL NO.	1177			
FARMER'S COPY				

Continued on next page

Tobacco arriving at the warehouse was weighed on the warehouse scale and given an identification tag.

Photo Credit: The Robinson and Via Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution



At least one day a week was reserved for Amish sales.

Photo Credit: DeMarr Collection

were constructed. According to a “Washington Post” article, “At Hughesville, Mott Robertson, of Lynchburg, Va., has built a new sales house and Crosby Wyche’s market will open for the second season.” During the first two months of the auction season, the Southern Maryland loose-leaf markets sold 7 million pounds of tobacco, exceeding sales in Baltimore. By the end of the 1940 season, the four auction markets had sold over 16 million pounds of tobacco.

By 1943, the choice of hogsheads or loose-leaf was still being debated, but the loose-leaf market was clearly having an economic impact in Southern Maryland. A “Baltimore Sun” article notes that, “Packing houses have now been built by the buyers and their agents in the neighborhood of the new markets. ... Together with the packing houses and the big pay rolls during the season, all this has brought an abounding prosperity.” New buildings continued to be constructed in Hughesville. The building now known as Farmers Warehouse #1 was likely constructed in 1946 when it was purchased by a complex

partnership involving Norman Swain of Durham, North Carolina, and John Thompson, Robert Martin, and Joseph B. Higdon from Charles County. These men were referred to as, "co-partners trading as 'Farmers Warehouse.'" It is unclear when the northernmost warehouse building was constructed, but it was likely constructed by Therle and William James in the 1940s and used as a packinghouse. The Quonset hut building, now Farmers Warehouse #2, was constructed in 1956.

By 1951, only 7.3 percent of the tobacco crop was sold through the hogshead market, thus solidifying the supremacy of the loose-leaf market for tobacco sales in the state. This rapid growth of the Southern Maryland loose-leaf market led to the precipitous decline of the Baltimore hogshead market. Southern Maryland farmers continued to consign their crop to Baltimore, but only when they weren't satisfied with the prices on the loose-leaf market and when they wanted to take advantage of the free storage available in Baltimore. By 1946, the sprawling complex of multi-story brick buildings sat mostly empty. Eventually the Baltimore warehouses were torn down to make way for the redevelopment of the Inner Harbor.

The Hughesville warehouses were all in place by the 1950s, but there were several fires in the 1960s that changed the look of the town. In July 1961, a fire originated in the Winstead building and spread to the Southern Maryland Tobacco Co. The fire apparently destroyed the old Winstead building, which was being used as a packing shed, leading to the eventual construction of the concrete-block warehouse that exists today. In March 1966, there was a fire in the Quonset hut building. It is unclear how much damage was done to the building, and whether the building was merely repaired, or entirely reconstructed.

There were only a handful of loose-leaf auction houses constructed in Southern Maryland, but these buildings were often part of large complexes that included storage, processing, and packing facilities, as well as housing for the migrant workers who worked the auctions. These large, but simple, industrial buildings all have similar characteristics. Given the flammable contents, these buildings were constructed with fireproofing in mind—framing timbers were massive, foundations were cement, and exterior cladding was predominantly corrugated metal, as was the roof. The gable-roof structures featured multiple loading docks with garage-sized doors where trucks could pull up for easy unloading and loading of tobacco. The roofs were punctuated by a series of skylights that provided

Southern Maryland Warehouse

HUGHESVILLE, MARYLAND
HOLT EVANS CROSBY WYCHE

"The Warehouse That Sells Farmer's Tobacco"

**Our Force Is Thoroughly Experienced
 With Maryland Tobacco.**

Day and Night Service

**Two Sales Managers On Hand At All
 Sales And A Third To Advise With You
 On Your Prices**

FLOOR MANAGERS

T. G. Strickland

L. R. Keech

E. R. Edelen

St. Mary's County

Prince George's County

Charles County


TELEPHONE: Mechanicsville 17-F-22

The Saint Mary's Beacon — Friday, July 19, 1940 issue, on page 4

natural light to the interior—a necessity for inspectors to properly judge the grade and quality of the tobacco being sold.

Tobacco auctions began in the spring, when the crop grown in the previous year was sold and would last until mid-July. The auctions operated in a similar manner from year to year. Farmers would pack their tobacco in large, square-shaped woven baskets borrowed from the warehouse. They would load the tobacco on flat-bottomed trucks or wagons and drive to the chosen warehouse. The farmers would wait their turn at one of the warehouse loading docks, and then laborers would unload their trucks. Each tobacco basket was brought to the warehouse scale where it was weighed and marked with an identification tag. Then, the tobacco baskets were moved to the warehouse floor where they were placed in rows with only narrow aisles in between. Before the sale began, federal graders would inspect each basket, assigning a grade and marking it on the identification tag.

Sales began at approximately 9:30 a.m. and followed a predictable routine with the auctioneer as the principle character. At the start of the auction, two lines of people formed. On the left side, the line was led by the "starter," a warehouse man who set the opening price based on the grade. The starter was followed by the auctioneer, a buyer, another warehouse representative and a "ticket marker." On the right side were buyers who purchased for a manufacturer or for a commission buyer

Continued on next page 

The Warehouse District – Continued from previous page.

and packer. The auctioneer solicited bids, eventually closing the bidding by announcing the price and buyer. The ticket marker wrote this information on the basket identification ticket. After the sale, warehouse workers calculated the weight of each basket by the price-per-pound and recorded the total sales price. Runners took the floor sheets to the warehouse office, where the calculation was checked, sales charges deducted, and the farmer immediately paid. The process moved approximately 300 baskets an hour, or one each 12 seconds. Once sold, the basket was covered with a burlap sheet and loaded by warehouse workers onto the buyer's truck waiting at the rear-loading docks. Some tobacco was shipped directly to company warehouses, while other baskets were trucked only a short distance to the local plant of the tobacco brokers. At the plants, tobacco is processed and packed into hogsheads for shipment to factories in North Carolina for blending and processing into tobacco products. At the Hughesville Warehouse, a packing plant was connected to the warehouse.

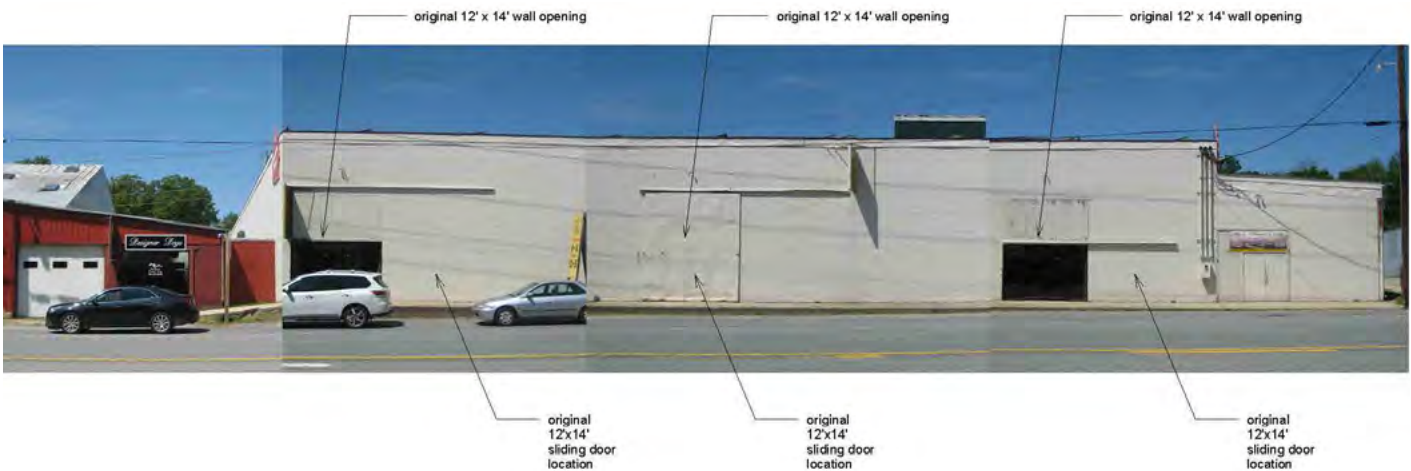
Work at the warehouses was seasonal, and most was done by migrant African-American workers hired to work for the season. Companies purchasing tobacco at the auctions typically supplied their own workers by hiring labor contracting companies. These companies arranged for workers to be present at the warehouses to move tobacco off the auction floor and onto trucks for shipping to packinghouses or factories. The labor contractors also provide the workers housing for free in hotels or dormitories

Recognizing the importance of Hughesville to Maryland's agricultural legacy, Preservation Maryland recently designated the Hughesville Tobacco Warehouses one of their 2019 Six to Fix projects. This designation will provide a spotlight on the project and provide technical and networking assistance to encourage adaptive reuse of these important resources.

For more information, visit:
www.preservationmaryland.org/programs/six-to-fix/.

PACKING PLANT RENDERING

Proposed facade improvements to the Winstead Company Packing Plant.



HUGHESVILLE MARKET



like the two large concrete-block buildings located behind the Hughesville Warehouse.

The gradual decline of the tobacco warehouses in the late 20th century mirrors the decline in tobacco production in Maryland. The postwar growth of the Washington, D.C. suburbs pushed further south into Southern Maryland, raising land prices and encouraging farmers to sell their land for housing and commercial development. The 1964 surgeon general's warning linking cigarette smoking to lung cancer raised health concerns and lowered demand for cigarettes. As other employment opportunities arose, including work at military installations in several Southern Maryland counties, farmers increasingly found it hard to find laborers to do the hard work of cultivating tobacco. This trio of factors led more and more farmers to stop growing tobacco. Some switched to other crops, but most sold their land for residential and commercial development.

By 1971, the loose-leaf auctions lasted for only two months. Disastrous tobacco crops in the early 1980s precipitated the decline. Tobacco production plummeted from approximately 40 million pounds in 1983 to only 8.1 million pounds in 2001. As less tobacco was grown in the region, the auction houses reduced the number of auction days and eventually closed. There still remained six buyers, representing the major tobacco companies.

The death knell for the Maryland tobacco industry came in 2001, when Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening was determined to "close the door on Maryland's history as a tobacco-producing state" by creating the Maryland Tobacco Buyout program. The buyout program used funds from the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement that was a result of the massive lawsuit between states' attorney generals and the major tobacco manufacturing companies. The tobacco manufacturing

companies agreed to compensate states for the money they spent treating smoking-related illnesses. This was the first program in the nation that would pay farmers to stop growing tobacco. In the first year of the buyout, more than half of the approximately 1,000 farmers eligible for the buyout signed a contract promising to halt tobacco production. By January 2005, 83 percent of tobacco farmers had signed up for the buyout, dramatically impacting the tobacco industry in Southern Maryland. Without a product to sell, the remaining auction houses closed. The last tobacco auction house, Farmers Warehouse in Hughesville, closed in 2006. Most of the remaining tobacco grown in the state is sold on a contract basis directly to the tobacco manufacturers. Hughesville's once-mighty loose-leaf warehouses have become a relict of the past. ■



Hughesville: A Commercial and Tobacco Marketing Center

Nicole Diehlmann



Looking west down Burnt Store Road, c. 1940,
Bowling Store, Hotel Charles, Hughesville Savings Bank

Photo Credit: Southern Maryland Studies Center
General Photographic Collection, 2005.12.003

The town of Hughesville began as a rural village serving the business needs of regional farmers. Hughesville first appears on the map as a post office town in 1873. The construction of the Southern Maryland Railroad through town in the late nineteenth century and road improvements in the early twentieth century fostered growth, and the town developed into a substantial crossroads community. The opening of a loose-leaf tobacco auction house in 1939 spurred development, and within a decade the north end of town was lined with tobacco warehouses (*pictured on opposite page*) and packing plants. The town prospered throughout the middle decades of the twentieth century, but as tobacco and agricultural production declined at the end of the century, so did the fortunes of Hughesville.

