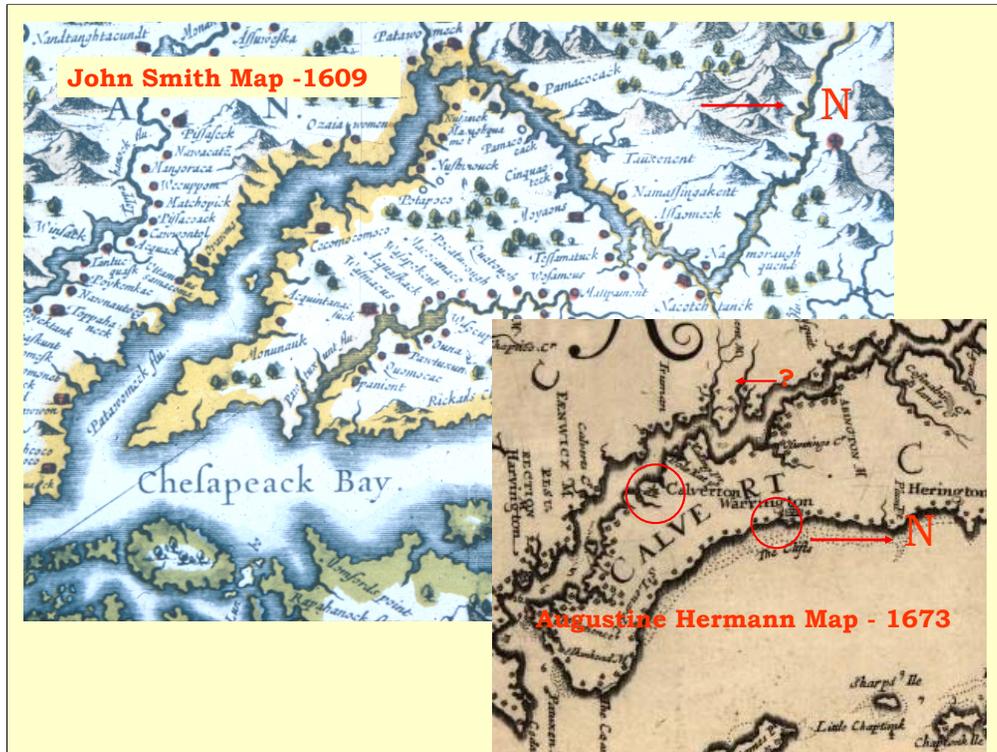


*Cultural Resources Review
in Calvert County, Maryland*

why should citizens care ?

Calvert County Planning and Zoning
Prince Frederick, Maryland
www.co.cal.md.us

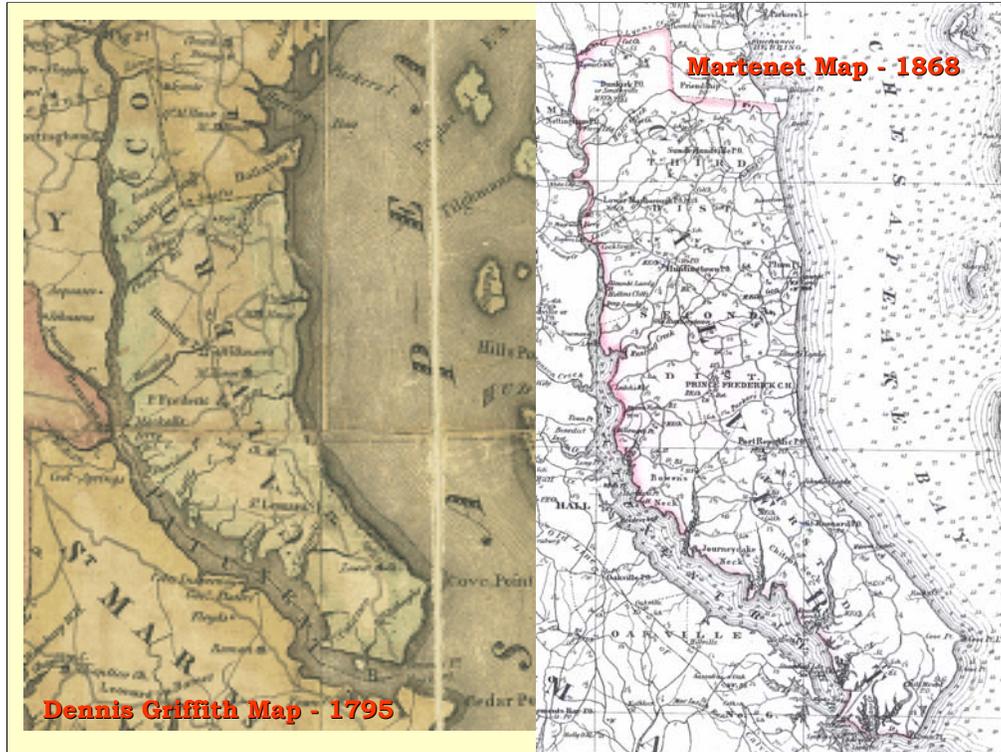
Calvert County is one of an increasing number of local jurisdictions that has instituted programs to preserve, protect, or at least document material traces of the past before they are all destroyed in the wake of development. In this presentation you will learn how local review takes place and how citizens can get involved.



