

Preserving the Past for our Present and Future

Cultural Crossroads

*Maryland State Highway Administration
Cultural Resources Section*



*Street scene along MD 17 in Burkittsville, Frederick County, after an SHA Community Safety and Enhancement Program project
(Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Trust)*

SHA's goal is not only to fulfill our legal responsibilities by promoting environmentally sensitive transportation planning, but also to champion historic preservation through the stewardship of Maryland's cultural resources. Accomplished by our close partnership with the Maryland Historical Trust, SHA received a National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers *Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation*.

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1880s

*Above and below: The intersection of MD 144 (Frederick Road) and Ingleside/Bloomsbury Avenues in Catonsville, Baltimore County
(Courtesy of the Baltimore County Public Library)*

Maryland has long been a cultural crossroads. For at least 12,000 years people have left traces of their lives in the form of settlements, roads, and artifacts. The physical remains of our past are known as cultural resources and reveal how Native Americans, European Americans, and African Americans, among others, used Maryland's diverse landscape.

The Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA) is committed to avoiding, minimizing, or mitigating damage to both above- and below-ground resources in consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust. We appreciate that a balance must be maintained between preserving our heritage and the development and maintenance of our transportation system. Each year, SHA constructs hundreds of projects that range from sign installation, to bridge replacement, to new highway construction. Our cultural resources team of architectural historians and archeologists evaluate proposed construction impacts on buildings, historic districts, roadway structures, and archeological sites.



1915

*Note the streetcar in the lower right
(Courtesy of the Baltimore County Public Library)*



Today

(Photograph by Eric Dunton)



*Cover: A circa 1890 photograph of MD 144 (West Main Street) in New Market, Frederick County, found during archival research for an SHA project
(Courtesy of the Edgar Rossig photo collection)*

By Land and by Sea: Maryland Archeology

“Archeology is a terrain with few signposts and almost limitless horizons.”

-Anders Andrén

SHA archeologists study the past through the physical remains people left behind. These remains can be as small as a pottery fragment or as large as a sunken ship. Archeologists carefully excavate, record, and interpret artifacts that help explain the activities of people who lived in Maryland but may have left few or no written records.



Well uncovered during an SHA project in Worcester County
(Courtesy of TRC Garrow Associates, Inc.)

Terrestrial Archeology

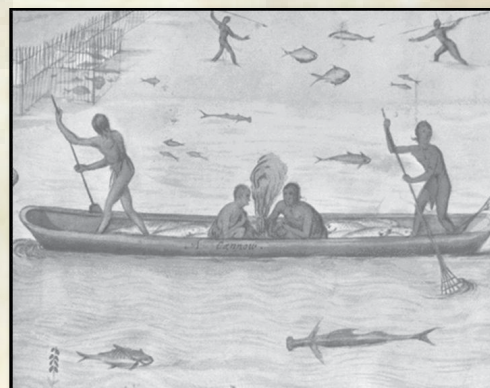
Terrestrial archeology is the study of archeological sites on land. Maryland's diverse landscapes supported Native American ways of life, newly established immigrant settlements, and eventually urban centers. Since human settlement is widespread, archeologists need to consider the probability of finding an important archeological site at the confluence of a river, as well as under a roadway.



Artifacts recovered from the wreck of the U.S.S. Tulip off the coast of southern Maryland
(Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Trust)

Underwater Archeology

Remnants of Maryland's rich maritime legacy also lie submerged, waiting to be rediscovered. Underwater archeologists investigate wharves and shipyards, as well as the remains of vessels that once navigated Maryland's waterways. The survey of underwater sites may require the use of scuba-diving gear and remote sensing equipment to access and identify submerged archeological resources.



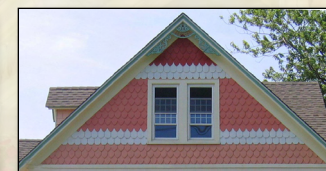
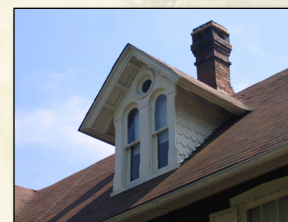
Sixteenth-century Native American fishing scene
(De Bry Engravings Digital Collection, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <http://www.lib.unc.edu/dc/debry/>)

Exploring Maryland's Architectural Legacy

SHA architectural historians study the history and evolution of our built environment. Buildings, bridges, and other structures reflect the era in which they were constructed and provide us with a tangible link to the past. Maryland prides itself on its diverse architectural resources that represent many styles dating from the seventeenth century through the mid-twentieth century. Structures that meet certain criteria are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, America's official list of culturally significant resources.



Casselman River Bridge in Garrett County
(Photograph by Carol M. Highsmith)



Historic Bridges

Maryland's abundance of streams, rivers, and bays made land travel difficult. Consequently, bridges became an important part of Maryland's transportation system. In the 1990s, SHA joined with the Maryland Historical Trust and the Federal Highway Administration to inventory Maryland's historic bridges built between 1809 and 1948. SHA created a book highlighting the most spectacular of these treasured links to the past. Written by Dixie Legler with photographs by Carol M. Highsmith, *Historic Bridges of Maryland* documents seventy-five historically important bridges across the state.

Left: Victorian-era houses set along West Bel Air Avenue (MD 132) in Aberdeen, Harford County (Photograph by Eric Dunton)