The Southern Maryland Railroad line was completed through Hughesville by the 1880s, but the line was troubled from the very beginning, suffering various bankruptcies and reorganizations until it was purchased by the Federal government in 1942,

and ultimately abandoned in 1965. Roads were a much more consistent source of transportation and contributed much to the town's growth in the twentieth century. Beginning in 1908, the state of Maryland sought to create a state highway system. Work began near Hughesville in 1912 when the state improved an existing north-south corridor now known as Old Leonardtown Road (MD 5). Improvements to what is now Prince Frederick Road (MD 231) were funded in 1918, with the General Assembly noting that the "improved road is well populated by a large and thrifty class of people and the land very productive, but the utter lack of an adequate road or highway practically precludes the farmers in that section from raising and marketing food crops on hundreds of acres of valuable and productive land."

Business directories describe the town at the turn of the twentieth century. An 1887 directory notes the presence of both Episcopal and Roman Catholic Churches, most likely referring to nearby Oldfields Chapel and St. Mary's. It



also notes a Friends' school, four general merchandise stores, two saloons, two undertakers, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, a tobacco buyer, and a population of 50. By 1906, Polk's Gazetteer described the community as "a station of the Southern Maryland Railroad... and a banking town" with two physicians, two general stores, two blacksmiths, a grist and sawmill, a flourmill, an undertaker and livery, a hotel, a hotel and saloon, a grocer and saloon, an insurance salesman, and a population of 150.


Archival research reveals the location of these early buildings that are no longer extant. The Hughesville Milling Company and a mill owned by the Cecil family were located along the east side of the railroad where the southernmost tobacco warehouses are currently located. The hotel and saloon was likely the Hotel Charles, located by the railroad tracks and Burnt Store Road. This was a three-story Victorian structure owned by the Bowling family that burned down in 1945. The other hotel was likely located just across the railroad. One of the stores was J. M. Bowling & Co., once described as the "largest mercantile house in southern Maryland." By the 1920s, the Quade family was operating a filling station, auto service garage, and Ford dealership known as the "Hughesville Garage."

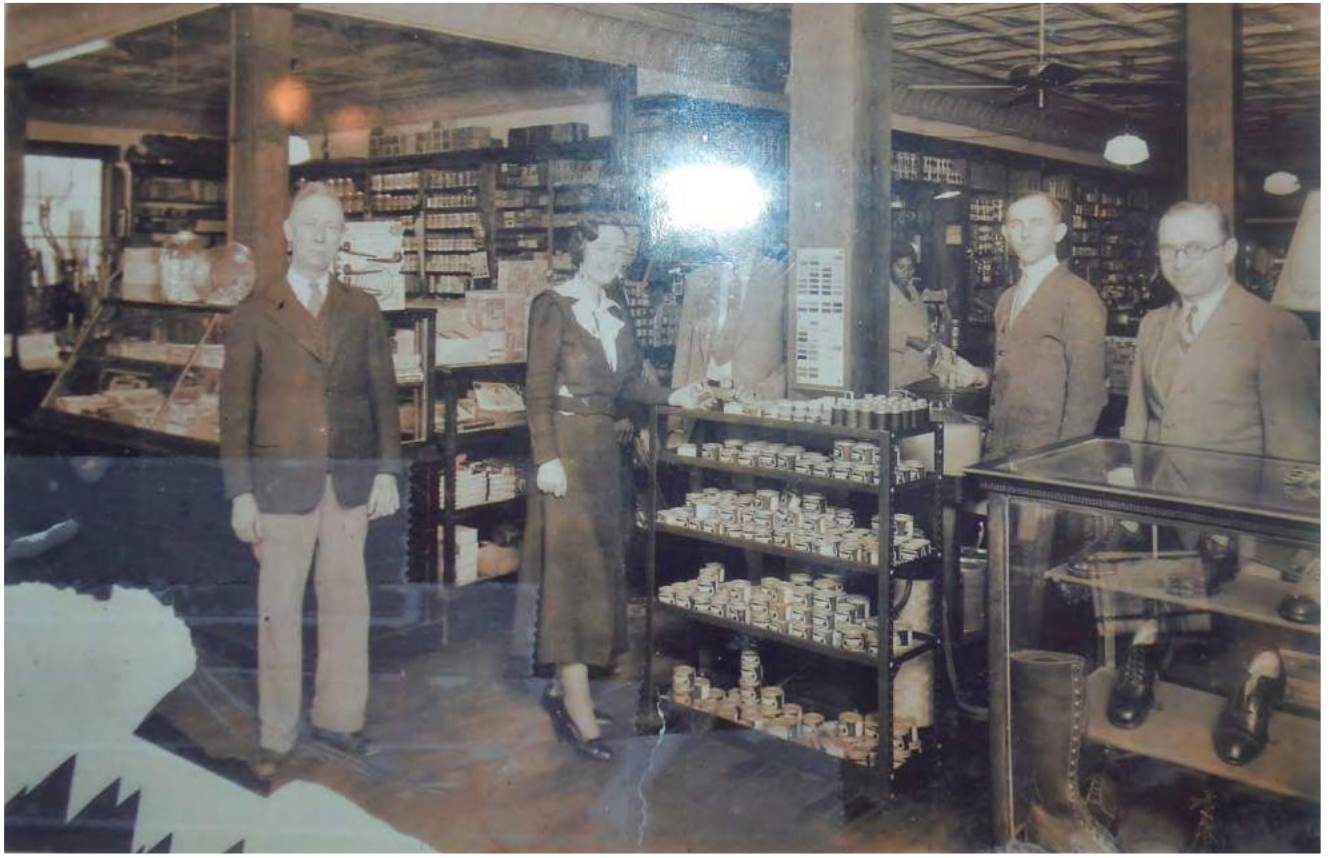
Several commercial buildings from the early twentieth century still exist. Dudley and Lyon's Department Store was constructed of rusticated concrete block circa 1922. In the 1930s, the store housed not only a post office, but also a branch library. The much smaller Dupree Monk Building, also constructed of rusticated



The Hotel Charles is architecturally interesting as an example of local Art Moderne styling. Still open today, during the mid-20th century it had a capacity of over 400 people and was a major entertainment destination that hosted big name acts such as Patsy Cline, Dolly Parton, Roy Clark, Buck Owens and Jimmy Dean. The building contains two rooms—the Front Room, with a 20-foot bar, pool tables and a stage, and a larger Band Room, which contains the original booths and dance floor.

Photo Credit: Michael Mazzeo

Continued on next page 



Top: Interior of the Dudley and Lyon's Department Store. Pictured (left to right) are Frank Shultz, Mrs. George Mathews, Webb Lyon, Joseph L. Summers, and Jim Farrell. Photo Credit: Remembrances Antiques

Middle: The Dudley and Lyon's Department Store is one of the only remaining early 20th century department stores in Charles County. Photo Credit: Michael Mazzeo

Left: The Dupree Monk Building was constructed in 1931 as a grocery store and is one of the best examples of an early 20th century commercial building remaining in Charles County.





The Joseph Forbes Building, Dupree Monk Building and Luther Stuckey Building (originally the Hartman Building). The Luther H. Stuckey Building was used as a funeral home. The Joseph W. Forbes Building once housed the post office and a pharmacy.



From left to right, the Southern Maryland Production Credit Association Building was built in 1958 and is a good example of a 20th century bank building constructed in the Modern style. The Hughesville Firehouse was built in 1947 and is one of the few remaining original small-town firehouses left in the county. The Hughesville Motor Company was originally a car dealership and service center.

concrete block, was likely constructed circa 1931 and occupied by an A&P grocery store. C. Posey Herbert purchased a large property on the west side of Old Leonardtown Road in 1909, and soon thereafter constructed a rusticated-concrete-block commercial building known as the “Hughesville Motor Co.” that by the 1930s was selling Chevrolets.

Hughesville was also a banking center, for the most substantial bank building in the county was located there. In July 1909, the Hughesville Savings Bank acquired property on the northwest corner of Old Leonardtown and Burnt Store Roads, and shortly thereafter constructed a large, two-story brick bank building. In 1953, the bank moved to a new Modern-style building on Old Leonardtown Road. Southern Maryland Production Credit Association, which made loans to farmers for production purposes, purchased a parcel of land just south of the firehouse in 1958 and constructed the Modern-style building at 8329 Old Leonardtown Road.

The most consequential development in Hughesville was the advent of loose-leaf tobacco auctions in 1939. Hughesville was a prime location for these auction warehouses as it was a well-situated and thriving commercial center. The construction of tobacco warehouses on the northwest side of town was a natural extension of the town’s trade in commercial and agricultural services to local and regional farmers.

The town continued to grow after the establishment of the tobacco warehouses. The two-story Joseph W. Forbes Building was constructed circa 1946. Construction of the two-story brick Hughesville Firehouse began in August 1947, and the building was expanded with the addition of a hose tower in 1958. In December 1945, a fire destroyed the old Hotel Charles, and a much larger brick building was constructed. The Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative (SMECO) moved its headquarters to Hughesville in 1948. SMECO likely tore down the Hughesville Savings Bank building in 1953, and constructed a one-story, red brick building with Modern-style details.

The town of Hughesville was an important commercial center for the surrounding rural agricultural area. The businesses served the needs of the regional farming community, and the opening of loose-leaf tobacco warehouses solidified this position and fostered growth in the town. The town’s current appearance reflects its rise as a tobacco-marketing and commercial center in the mid-twentieth-century. ■

Today, Hughesville consists of a small but important handful of early to mid-twentieth-century commercial and industrial buildings that reflect Hughesville’s unique place in history. Adaptive reuse of key historic buildings in the village is part of a wider redevelopment strategy which spans the last decade and began with the adoption of the Hughesville Village Revitalization Plan in 2007. Comprehensive rezoning was completed in 2017, and planned streetscape enhancements are now being designed by the Maryland State Highway Administration. As the village moves forward with plans to redevelop, the recent completion of a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Hughesville Commercial and Tobacco Warehouse District will better articulate the significance of these unassuming buildings. Listing on the National Register of Historic Places is a condition of eligibility for state and federal tax credits to aid in preservation and adaptive reuse. For more information contact Cathy Thompson at ThompsCa@CharlesCountyMD.gov

For more information, visit:

www.preservationmaryland.org/programs/six-to-fix/.




From Riverside Village to Upland Camp and Back

Native Americans of the Terminal Archaic Period
in Charles County's Mattawoman Valley

James G. Gibb

It takes a keen, well-tutored eye, and pedestrians can more easily spot them than can motorists, but relict streambeds thousands of years old can be seen in Charles and neighboring counties. Ancient Native Americans resided along these now-defunct creeks where archaeologists have found the remains of seasonal villages. At higher elevations, along the edges of upland flats, now largely forested, remains of smaller settlements have been found. This is a new discovery — a very new discovery — as is the connection between these two types of settlement and what that connection may mean for our understanding of Charles County's first citizens.

Continued on next page 

Technician George F. Riseling, Jr., excavating a 3 ft by 3 ft unit.

Riverside Village – Continued from previous page.

Avocational archaeologists — hobbyists — have been finding Indian artifacts throughout the area for generations, mostly in plowed fields along active streams like Zekiah Swamp and the Mattawoman, Nanjemoy, and Port Tobacco creeks. Some private collections can be measured in terms of bushels, quantities of materials so large as to have greatly diminished the scientific value of the sites from which they were collected. There are other sites, however, that have long been out of cultivation and that have naturally reforested. Artifacts lie undetected beneath leaf-covered surfaces and the only way to find them, and to document critical scientific data, is to search with shovel, screen, method, and a superabundance of patience.