The first maps we have showing our area are based on John Smith's voyages. Note the settlements along the river—these were villages of native people that Smith encountered.

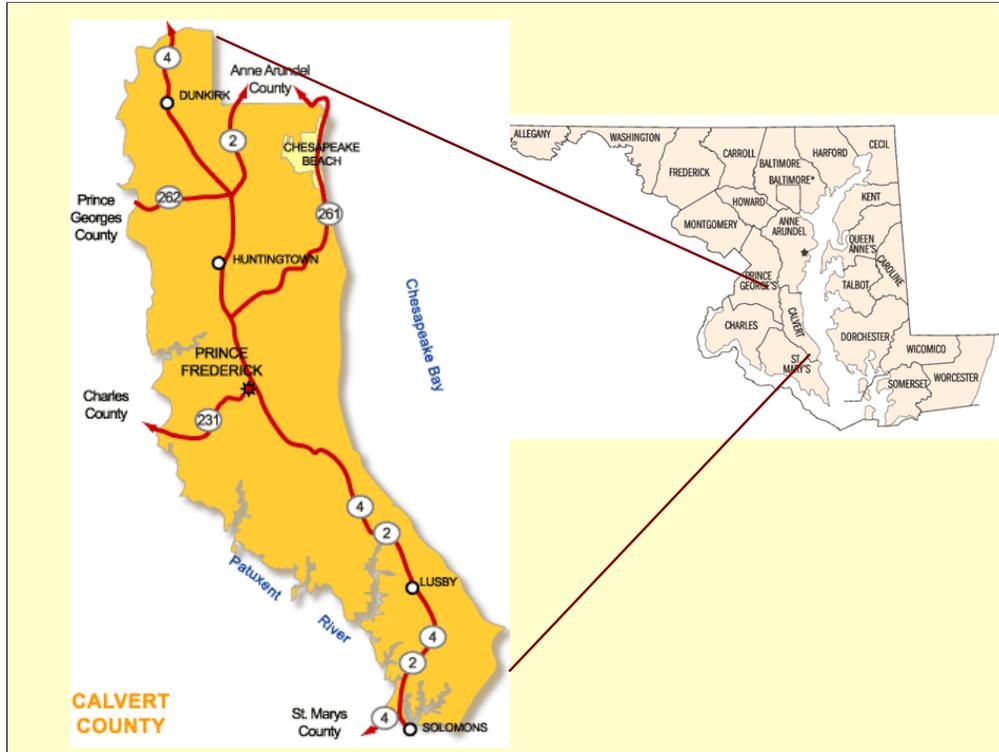
A map made about sixty years later shows all those Native American settlements replaced by farms and plantations. The shorelines are dotted with these settlements by the late 17th century, occupied by European settlers and bondsmen—Africans, European and Indian indentures. In this period, the location of the settlements and farms shows that the population of Calvert is still very dependent on the water for transportation.

Like any activity on the land, these settlements have left their traces as archaeological sites. The lives of the people who occupied them are part of our history.