Over the past five years or so, archaeological research has moved beyond the cultivated fields on the floodplains and into Charles County's interiors, investigating lands that haven't been farmed in generations and some that plows have never touched. Proposed residential subdivision of Falcon Ridge near Indian Head prompted the archaeological survey of over 50 acres of woodland on the edge of a broad upland flat overlooking tributary streams of Mattawoman Creek to the north. The field crew, digging shovel test pits (about a foot and a half in diameter, one to two feet deep) every 65 feet across those 50 acres, identified four aboriginal sites, two of which appeared to have clusters of artifacts that might produce important information on Native American lifeways during a period archaeologists call the Terminal Archaic, roughly 3,000 to 4,000 years ago. We don't know what the occupants of these sites called themselves and traditional knowledge of the Piscataway, Nanticoke, and other local Indian nations lack details about the many peoples and their lifeways that lived in the Chesapeake region over the last 10,000 years or more. We must look to archaeological science to learn how these people lived, interacted with one another, changed their local environments and then adapted to those changes, and became the people who continue to live in the county and throughout the region today. Through archaeology we attempt to reconstruct Native American history.

The field crew investigated two of the sites that we found—we'll call them Falcon and Ridge — to collect information and to determine whether they were sufficiently informative to warrant extensive excavation or preservation in place. The Falcon site (State inventory #18CH935) stretches nearly 500 feet along the southern edge of a Y-shaped ridge defined by three small drainages that extend northward to a deeply incised stream more than 40 feet below the site. It is barely 150 feet wide and covers just over one acre. Shovel testing recovered flakes, the waste created by Native Americans chipping stone tools out of broken quartzite and quartz river cobbles (a process called

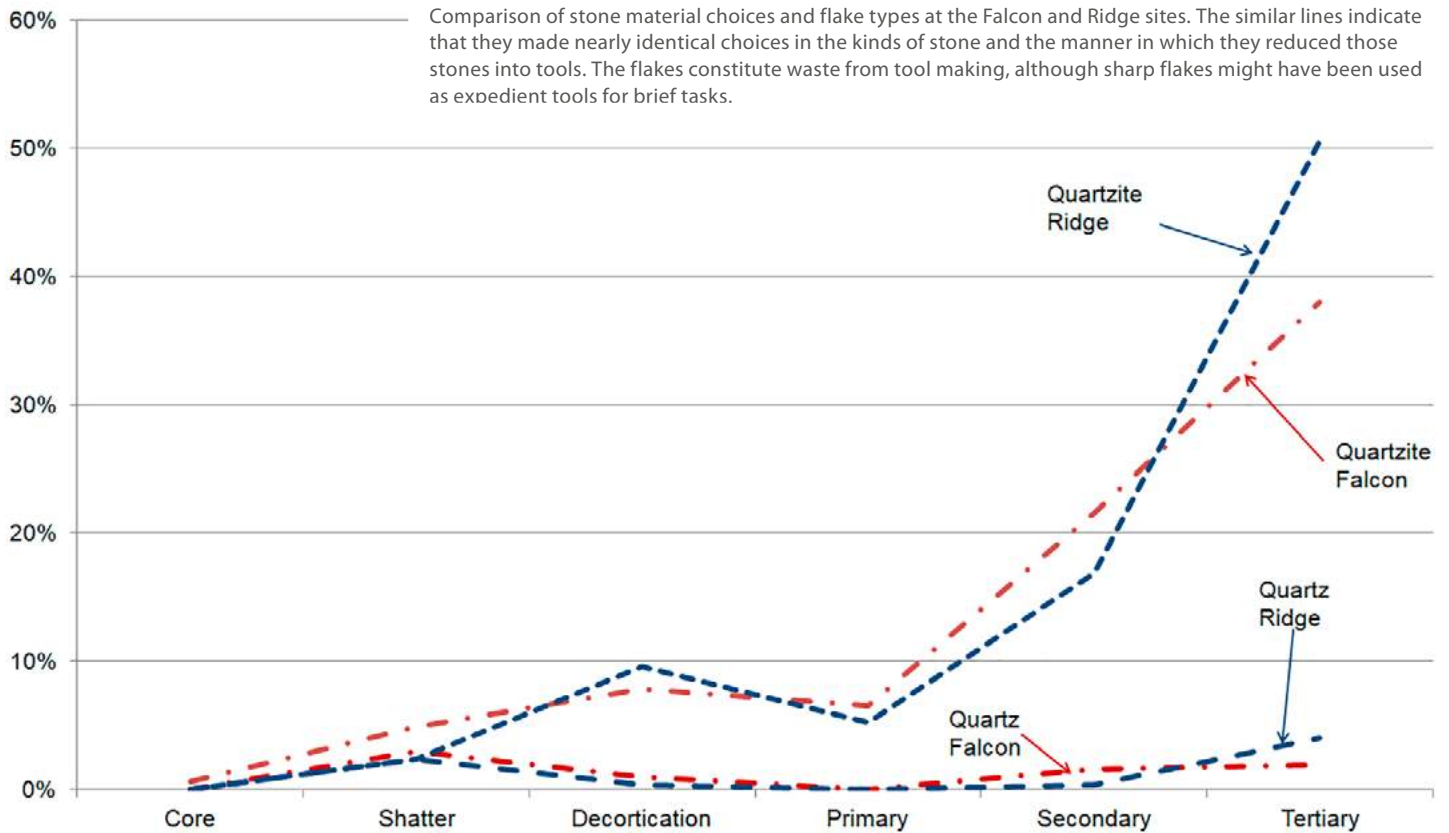


Remains of a hearth exposed at the Falcon site (18CH935).

knapping). Examples of broken stone tools also were found, as well as whole and fragmented (fire-cracked) rocks that the Indians had heated in fires and dropped into waterproofed bark, wooden, leather, and woven grass containers to cook the contents. Indian pottery is absent as Falcon was occupied centuries before local people started making clay pots. (That is true for the Ridge site as well.) Using a statistical software program, I used the numbers of flakes and fire-cracked rocks from the shovel tests to identify several clusters of material that the field crew could investigate more thoroughly with 3 ft by 3 ft excavation units, each one-half to a foot or more deep.

One excavation unit exposed a pile of whole and fire-cracked rock representing a hearth (*pictured above*). Thousands of years of mineral leaching by a fluctuating water table appears to have destroyed associated ash from the fires or from seeds, nuts, or roots that the Indians likely collected and roasted. Fish, bird, and mammal bone also were absent, the acidic soils having long ago dissolved the calcium salts and fats of which bone is made. Three other units produced large numbers of mostly quartzite flakes and some fire-cracked rock, but no other evidence of hearths, houses, or trash-filled pits.

Ridge produced similar kinds of artifacts — flakes and fire-cracked rocks, as well as several stone tools — but it is nearly twice the size of Falcon at just over two acres and about 10 ft lower in elevation. We did not find a hearth, or remains of a house, in our excavation units, but the fire-cracked rock at both sites indicate that the occupants processed food or fiber with the aid of fire-heated stones. We did encounter an area of about 10-feet in diameter at Ridge that produced thousands of mostly quartzite flakes. Clearly, much of what we would learn about the two sites would have to be based on the waste flakes from stone tool making.



Stone tool making follows one of two approaches in the Chesapeake region, each producing waste flakes and stone tools of characteristic sizes and shapes: flake technology and core technology. Both require a hefty, but relatively soft, pebble of sandstone or coarse quartzite, and another pebble of hard quartz or quartzite. The knapper, holding the harder material in one hand protected by a piece of leather, strikes with the hammerstone, removing the outer, water-worn rind (decortication flake) and, through repeated blows, exposing fresh, unweathered material. A well-placed blow removes a large primary flake from which smaller secondary and tertiary flakes might be removed to create a tool that bears some of the outward marks of a primary flake (e.g., a convex dorsal surface and a concave or flat ventral surface). The remaining core can be carried about and used to produce additional primary flakes as the first tool breaks or dulls. The alternative core technology removes all of the pebble's cortex (that outer, weathered rind) and successive secondary flakes, effectively sculpting a single stone tool from the pebble and then sharpening and re-sharpening that tool through the removal of small flakes around the worn edge of the tool.

We can see a core technology at both sites in the accompanying graph. Note first that the percentages of specific flake types are very similar at both sites and that most of the flakes are quartzite, a finer-grained, more easily knapped material than quartz. Note also that quartzite secondary and tertiary flakes significantly outnumber the other flake types, while primary flakes comprise less than 10% of the flakes from each site. That suggests a core technology — a common



Projectile (spear or dart) points and knives fashioned from locally collected quartzite.

- a) Bare Island projectile point, 18CH937, STP 4.8
- b) Bare Island projectile point, 18CH937, STP 3.1
- c) Biface, 18CH937, STP 11.3
- d) Biface, 18CH937, STP 10.5
- e) Biface fragment, 18CH935, STP 2.2
- f) Biface fragment, 18CH935, Surface

Continued on next page

technique as well as choice of material (quartzite) — at both sites. Stone tools broken in manufacture or use recovered from both sites all have a characteristic cross-section resembling a lentil, indicating core technology, in contrast to flake technology tools which are flat below and convex on top.

Several of the stone tools recovered from the Ridge site are sufficiently complete for us to categorize them not just as spear or dart points, but — based on their shapes — as those dating to the end of the Archaic Period. These projectile points, named Bare Island points for the location from which they were initially found and described in detail, occur throughout the region and, based on associations with dateable charcoal through radiocarbon dating peaked in use around 4,500 years ago, or 2,500 BCE (Before the Common Era).

Each site — Falcon and Ridge — holds some interest to the researcher, and that level of interest increases further by comparing them as I have done. Now, consider what might be learned by comparing these two sites to other sites dating to the same period. Until recently, that hasn't been possible. There have been too few sites found for this period, fewer yet that have been investigated in any depth, and virtually none that are single-component; that is to say, sites that have not been occupied for centuries, mixing materials from different peoples pursuing different ways of life. Late Archaic sites along streams that have migrated, attracting successive villages away from the earlier sites, and those spread across the uplands, are the kinds of sites we need to make these comparisons. And those are the kinds of sites that recent archaeological sites have revealed.

Consider the following, starkly simple pattern in the types of stone chosen by the occupants of Falcon and Ridge, and those of five other sites found in the county over the past several years. Chert — a flint-like stone — and rhyolite — a volcanic stone — do not occur naturally in Southern Maryland in any quantity or size suitable for making tools. They were collected or traded on the Eastern Shore or the piedmonts of Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia. Sufficiently fine-grained sandstones also are rare in the area. Quartz and quartzite, however, are readily available, generally in ancient marine deposits exposed by eroding streams. Note that three of the sites (18CH684, 18CH884, and 18CH921; all just west of Waldorf on Berry Road) have distinctly different patterns from the other five sites, occupants choosing both quartz and quartzite in roughly similar proportions. Two of the sites are on the upland south of Berry Road, and the other is a large site on a relict stream channel north of Berry Road. Occupants of the other four

sites, on the other hand, selected quartzite as their preferred material. They are all upland sites, with one near Port Tobacco, one in Nanjemoy, and the two on Falcon Ridge near Indian Head. Do these seven sites represent two distinct peoples? Two distinct cultures? Or was quartzite universally preferred, but scarce near the Waldorf sites? Clearly quartzite was used at the Waldorf sites, and whether because of relative scarcity or reasons we have not yet discerned, they relied more extensively on quartz.

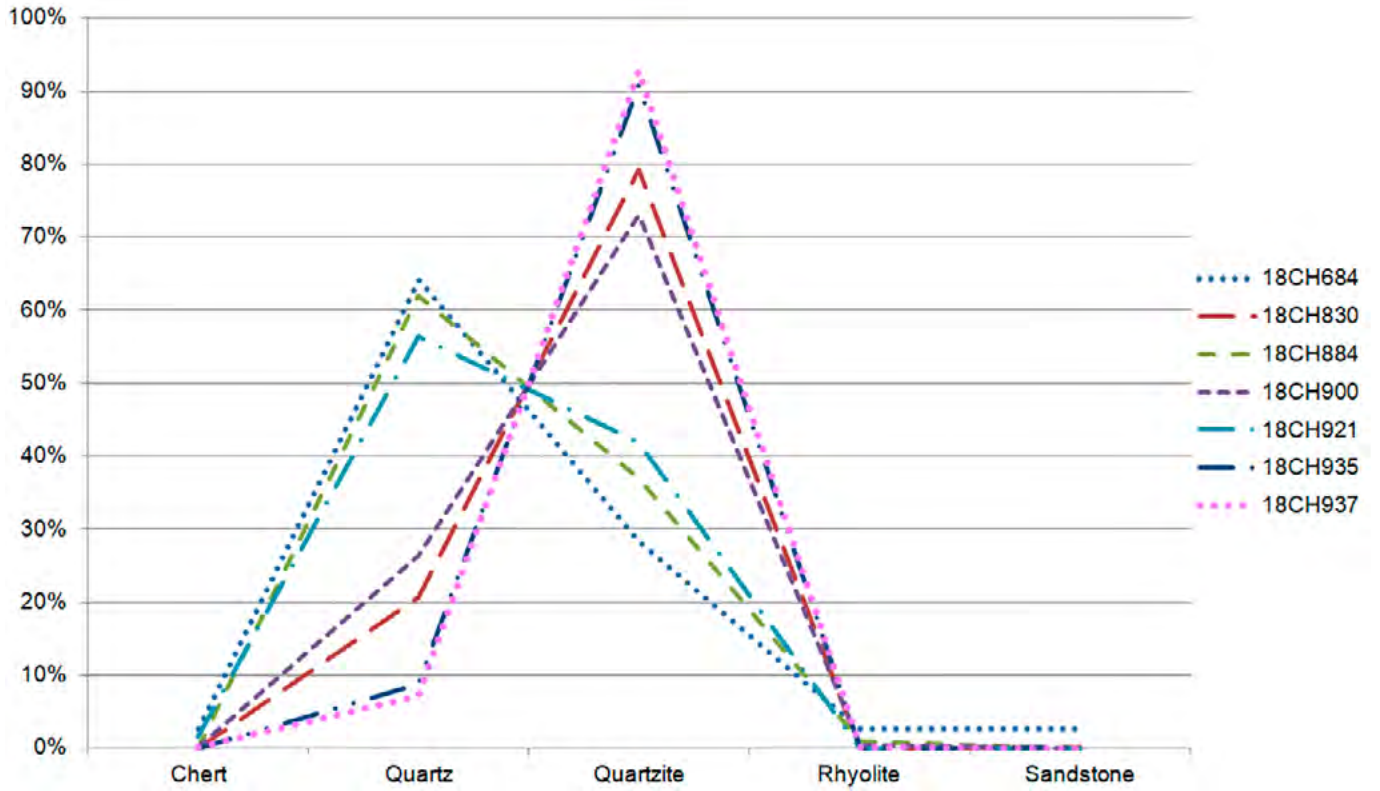
If we examine the different types of flakes, we can see that the seven sites are similar, probably indicating that the occupants of all of those sites relied largely on a core technology. Bare Island projectile points and large stone knives, all lenticular in cross-section, support the hypothesis that they all used this approach to make their stone tools. People at the three Waldorf sites and, to a lesser extent, those at the one near Port Tobacco (18CH830) may have used quartz for expedient tools; which is to say, rough flakes broken from quartz cobbles to provide ready-at-hand sharp edges that were discarded once dulled or the task finished. Or perhaps they just did so more often than the occupants of the other sites.

The search for distinct peoples and, eventually, for clues to how they interacted with one another and with the ecosystems in which they lived, awaits more detailed data from more of these single-component sites. We can expect diverse and complex societies to emerge from this kind of research, restoring rich histories now obscured by the glosses “Indian” and “Native American.” ■

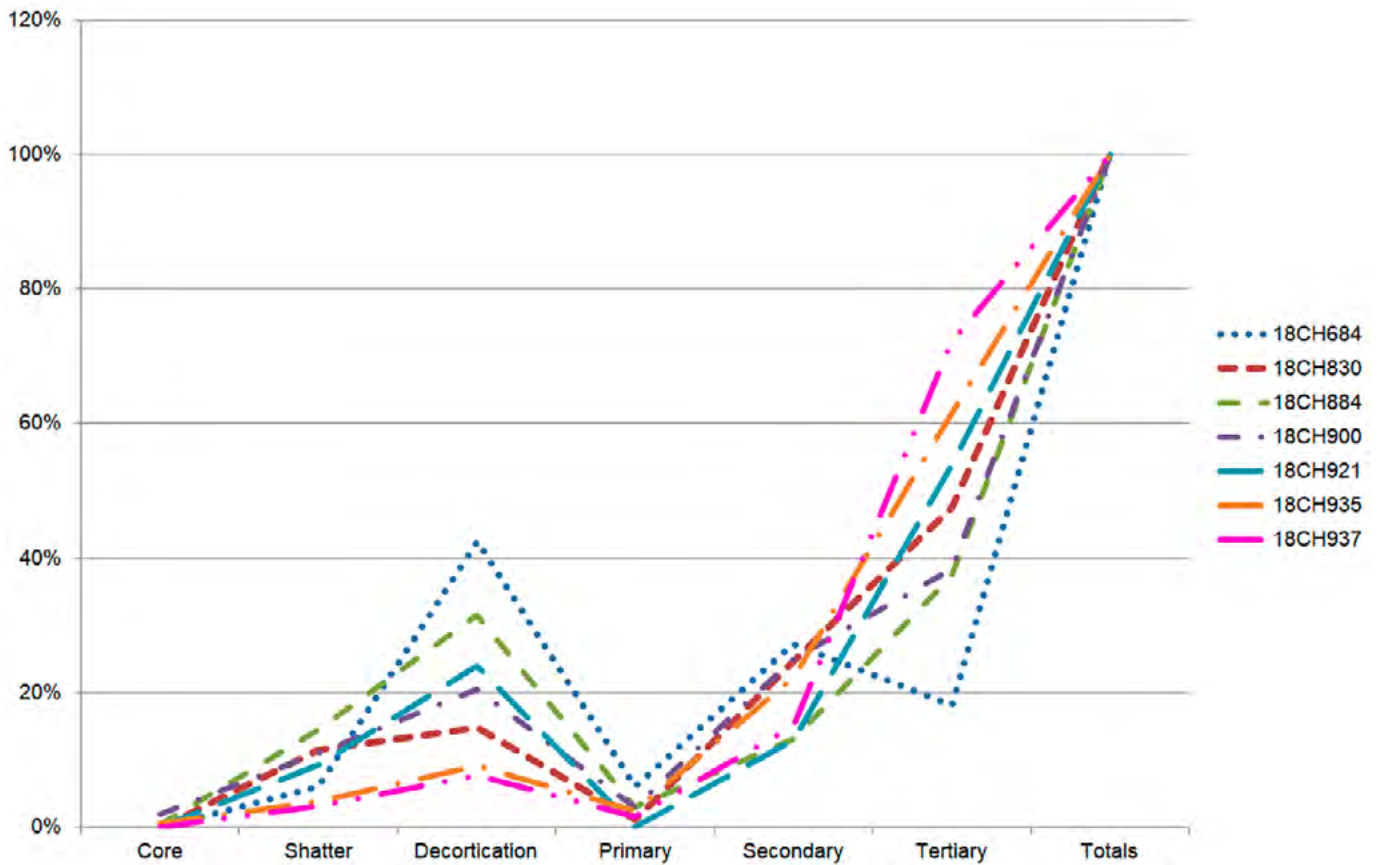
Bare Island projectile points and two examples (upper left) of the larger cores from which they were made.



Comparison of stone tool material choices as documented for the Falcon (18CH935) and Ridge (18CH937) sites and five other Late Archaic sites recently discovered in Charles County.



Comparison of flake type percentages documented for the Falcon (18CH935) and Ridge (18CH937) sites and five other Late Archaic sites recently discovered in Charles County.





The 1912 Simon and Rosa Epp Farmhouse near Gallant Green.




Epp Farmstead

Germans Homesteading a Charles County Farm

James G. Gibb and Sherri Marsh Johns

Forlorn and empty, windows gone, supported by locust trees, and standing largely through habit, Simon and Rosa Epp's 1912 farmhouse on the edge of a field, on the edge of a railroad track, on the edge of Cedarville State Forest in Gallant Green, looks like many other abandoned farmhouses in Southern Maryland.

Continued on next page 

It is a simple affair...

two stories with a central gable, frame, stove chimneys at each gable end, a front porch now gone, a small addition off the back. At the time of its construction the dwelling presented as a modest example of an early-20th-century I-house.



This rural vernacular house type was favored by farm families from the mid-to-late 19th century, well into the 20th. The I-houses popularity extended throughout much of the country. Architectural historian and cultural geographer Fred Kniffen writes "...the I-house was symbolic of economic attainment by agriculturist...,"^[i] though in its present condition, it is difficult to envision the Epp House as a architectural status symbol.

In line behind the house, also along the field edge to avoid impinging on valuable farm land, there are several outbuildings, all typical for county farms of that era: a corn crib, a small tobacco barn-turned-stable, a completely shattered barn of uncertain function, and a large gambrel-roofed barn, originally built to house tobacco, but refitted as a hay barn. While differing from other derelict farmsteads in particular, the Epp farm is historically interesting because it is just like farms across Charles County and Southern Maryland, but — perhaps — shouldn't be.

Epp Farm (also called Keller Farm for its most recent owners) marked the end of a journey that began in 1884 in the Grand Duchy of Baden (now the German Republic of Baden), continued through 1899 in Kansas and the Oklahoma Territory until 1904, and briefly stopped in Arkansas, before arriving in 1912 at Gallant Green and ending in 1958 with Simon Epp's death and the sale of the farm. Simon and Rosa Epp represent one aspect of the German-American experience of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and it is one with an unexpected twist. Plans for mining sand and gravel by Chaney Enterprises

afforded the opportunity to investigate the farm and its occupants before all of the buildings collapsed into ruinous piles of boards and roofing.

We all learned in school about westward expansion after the Civil War, with the growing network of steamboats on the major rivers, wagon trains, and the growth of a web of railroads that carried immigrants west and farm and mine products east. The demand for settlers to secure US land claims against Native Americans, Canadians, and Mexicans could not be met solely by Eastern farmers and merchants. Federal and state governments created agencies, and private interests formed land sales companies and colonization societies to recruit US residents and foreign nationals. They were successful; too successful for Maryland which saw many of its farmers from the southern counties on the Western Shore abandoned the worn out soils of their tobacco farms for inexpensive, abundant, previously uncultivated prairie land. (The problem became so dire that census marshals in Southern Maryland in 1900 conspired to falsify returns, listing families that moved westward and individuals who had died. They exaggerated the size of the population to maintain seats in the US House of Representative. They were caught.)^[ii]

Simon Epp (19), a baker, and his sister Mary Epp (24) arrived in the US in 1882. Simon returned to Baden in 1884, and from there returned to New York in August 1884 with his fiancée Rosa Philip (19). They married in Ellinwood, Kansas, the following month, Epp's brother and several Catholic clergy

[i] Kniffen, Fred. "Folk House: Key to Diffusion." In *Common Places: Readings in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach. Athens: University of Georgia Press, (1986), p.9.

[ii] *Evening Star* (Washington, District of Columbia, United States of America), 30 Mar 1901, Sat, Page 10.

officiating. They farmed, but in 1896 they bought a bakery in town which they operated until October of the following year when they sold it back to Adam Tritsch. The Epps, including eight children, moved about 150 miles south to Manchester in the Oklahoma Territory, on the Kansas border, in 1899, where they bought a farm, and then moved on to Prairie, Arkansas, about 500 miles to the east, with eleven of children a few years later. In 1912, the Epps purchased 147 acres near Gallant Green, building a farm that they would operate for the next 45 years. The house they built bears a striking resemblance to the one they sold with their Kansas farm to John Hermes in 1899: "a two story house with 13 rooms and two halls" according to the *Ellinwood Leader* (18 May 1899).