By the late 1700s, settlements and roads had been built inland in the County. This pattern persisted in the 19th century shown here in the Martenet map, published not long after the close of the Civil War.

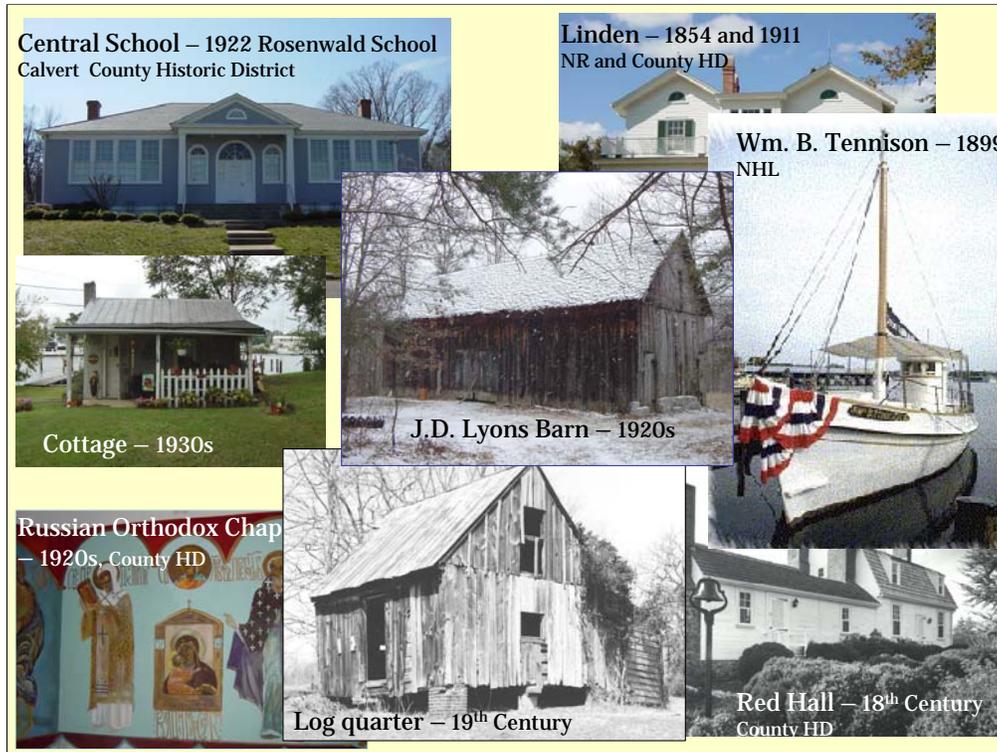
Every road and symbol on these maps represent human activity, human stories that make up our shared heritage.



Let's review some of the data we may take for granted: Our Calvert County is a peninsula entirely in the Western Shore coastal plain. It is nine miles at its widest and 45 miles long. Creeks, some wide and deep, dissect the land on both sides. Calvert County contains 140,000 acres and is the smallest geographic jurisdiction in the State, with the exception of Baltimore City. The county's population is approximately 85,000. Compared to the neighboring counties with land areas more than twice the size, and populations greater by a factor of 10, tracking the cultural resources in Calvert County seems manageable. Though the County has done a lot with oral history and cultural conservation, much of the action for archaeological and even above ground resources is still crisis-driven, ad hoc and reactive.



People have lived for thousands of years in the region; over 500 archaeological sites have been recorded in Calvert County, though no comprehensive, systematic survey has ever been done. Calvert County is home to Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum and the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (shown above), which provide support in a number of ways to the work that gets accomplished in the county.



Calvert County has more than 1300 listings on The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties, consisting mostly of historic structures, which includes a wide range of site types. Listing on the Inventory provides no special protection to the properties. The County Commissioners established a Historic District Commission in 1974, staffed by the Department of Planning and Zoning. In this mostly rural county, 'district' is a misnomer; properties designated under the ordinance would more appropriately be termed landmarks. There are now more than 80 properties so designated, ranging from vernacular houses on small lots to an 18th-century farm of more than three hundred acres. Historic Districts can take advantage of historic tax credits to assist in restoration. In the 1990s, the Historic District ordinance was amended to include archaeology explicitly. The Historic District Commission reviews all development projects, whether they involve a designated property or not.