The long arc of the Epps' journey makes sense in terms of colonization, first of the American West, and then of the abandoned farmlands of the American East. We don't know what turned Simon Epp away from his home in a German state. Perhaps it was poor economic prospects, or the growing militarism of the newly unified German Empire, or perhaps just wanderlust. Certainly, Simon Epp's desire to explore and discover can be seen in his multiple moves. We do not know if he encountered individuals or organizations promoting emigration to the New World. His apparent 'beeline' to Ellinworth, Kansas, during his trip of 1882, culminating in his purchase of a farm, suggests that family or a recruiter brought him there. We can only speculate on what drew Epp and his family to Oklahoma and Arkansas: that research remains incomplete.

Strong circumstantial evidence links the Epps' move to Maryland with a colonization effort. Item #1: Maryland created its State Bureau of Immigration in 1896, charging it with promoting settlement within the state, particularly of agricultural areas to meet the demand for agricultural laborers. The Bureau's secretary oversaw daily operations and was expected to speak several languages. The first secretary, Cornelius W. Van der Hoogt, planned in October of 1896 to go to Holland to recruit farm workers. His replacement, Herman J. Badenhop

(also Badenkoop) served from 1900 to 1906. Badenhop visited Kansas and several other Western states in 1903, extolling the many advantages of farming in Maryland and pointing out only one disadvantage: the land must be fertilized, the cost of which played a significant role in the emigration westward of Maryland farmers.

Item #2: Badenhop's actions and whereabouts from 1907 and 1908 remain undetermined, but in 1909 he started the German-American Colonization & Land Company from which the Epps purchased outright, without mortgage, their Gallant Green farm in 1912. (The Epps owned each of their farms, apparently never renting, suggesting that they had individual or family wealth to invest.) Badenhop's company purchased land and, as quickly as possible, sold it to prospective farmers, many of whom were Germans. He headquartered in Brandywine, Prince George's County, about ten miles north of the Epps' farm. There, out of a small molded concrete block and stucco building (14110 Brandywine Road), he arranged for land purchases and mortgages, mostly in southern Prince George's County, and he built a house for his own family around the corner from the bank on Missouri Avenue. The banking function of the company became the Southern Maryland German American Bank in 1912 and, in 1913, the Bank of Brandywine. In 1917, with the US entering World War I against Germany, among other countries, anti-German sentiment pervaded the country and Badenhop's land company ceased operations, as did, of course, recruiting of German émigrés.

Was the Epp family's experience typical of German-American immigrants in Southern Maryland? We can't say, at least not definitively: the research has not been done. We know that many German Americans came to the area from southern Pennsylvania by way of Baltimore. Frederick Helb arrived in Baltimore from Wittenberg, Germany, in 1847, working briefly as a tanner before moving to York County. There he

Continued on next page 



The outbuildings at the Epp Farmstead were typical of those throughout Southern Maryland and did not reflect characteristics commonly associated with German architecture.



A building form traditionally used for dairy cattle, the bank-barn built by Frederick Helb in Calvert County was instead adapted to house draft animals for his lumbering operation.

established a very successful tannery, brewery, and furniture manufactory. In 1881 he acquired land in southern Calvert County, establishing a lumbering business to provide material for his three Pennsylvania businesses. He left his mark on the Calvert landscape: a German-style bank barn—unique among the region’s louvered tobacco barns—intended to house draft animals, rather than dairy cattle, for his lumbering operation.

By contrast, Friedrich von Schwerdtner arrived in Anne Arundel County from Germany in 1890, buying a farm and finding employment as a professor of foreign languages at St. Johns College in Annapolis, a position subsequently occupied by his son Ernst and grandson Frederick. His infant son died in 1901, and the monument marking the grave is all that can be seen in the small family cemetery. It bears an inscription, a verse from the German poet and nationalist Ludwig Uhland. Nearby are the ruins of the von Schwerdtner farmstead, allegedly burned in 1920. Friedrich had returned to Germany in 1914 to assist in the war effort, a time when the US espoused neutrality. With the entrance of the US into the war in 1917 and enactment of the Trading with the Enemies Act, Friedrich became an enemy



Herman Badenhoop served as Secretary of the Maryland State Bureau of Immigration and later established the German-American Colonization & Land Company. He travelled to Kansas and other western states to recruit recent immigrants to instead settle in Maryland's agricultural areas.

Photo Credit: Debra Naylor, portrait photographed courtesy of Walter Meinhardt.

Friedrich J. von Schwerdtner
26 März - 28 Juli
1901
Unser Früzchen:
Du kamst, du gingst mit leiser Spur,
Ein flüchtger Gast im Erdenland;
Woher? wohin? Wir wissen nur:
Aus Gottes Hand in Gottes Hand.



*You came, you went with a quiet track,
A little guest in the earth land.
Where? Where?
All we know is:
From God's hand — in God's hand.*

Uhland lines from the von Schwerdtner marker with translation — The von Schwerdtner family cemetery in Anne Arundel County includes a 1901 marker with a verse in German from the poet and nationalist Ludwig Uhland.


alien unable to return to his family in Crownsville. The Federal government confiscated his farm, although Ernst von Schwerdtner recovered one half of it after the war through a landmark legal case.

German Americans have left traces across the Maryland landscape. Those left by Helb and von Schwerdtner are distinct, clearly projecting German culture and experience. The marks left by the Epps and their Austrian neighbors and in-laws (by way of the Epps daughter Angelina) the Nimmerrichters, in the way of houses and farm buildings, are not emphatically German. Indeed, they are indistinguishable from those of their Anglo-American neighbors, many of whom had lived in the area for generations. That isn't to say that they hid their German identities: they retained their names (unlike Great Britain's royals who changed their surname from Saxe-Coburg and Gotha to the more English Windsor) and the accents of the elder Epps and Nimmerrichters no doubt were unmistakable. But they did not choose to express it through their buildings or through the kinds of crops they grew. They were tobacco farmers and, at least the Epps, were Catholics, interred at nearby St. Mary's Catholic Church.

The Epp farmhouse and its associated farm buildings are historically interesting, not because they stand in marked contrast to those of their

non-Teutonic neighbors, but because they are indistinguishable as such. Even the first house the Epps built in Kansas fit neatly into that countryside, populated by many Germans, and their final house—which seems nearly identical to the first—could pass for that of any other farmer in the neighborhood. This isn't to say that the Epps had assimilated, only that they expressed their cultural heritage in ways other than through architecture, and that has important implications as we further develop our understanding of Charles County's past. Helb and von Schwerdtner, by contrast, left very clear expressions of German sentiments on the Southern Maryland landscape; those remains are also historically interesting for their unique qualities and for the different perspectives they embody of the American experience.

This history is still unfolding. If you have additional information on German families who settled in Charles County during the early 20th century, please contact us at ThompsCa@CharlesCountyMD.gov. ■

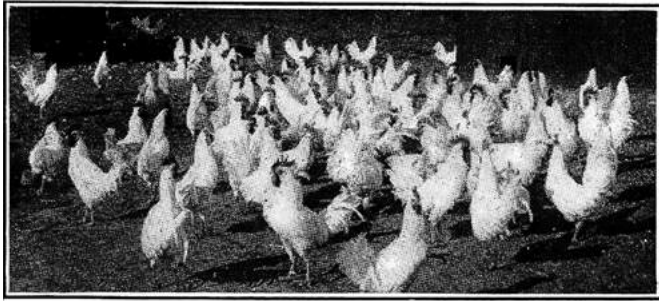
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The Southern Maryland German American Bank was built in 1912 and later renamed the Bank of Brandywine (14110 Brandywine Road). The bank facilitated purchasing and reselling land to German immigrants through southern Prince Georges and northern Charles County. *Photograph courtesy of Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.*



The Robinson and Via Family Papers, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution



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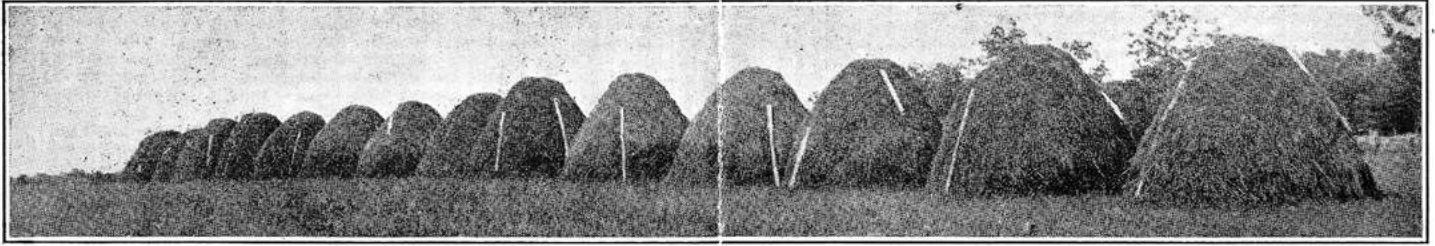
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No. 103 **183 Acres** **\$10500**
A Wonderful Home and a Wonderful Farm

Here is a grand old colonial estate of 183 acres within short distance of Washington over macadam roads nearly all the way, 4 miles to depot; only $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to store, post office and church. 120 acres under cultivation in level and slightly rolling fields finely adapted for corn, wheat and grass. Spring, stream and wells afford splendid water supply. House is a magnificent brick structure of 3 stories containing 20 rooms; good cellar. This is one of the rare old homes of the sunny south having been built about 100 years, but is good for 100 years more as far as anyone can see; old colonial style of architecture with big halls and chimneys. This old home certainly savors of the southern hospitality and we fail to see how anyone could help being happy here; large lawn with cool shade trees; overlooking fine stretch of country. This property has been in one family for many generations, but is now being sold to settle an estate. The orchard consists of apples, pears, peaches and cherries; grape vines. Woodlot contains quite a quantity of timber and pulp wood. Wire-fenced pasture, barn and a new tenant house, other barn, stable, chicken house, corn crib, sheep shed and granary. It seems to us that it would be well worth your time to consider this carefully. The price is only \$10500, with part cash and the balance on easy terms.

COME PREPARED.

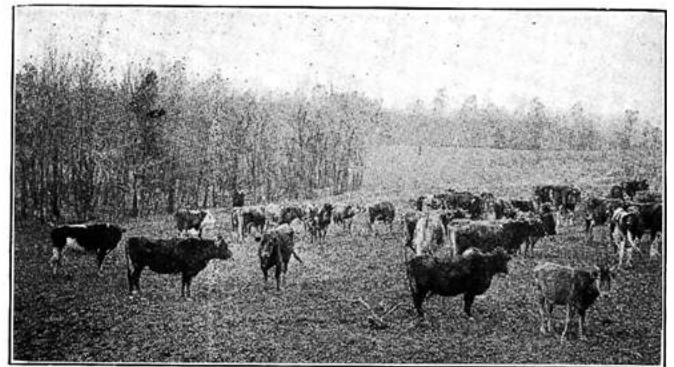
It is wise when leaving home to take \$200 or so in cash, draft, or certified check payable to your order, to bind the trade should you see a farm to suit you. This is for your own protection so that we can hold the property for you for a few days while you arrange for the payment of the balance, etc. All our farms are either "Sold" or "Not Sold." For the protection of our customers, who often travel long distances, we never give options.

No. 101 **121 Acres** **\$6600**
110 Acres in Tillage—Within 1 Mile of Chesapeake Bay
Plenty of Fruit

Picture in your mind Sunny Maryland, near the National Capital and only 1 mile to the sparkling waters of Chesapeake Bay with all its beautiful surroundings and but 2 miles to Chesapeake Beach, the noted summer resort for Washington and Baltimore people. Only $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles to depot and 2 miles to big town with good markets, 1 mile to village with stores, etc. 110 in rolling tillage land, fine loamy soil. A portion of this land is spring-watered and fenced to pasture 20 head of stock. Orchard of 30 apple trees and 500 peach trees, also cherries and pears. 2-story house, painted, 2 piazzas, fine view partly overlooking Chesapeake Bay. 2 good sized barns with extra shed room, stable, corn house, carriage house, sheep shed, ice house, meat house, etc. The present owner now wishes to retire from active work and will sell this most attractive, well situated, highly desirable farm for \$6,600, part cash, balance on easy terms.

STROUT'S FARM CATALOGUE

The biggest and best farm catalogue ever issued. Contains descriptions and pictures of hundreds of money-making farms. For free copy address E. A. Strout Farm Agency, Land Title Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.



THE BIG CROPS OF HAY, GRAIN AND ALFALFA, ABUNDANT SUPPLY OF PURE DRINKING WATER, AND EXCELLENT CLIMATIC CONDITIONS, MAKE DAIRYING EXTREMELY PROFITABLE IN THIS GRAND SECTION.




Anderson Farm



Zekiah Valley

Preserving Our Rural Heritage

Continued on next page 

For many Charles Countians, the Zekiah Swamp is the soul of Charles County, where rural, “old” Charles County begins.

Crossed by few roads, to this day the swamp remains relatively isolated, and largely inaccessible, a wilderness just minutes from the county’s urbanized area. The forests, farms, and open spaces in and around the swamp connect the county to its earliest history.


The Zekiah Swamp Run originates in Southern Prince George’s County and flows through Charles County forming the headwaters of the Wicomico River, a tributary of the lower Potomac River. The watershed includes almost 70,000 acres and is the largest hardwood swamp forest and most biologically diverse ecosystem in Maryland. The Zekiah is a vast wetland complex of extensive hardwood swamp forests, intermingled with shrub swamps, emergent wetlands, grass and sedge savanna, open beaver ponds, shallow pools, and mudflats along the streams. Approximately 15,000 acres of forested wetlands border the main stream which is more than 20 miles long and almost a mile wide in some places. Zekiah’s unfragmented forests provide needed habitat for tropical migrating birds and forest interior dwelling wildlife and are home to many rare, threatened, and endangered species.^[1]

The Zekiah is also extraordinarily rich in cultural heritage. A long established Native American hunting ground, the Upper Zekiah Valley was a refuge for the Piscataway during the 17th

century and continues to be home to Piscataway descendants to this day. In the 19th century, its isolation so close to the nation’s capital figured prominently in the escape of John Wilkes Booth after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. In the early 20th century, the northern part of the watershed attracted countless immigrant families lured through the efforts of the German-American Colonization and Land Company. It includes dozens of documented historic and archaeological sites, as well as scenic vistas and agricultural landscapes. The Zekiah is also home to a vibrant agricultural community. The Charles Soil Conservation Office, at the end of Gardiner Road is located within the watershed and supports farmers with a range of technical support and educational classes. BoonDoggie Farm and Zekiah Farms in Bryantown, and Middleton’s Cedar Hill Farm in Waldorf are all participants in the Rural Legacy Program. Located on a smaller acreage within the Rural Legacy Area is Dicot Farm which produces organic vegetables for sale at area farmer’s markets.

In 1998, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and Charles County Commissioners designated 30,000 acres encompassing the northern portion of the Zekiah Swamp as a recognized Rural Legacy Area. Located between the Prince George’s County’s southern boundary and Maryland Route 5 at Bryantown, this portion of the watershed was

[1] Rural Legacy Area Designation and Rural Legacy Plan Approval for the Zekiah Swamp Run Watershed. Submitted to the Rural Legacy Board of Maryland Department of Natural Resources by Charles County, MD, January 30, 1998.

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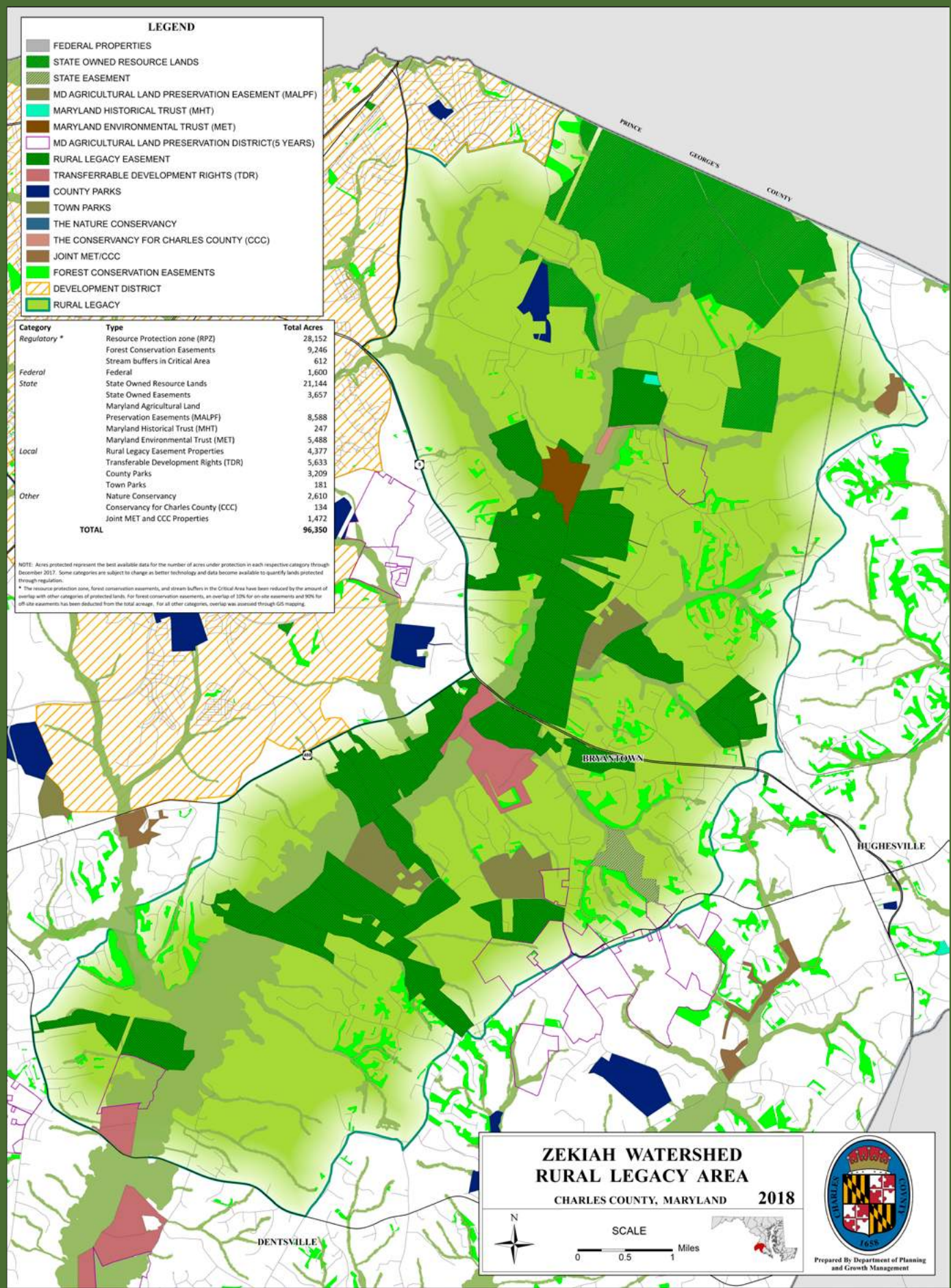
Former Tenant House on Myers Farm



Carrico Farm Tobacco Barn

Zekiah Farms 3 is a family owned business that offers local meats and produce at their farm store as well as local farmers markets. Over 300 acres are protected under a conservation easement.





LEGEND

- FEDERAL PROPERTIES
- STATE OWNED RESOURCE LANDS
- STATE EASEMENT
- MD AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION EASEMENT (MALPF)
- MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST (MHT)
- MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST (MET)
- MD AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION DISTRICT(5 YEARS)
- RURAL LEGACY EASEMENT
- TRANSFERRABLE DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS (TDR)
- COUNTY PARKS
- TOWN PARKS
- THE NATURE CONSERVANCY
- THE CONSERVANCY FOR CHARLES COUNTY (CCC)
- JOINT MET/CCC
- FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENTS
- DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT
- RURAL LEGACY

Category	Type	Total Acres
Regulatory *	Resource Protection zone (RPZ)	28,152
	Forest Conservation Easements	9,246
	Stream buffers in Critical Area	612
Federal	Federal	1,600
	State Owned Resource Lands	21,144
State	State Owned Easements	3,657
	Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Easements (MALPF)	8,588
	Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)	247
	Maryland Environmental Trust (MET)	5,488
	Rural Legacy Easement Properties	4,377
	Transferable Development Rights (TDR)	5,633
	County Parks	3,209
Local	Town Parks	181
	Nature Conservancy	2,610
	Conservancy for Charles County (CCC)	134
Other	Joint MET and CCC Properties	1,472
	TOTAL	96,350

NOTE: Acres protected represent the best available data for the number of acres under protection in each respective category through December 2017. Some categories are subject to change as better technology and data become available to quantify lands protected through regulation.

* The resource protection zone, forest conservation easements, and stream buffers in the Critical Area have been reduced by the amount of overlap with other categories of protected lands. For forest conservation easements, an overlap of 20% for on-site easements and 80% for off-site easements has been deducted from the total acreage. For all other categories, overlap was assessed through GIS mapping.

ZEKIAH WATERSHED RURAL LEGACY AREA

CHARLES COUNTY, MARYLAND **2018**

SCALE

0 0.5 1 Miles

Prepared By Department of Planning
and Growth Management

Rural Heritage – Continued from previous page.

strategically selected because of its proximity to the Charles County Development District. The area was expanded in 2001 to add an additional 30,000 acres with the southern boundary drawn at Maryland Route 6. Maryland's Rural Legacy Program provides funding to preserve large, contiguous tracts of land and to enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry, and environmental protection, while supporting a sustainable land base for natural resource-based industries. The program creates public-private partnerships to protect the landscapes that are critical to our economy, environment, and quality of life.

Over the last two decades, Charles County has worked with residents to protect this irreplaceable rural landscape. To date, more than 8,500 acres have been preserved. More than 4,000 acres have been preserved through the purchase of conservation easements as part of the rural legacy program alone, an investment of \$15 million to date. In fiscal 2018, Charles County was awarded \$1.8 million to continue land preservation efforts in the area, preserving our cultural resources and our rural legacy for generations to come. To view a map of the Zekiah Rural Legacy Area, visit www.charlescountymd.gov/sites/default/files/pgm/planning/land_pres_Rural%20Legacy%20Map.pdf. ■

For additional program information, please contact Charles Rice at RiceC@CharlesCountyMD.gov.

Support a Farm in the Rural Legacy Area

www.DicotFarm.com

www.ZekiahFarms3.com

www.BoonDoggieFarm.com

Middleton's Cedar Hill Farm
301-848-7897

ShlagelFarms.com

LegacyFarmLawnsclapes.com

Find them all on Facebook!



Clockwise from top left:

Brinkwood

at BoonDoggie Farm is one of several historic farms located along Edelen Road. Together these conservation easements protect approximately 1,000 acres. BoonDoggie Farm is the home of the seasonal Vintage Flea and Farm Market.



Evergreen

is in the Bryantown National Register Historic District. The surrounding farm consists of 80 acres protected by a Rural Legacy Conservation Easement.



Dr. Mudd House

is a popular tourism destination in Charles County. The surrounding 200 acres were planned for a residential subdivision when the property was acquired through the Rural Legacy Program. It is now protected with a conservation easement and owned by the Mudd Society.

Beautifully restored **Oakland** is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There are 223 acres surrounding the home which were recently preserved through the Rural Legacy Program.

Working for Preservation

Each year, the internship program at Charles County Government provides an opportunity for area college students to work at Port Tobacco Historic Village, shadowing the tour guides and conducting a research project on a site in Port Tobacco. Our interns for the last year were Jay Hogston and Alex Lateulere.