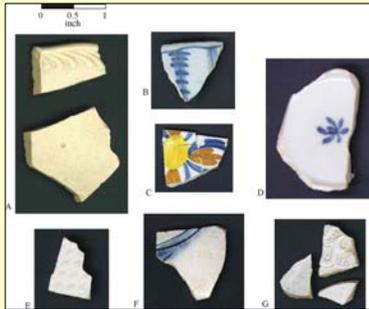


The population remained nearly stable from after the Civil War until the mid-20th century. Agriculture—principally tobacco—was the mainstay of the economy until the third quarter of the last century. Since the 1970s, the population has quadrupled and the pressure to develop the countryside on one hand, and to preserve it, on the other, has intensified. Meeting the challenge, planning began in earnest in the 1970s. In the Comprehensive Plan of the 1980s, historic preservation had its own chapter and preserving landmark structures was seen as key to ensuring an enduring sense of identity. By the 1997 plan, the role of historic preservation was explicit. Until 2004, the County had less than one full time position assigned to covering cultural resources.



In the 1997 comprehensive plan, local cultural heritage--including archaeology, oral history, tobacco barns, vernacular houses, steamboat landings, oyster boats, etc.—was presented to new residents as the essential Calvert County which they should come to know, to understand and to cherish. Planners began to use heritage as a tool to promote sustainability and a sense of place. In the 2004 plan and current planning documents, cultural and environmental heritage are presented as inextricably linked. The linkage is consistent with heritage planning language on a national scale, and serves at the local level to justify close cooperation between cultural and environmental units of the planning department and the various county agencies who used to see their missions as separate.

Chapline Place, Prince Frederick

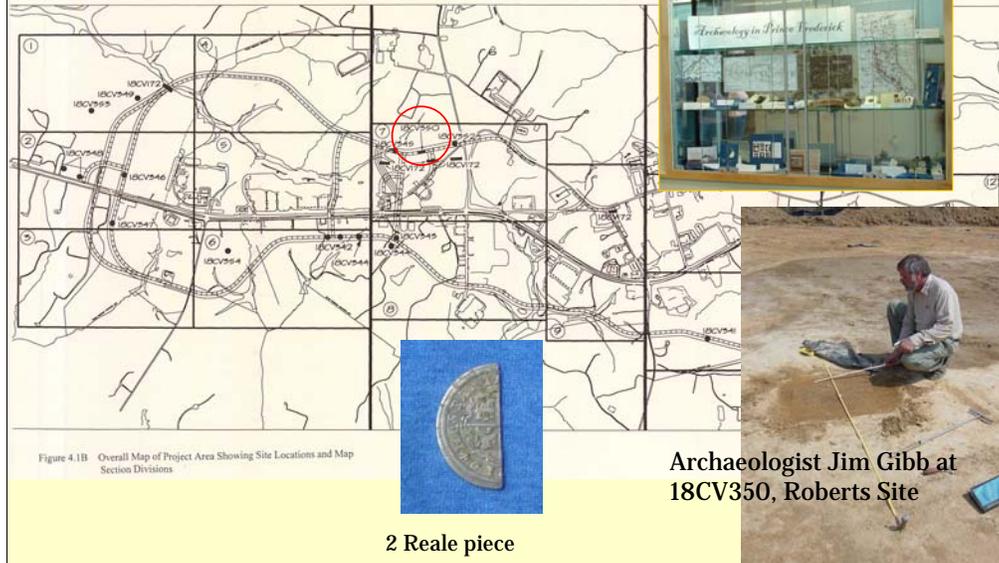


In addition to the Historic District ordinance, there are other regulatory means to apply the actions laid out in the county's plans. Two of the seven town-center zoning ordinances and the multi-family and townhouse ordinance may require archaeology, with the finding of high potential in a project area. Such a finding is based on an assessment, performed by planning staff. The Historic District Commission is working to broaden the scope of archaeology review county-wide. This would permit us all to learn from historical resources which would otherwise be destroyed without a record.

Prince Frederick Loop Road

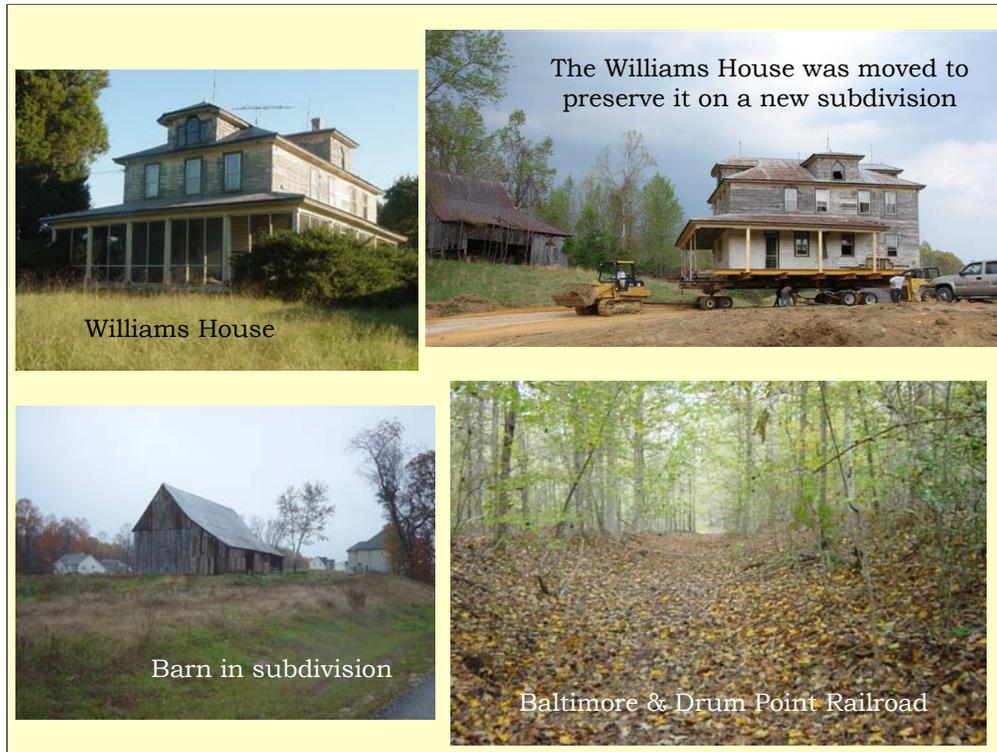
Initial Phase I conducted by State Highway Administration found several sites

Calvert County ended up building the road, so additional work at some sites has been or will be carried out under local requirements



All projects undertaken by the County are subject to archaeological requirements. When archaeology is required at the local level, the historic preservation planner writes a scope of work specifying investigation that meets the State guidelines. The Regional Archaeologist at JPPM consults on scopes and on review as time permits. Depending on the project and the consulting archaeologist, there may be opportunities for volunteers to be involved in fieldwork and background research; there may also be opportunities for paid crew positions for trained people or volunteers with lots of experience.

Disseminating the information is another important way that volunteers can assist. A volunteer helped planning staff put this exhibit together in the Calvert Library in Prince Frederick—it has the prime display location in the brand new building and has drawn a lot of attention. It will be up until the middle of August.