Jay Hogston, a graduate of La Plata High School, was a senior at St. Mary's College of Maryland when he interned at Port Tobacco Historic Village during the winter months of 2017. Between giving tours, Jay researched Lot 46, which was originally owned by John Muschett in 1740 and later, in 1762, the site for merchant John Glassford and Company. One of the most interesting discoveries Jay uncovered was the sale advertisement, in the May 25, 1748 edition of the "Maryland Gazette," for the Muschett's houses in Lot 46. This ad described the lot as containing a "Malt House of 60-foot-long, two-story high, with a Kiln adjoining to it; and is very well situated for a Brewer." Now, when you visit the Merchant Store at Historic Stagg Hall, you can see the replicas of stone-ware beer bottles, authenticating through his documentation, the brewery that once was in Port Tobacco.

Alex Lateulere, a graduate of Lackey High School and currently a senior at the University of Maryland, Baltimore, interned during the summer of 2018. He delved into the complicated ownership of Lot 74, the site of the St. Charles Hotel. Alex's research revealed detailed information from the first owner of the site, James Glascock in 1729, through the complicated court battles of ownership of the lot, as well as the various proprietors of the business on the site. Alex's extensive research uncovered a variety of names for the one establishment on this lot. From "Mrs. Halkerston's, The Farmers and Planters Hotel, Brawler's Hotel to the St. Charles," his research provides a picture of life in Port Tobacco's historic past.



Preservation Awards 2018 Recipient



The Charles County Historic Preservation Commission, in conjunction with the Charles County Board of Commissioners, presented the 2018 Charles County Preservation Project Award to The Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco (SRPT) for the restoration of the historic smokehouse on the grounds of the Port Tobacco Courthouse. The award was presented during the Commissioners regularly scheduled meeting on June 5, 2018 recognizing members of SRPT for their commitment to the restoration of this unique structure. The mid-19th century smokehouse was moved to Port Tobacco from a nearby historic property in the 1960s. It was recently restored by Lynn Garner Construction with the assistance of SRPT volunteers Jullena Jones-Shelley and Joyce Edelen.

The Historic Preservation Award is presented annually to an eligible individual, business, organization, or project deserving recognition for outstanding achievements in historic preservation. Awards are presented in two categories: Preservation Projects and Preservation Service.

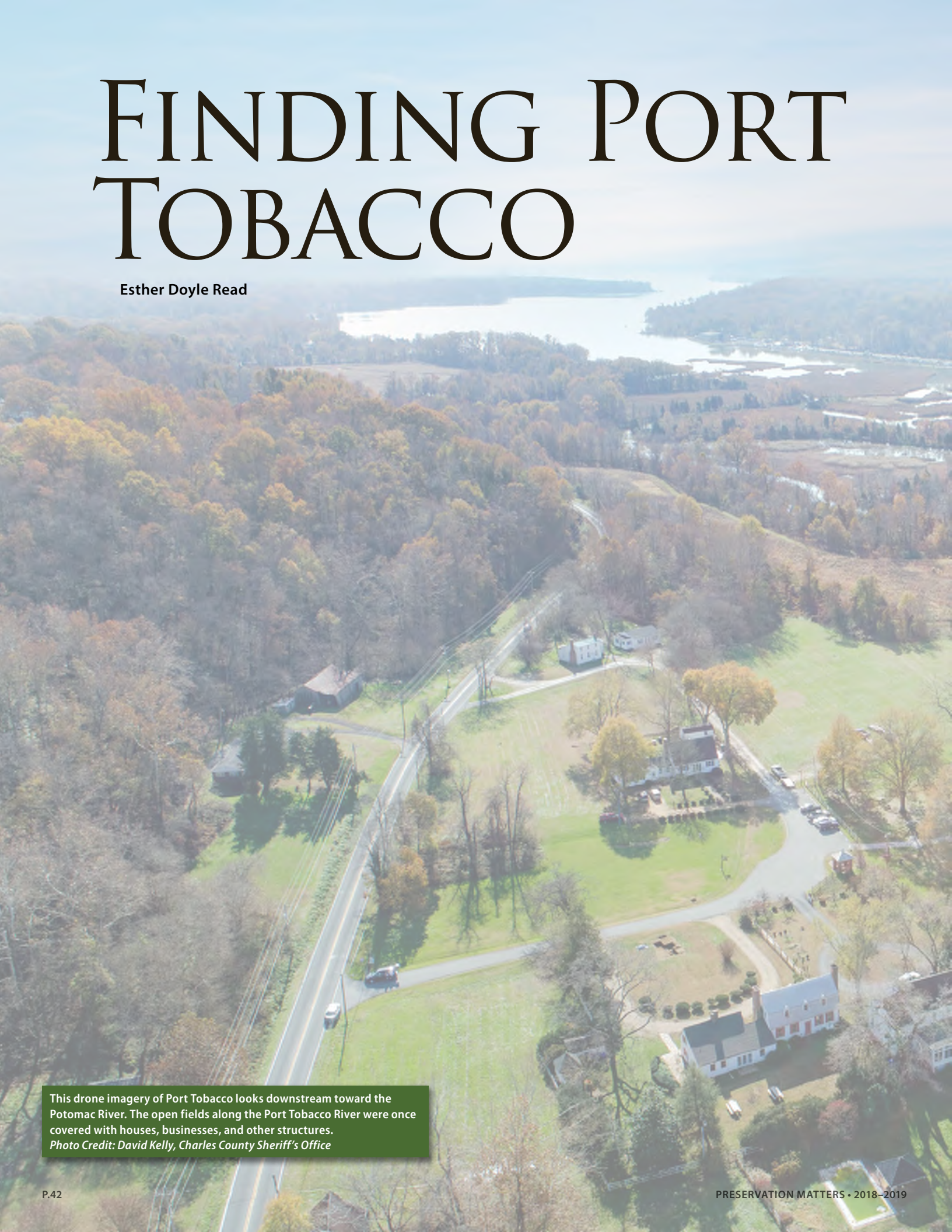
The Preservation Project award recognizes excellence in the preservation and restoration of historic buildings, and adaptive reuse of historic structures. The Preservation Service award recognizes outstanding achievement in and

support for furthering the aims of historic preservation in Charles County.

If you know of a worthy project, please contact Cathy Thompson at ThompsCa@CharlesCountyMD.gov for more information on the nomination process. ■

FINDING PORT TOBACCO


Esther Doyle Read



This drone imagery of Port Tobacco looks downstream toward the Potomac River. The open fields along the Port Tobacco River were once covered with houses, businesses, and other structures.
Photo Credit: David Kelly, Charles County Sheriff's Office



IMAGINE...
that you are a
tourist visiting Port
Tobacco for the
first time...

Continued on next page 

Port Tobacco –

Continued from previous page.

The landscape in the central portion of town encompasses a great deal of open space, making it difficult to visualize Port Tobacco as more than a small hamlet. As the docents lead you on a tour of the village and talk about the people, the buildings, and the town's role as an economic center and port, a different town begins to materialize, one that boasted almost 80 structures, including the County Courthouse and Jail, an Episcopal Church, and a busy port. As you hear the stories, read the signage, and look at the exhibits you wonder where the information to recreate the town came from. How were the interpretations about the past created? Where did the information come from? How do we know about the past?

To answer these questions, we, a group of archaeologists, architects, historians, and other researchers consulted many different sources, including the landscape, period documents, photographs and illustrations, maps, and the archaeological record. We began with the physical town as it currently exists. Between Chapel Point Road and the Port Tobacco River there are six buildings and the brick outline of a former structure. Two of the standing structures along Commerce Street, Stagg Hall and Chimney House, date to the late eighteenth century. Period records, such as deeds and wills, and dendrochronology (tree ring dates) from Stagg Hall give us construction dates for these homes. The Courthouse dates to two different periods. The wings date to 1819 while the center of the building is a 1976 reproduction of the original 1819 structure that burned to the ground in 1892. The reproduction was based on a period lithograph. Next to the Courthouse is a brick outline of the former Christ Episcopal Church, which in the early twentieth century, was taken down stone by stone, moved to La Plata,



Top: Stagg Hall and Chimney House — Chimney House (left, private) and Stagg Hall (right) are two of the remaining eighteenth-century buildings in Port Tobacco.

Bottom: Burch House and Holt House – The town features a variety of architectural styles and ages. Burch House (left) is an eighteenth-century building, while the Holt House (right) was moved to the town in the 1950s from Indian Head.

TO BE SOLD for ready Money, or Bills of Exchange,
The Houses and Lot in Charles-Town, (commonly called
Port-Tobacco) belonging to the Subscriber, consisting in a
Dwelling House of five Rooms, and other Out Houses, with a
Garden pal'd in; also a Malt-House of sixty Foot long, two
Story high, with a Kildn adjoining to it; and is very well situa-
ted for a Brewer.

JOHN MUSCHETT,

Advertisement for the sale of the Muschett brewery property
published in 1748 in the *Maryland Gazette*.




The center of the former **Charles County Courthouse** is a 1976 re-production of the original, which burned to the ground in 1892. The wings are part of the original 1819 courthouse.

and reconstructed. Across from Stagg Hall is a mid-twentieth-century reproduction of the nineteenth-century Quenzel Store. The final two buildings are on the south end of the village: the eighteenth-century Burch House and the Holt House (a mid-twentieth century house placed on an eighteenth-century foundation). Data for dating the Burch House came from period deeds and archaeological excavations conducted in 2006.

Document research helped us to determine the positions of town lots. Some of the documents provided us with detailed descriptions of what types of buildings were on a specific property. For example, on 25 May 1748, John Muschett advertised several lots and buildings for sale in the *Maryland Gazette*. The notice states that the buildings included "...a Dwelling House of five Rooms, and other out houses, with a Garden pal'd in; also a malt House of sixty Foot long, two Story high with a Kiln adjoining to it..." Not only does the notice give us a clue to the types of industries that existed in the town, it also tells us that Muschett had a dwelling with a fenced-in garden. A deed for the sale of the house in 1750 gives us the lot number where it was located. Careful reading of land transactions and leases, wills, court cases, and newspaper advertisements has allowed us to slowly build a map of the town lots and the changes that occurred to them through time.

However, not all the documents contain the type of information found in the 1748 Muschett advertisement. For much of the town's history the documents are silent about when a building was erected, pulled down, or even picked up and moved. We have photographs and lithographs of the town from the late nineteenth century that give us a glimpse of what buildings looked like. The type of architecture displayed in an illustration can enable us to estimate a date of construction, determine whether additions were made to the structure, and sometimes its function as a dwelling or a commercial building.

There are two detailed maps of the town, one produced in 1888 by the H.C. Page Survey and a sketch map of the town as it appeared circa 1894. The latter was drawn some years later by Robert Barbour, a native of the town. Barbour also produced a series of sketches of some of the buildings. Each of these sources gives us a great deal of information about businesses and residences in the town. The Barbour map includes the ruins of the Courthouse, the Jail, the St. Charles and Centennial Hotels, Christ Church, several stores, the offices of the *Port Tobacco Times* and *Maryland Independent* newspapers, a print shop, a barber shop, a blacksmith shop, and many residences, including those of the Compton, Padgett, Burch, Smoot, and

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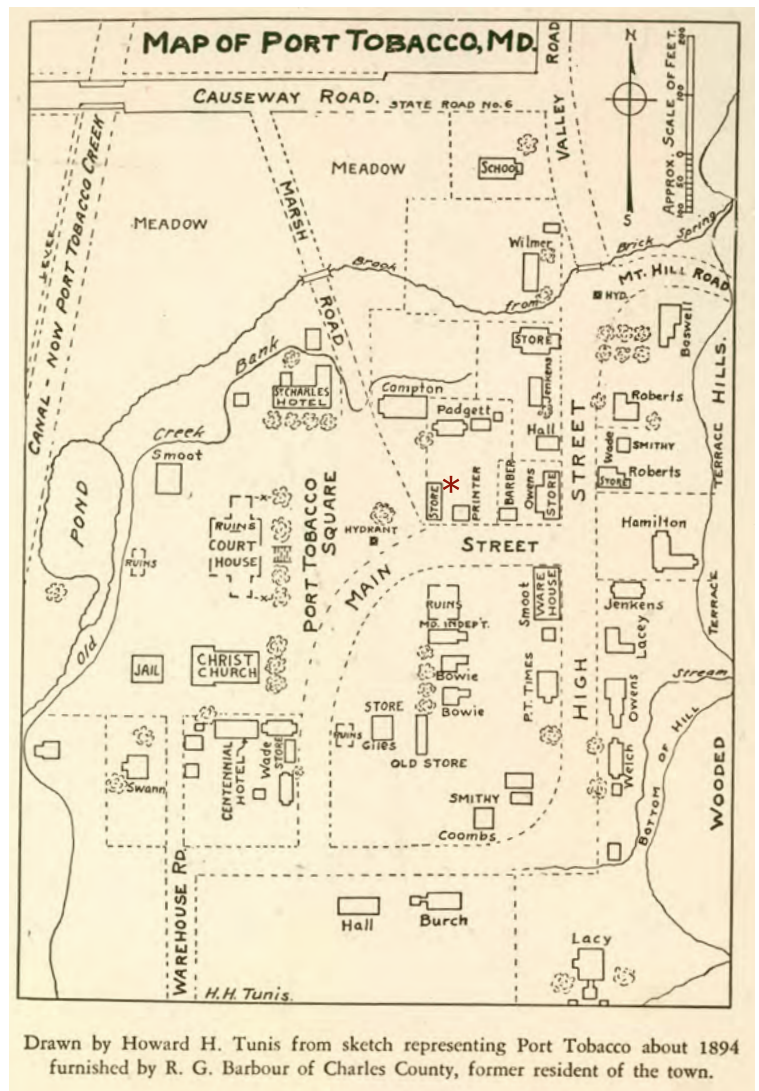


Drone shot of the print shop foundations uncovered during archaeological excavation. Photo Credit: David Kelly, Charles County Sheriff's Office

Port Tobacco – Continued from previous page.

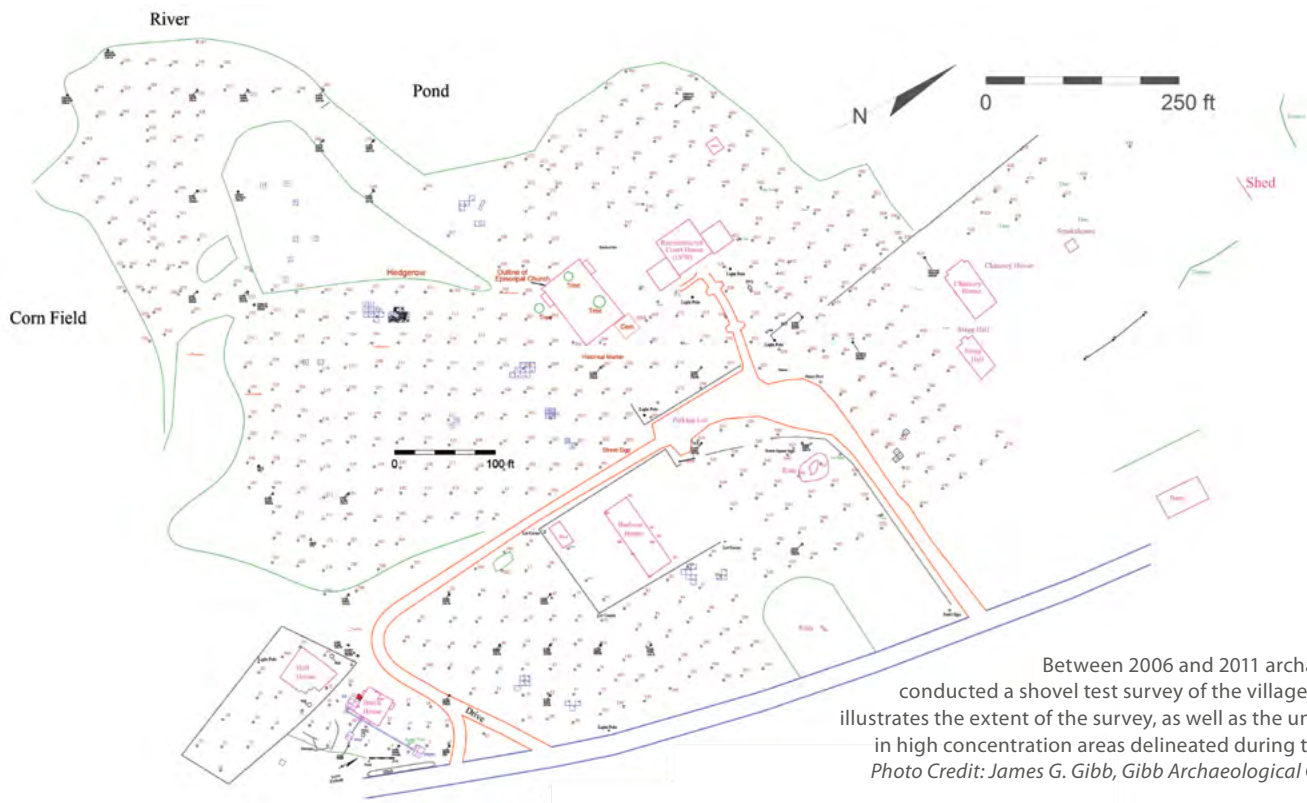
Swann families. This information is valuable not only because it helps us to match a family to a dwelling, but more importantly we can research the history of the people who lived there. A family name lets us search census data, which gives us names of people living in the house, their age, sex, race, and occupation, and sometimes the value of their real and personal holdings. We can also access other information about these individuals by searching newspapers. Did they fox hunt, go to dances, or church picnics? The names of people participating in these events are often listed in local interest articles. Did they own a store and advertise goods, or did they have another type of business that they advertised? This information is also found in period newspapers.

The records certainly help us to develop a rich story about the people who lived in the town. But where exactly was their house or business situated within a lot? For that matter where were the lot lines? Many of the lines were erased from the landscape when lots were consolidated into larger properties during the twentieth century. These are questions that can only be answered by archaeology. Between 2006 and 2011, professional archaeologists and volunteers from the Charles County Archaeological Society of Maryland conducted a survey of the town land, placing small shovel test pit (STP) units at regular intervals of 35 feet across the landscape. STPs are small excavation units that give us a window into the past. Information gleaned from an STP includes a quick view of the different soil deposits and the types of artifacts present at a given location. Why is this important? Let's say that a few of the STPs in one area of the town all had high concentrations of brick and mortar rubble along with lots of nails and window glass. Archaeologists interpret this architectural



Drawn by Howard H. Tunis from sketch representing Port Tobacco about 1894 furnished by R. G. Barbour of Charles County, former resident of the town.

Reproduced from *Maryland Historical Magazine*; winter 1945.



Between 2006 and 2011 archaeologists conducted a shovel test survey of the village. This map illustrates the extent of the survey, as well as the units placed in high concentration areas delineated during the survey. Photo Credit: James G. Gibb, Gibb Archaeological Consulting

concentration as associated with a former building location. Soil changes across the site can also indicate activity areas, such as gardens or middens (archaeologist-speak for a trash dump). Once all the artifacts from the survey were cleaned, cataloged, and entered into a computer program, a map of artifact concentrations was generated and building locations began to emerge from the depositional patterns.

With this information in hand, the next step was to match the STP concentrations to the lots described in the documents. Larger excavation units (about 5 by 5 feet on average) were placed in the concentrations to test our theory that a building was located there, and to gain information about the individual households or businesses associated with the artifacts. Over the past decade, testing has revealed foundations or artifact concentrations associated with the Swann Oyster House, at least two buildings associated with the County Jail (eighteenth and nineteenth century), the Centennial Hotel, a tavern next to the Quenzel Store (commonly called the Indian King Hotel), the Wade Store, and several brick foundations of unknown affiliation (at least one of which dates to the late eighteenth century). More recently, the author located the foundation of a nineteenth-century print shop located where the Robert Barbour map places it.

Some of the buildings located by the archaeology were on the Barbour map, but several of them were not. A case in point is a series of foundational post holes that may be associated with a post-in-ground structure. These types of structures were common from the founding of Maryland into the late eighteenth century and featured a frame building set on wooden posts. In most cases they had a short lifespan of 75 years or less, as the

below ground section of the wood foundation posts tended to rot or be destroyed by termites. In all probability, this structure was not standing during Barbour's lifetime. This is important because Barbour's map only covers the latter half of the town's history. There were probably buildings that were gone long before he was born. They could have disappeared for any number of reasons – their wood post foundations rotted, they burned down, they were damaged by a storm and so on. Archaeology enables us to build a picture of the town before the Barbour map.

Another technique that we plan to employ next year is geophysical survey, which includes ground penetrating radar (GPR), and magnetometry. Each technique locates and maps buried remains, such as foundations, roads, or graves. GPR uses radar to map the subsurface, while magnetometry relies on subsurface magnetic variations. Unlike conventional archaeology techniques, geophysical survey is non-intrusive and does not require any subsurface excavation. Later archaeological excavation may be planned to test the results of the survey.

All the sources I've referred to tell a part of the Port Tobacco story. Brought together they produce a broader picture of the town's past. Port Tobacco was an active center of commerce from its founding until the Courthouse moved to La Plata in 1895. Once that occurred, the town began to disappear from the landscape, leaving the few buildings we see today. But the records, the maps, the photographs, and the archaeology tell us a story about a vibrant and busy town. To hear the story, come and visit us, walk the town, visit the exhibits, and talk to the docents. There's more to this place than you can imagine. ■

ARE YOU A HISTORIC PROPERTY OWNER?

You may be eligible for the Heritage Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program.



Homeowner Tax Credit Program

Administered by Maryland Historical Trust (MHT)

Did you know homeowners can earn a state income tax credit for renovating historic homes? The tax credit offers homeowners of single-family, owner-occupied residences up to 20 percent of eligible rehabilitation costs. Tax credits may be used for repairs such as: Roof Repair and Replacement, Chimney Repair and Lining, Window Restoration, New Storm Doors/Windows, Masonry Repointing, and Floor Refinishing.

Eligibility: Buildings must be certified as historic, defined as having at least one of the following designations:

- Individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- A contributing resource within a National Register Historic District.
- A locally designated structure or contributing resource to a local historic district that MHT determines to be eligible for the National Register.

The credit is capped at \$50,000 in a 24-month period, and projects must have a minimum of \$5,000 of eligible expenses to qualify. Applications are accepted year round; MHT review runs approximately 30-45 days.

Details: Megan Klem — Megan.Klem@Maryland.gov • 410-514-7688. Additional information is available online at: https://mht.maryland.gov/taxcredits_homeowner.shtml.

MHT also administers a Small Commercial Tax Credit for income producing properties.

NATIONAL REGISTER PROPERTIES

Rose Hill	Mt. Air
La Grange	Mt. Aventine
Habre de Venture	Pleasant Hill
St. Thomas Manor	Rosemary Lawn
Friendship House	Cedar Grove
The Retreat	Compton House
Araby	Mt. Bleak
Stagg Hall	John Reeder House
Chimney House	Dr. Mudd House
Sarum	Rich Hill
St. Mary's Catholic Church	Locust Grove
Newport	Oakland
Truman's Place	Maxwell Hall
Burch House	Timber Neck Farm
Ellerslie	The Exchange
Waverly	Spye Park
Crain's Lot	McPherson's Purchase
Linden	Bryantown Tavern
The Lindens	Evergreen
Thainston	Old Waldorf School
Mt. Carmel Monastery	Bel Alton High School
Acquinsicke	Eugene Chaney House
Oak Grove	Green's Inheritance