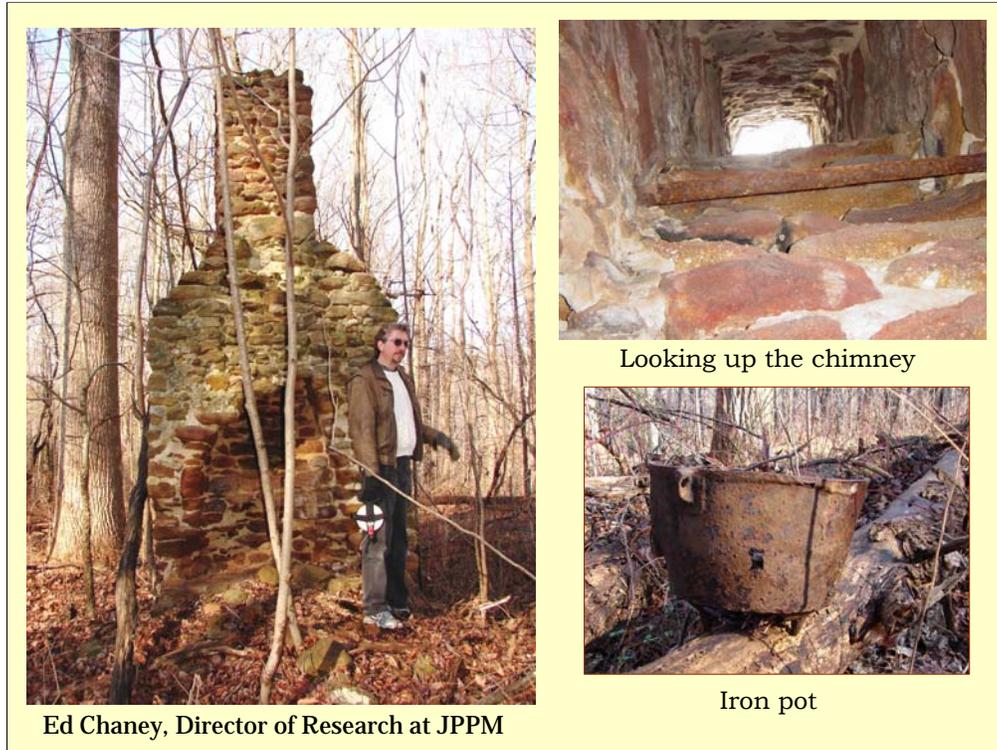
Calvert County subdivision regulations allow for the evaluation of cultural resources but do not guarantee that sites will be protected, preserved or mitigated. In practice, if the Planning Commission requires that a historic structure is to be retained in a development, a bond may now be set for its restoration. Should a developer fail to meet the requirement, the forfeited amount could be applied to a preservation fund or other projects. The Zoning Ordinance now provides a new incentive to retain historic structures by creating an extra Adequate Public Facilities lot for structures preserved through the Historic District program. There is one archaeological site that is routinely protected through the subdivision regulations: 18CV172, the Baltimore-Drum Point RR right of way is subject to a County easement for a trail on all development projects—in the photo at the bottom of the screen is shown a portion that will become an amenity for a subdivision.



The Old Wallville School will open in 2008

In practice, documentation, protection and oversight activities may occur that are not authorized by the county code or zoning ordinance when the measures are first instituted. One example is review of demolition permits on all structures 50 years or older.

Demolition review provided the opportunity to identify and preserve the oldest known one-room school for African Americans in the County, and many other previously unrecorded resources. The process is potentially a powerful way to inform citizens about the history of their properties and the benefits of participating in a preservation program. The Wallville School has since been relocated and reconstructed on public school property where it will be incorporated into the curriculum as a teaching tool meeting multiple goals for 4th, 8th and 10th graders. It will also be interpreted and open to the general public.



A fieldstone chimney marks the site of another post-Civil War era African-American domestic site, rediscovered during the course of a subdivision review. This is one of several such sites found in the past few years, and promises to become part of a larger study. Thanks to the Calvert County Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance, the lot on which the chimney stands will not be developed for at least eighteen months. The developer is enthusiastic about making the site available for study. The challenge to make that happen comes to the county preservation planner. The investigation will be carried out with the assistance of volunteers, possibly with interns--through college and high school internship programs—and in cooperation with Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum who graciously lend equipment and expertise.



Public education and citizen involvement is the most effective tool for understanding and protecting our cultural resources. Calvert County Planning has one full time archaeologist assigned to all cultural resources. For the archaeology that cannot be required, some basic documentation gets done with volunteers and interns. Volunteers assist with even the most routine demolition documentation projects. On-site activities, from recording farmhouses to learning to read a barn or a rural landscape, has transformed citizen volunteers into informed preservationists and ardent advocates for cultural resources in Calvert County. When the public values and expects its adopted history, its identity, to be preserved and interpreted, results may be anticipated to follow. We are hopeful—and hope you realize that this will never happen without you.