

Executive Summary

St. Mary's College of Maryland, Historic St. Mary's City, and Trinity Church cumulatively have a long and interwoven history that is deeply rooted in the origins of Maryland. Located on a neck of land that extends into the St. Mary's River, these three institutions stand on adjacent properties and share three centuries of history. Before the college and church were formed, the land on which they stand was a part of the site of Maryland's first capital city. As a liberal arts college, the location of St. Mary's College on a site that is connected to the principles of religious toleration and freedom from ignorance and prejudice is particularly meaningful. Today, much of the historic sector of the St. Mary's College of Maryland campus is listed as a National Register Historic District due to the large quantity of archeological remains dating back to the seventeenth century.

In 2006 the College was awarded a Campus Heritage Grant by The Getty Foundation to develop a Preservation Master Plan to address preservation issues and building concerns for two college buildings – Calvert and St. Mary's Halls, as well as two neighboring buildings, the 1934 State House which is owned by Historic St. Mary's City, and the nineteenth century Trinity Episcopal Church. Due to the sensitive archeological resources associated with these sites, archeological research and landscape documentation and recommendations were identified as key aspects of the planning process. The Preservation Master Plan is to provide a tool to the various entities regarding how to better care for and maintain their historic resources into the future.

In the Summer of 2006, John Milner Associates, Inc. (JMA) was selected by the College and its project partners to prepare a Preservation Master Plan that was considerate of and sympathetic to the needs and objectives of the College, City, and Church. The Plan is intended to help each entity manage change and protect extant resources, and to foster ongoing relationships between each institution so they can continue to work together cooperatively to preserve their shared histories. Together, the institutions can pool their resources to tell the story of Maryland and the significance of their special place in that history.

The overall plan for the institutions is broken down into three primary sections: Preservation Master Plan, Landscape Management Plan, and Historic Building Management Plan. The Preservation Master Plan provides the framework and basis for subsequent sections and includes discussions on general administrative topics, such as planning, programming, interpretation, and management. A Historical Overview which describes the history and significance of the study area and each institution is also included. The Landscape Management Plan looks at existing conditions of

landscape features within the study area and provides general guidelines and recommendations for caring for and maintaining those features into the future.

The Historic Building Management Plan looks closely at the four primary historic buildings within the designated study area: Calvert and St. Mary's Halls, the State House, and Trinity Church. Each was carefully studied to identify issues and recommended projects. General treatment guidelines and recommendations were developed that could be applied to any historic building owned by each entity to ensure proper maintenance and upkeep of the historic fabric.

The Preservation Master Plan should play a direct role in future planning and development efforts for St. Mary's College of Maryland, Historic St. Mary's City, and Trinity Church. The Plan will be used as an informational tool by decision-makers as options are presented for building modifications and new construction projects on the site of Historic St. Mary's City. Properly caring for, preserving, and enhancing the irreplaceable resources of the site is the overarching guiding principle for the development of this Plan and is reinforced throughout the document with thoughtful and sensitive recommendations for preservation into the future.

The Preservation Master Plan is intended to supplement other campus planning initiatives that have been undertaken by the College in collaboration with Historic St. Mary's City and Trinity Church. The Preservation Master Plan is the natural next step for the entities to come together and can be seen as a component of the development of the Maryland Heritage Project in 2000. This joint program, like the Preservation Master Plan process, ensures that the College, City, and Church will have the opportunity to work together to advance scholarship, study, and interpretation in the historic sector of the campus. While other campus planning initiatives focus on growth and expansion, the Preservation Master Plan provides recommendations for how to accommodate that growth in a sensitive and sympathetic manner within the historic sector. While the Preservation Master Plan does not discourage change and evolution, understanding that change is to be expected over time, it does provide the guidance to ensure that change is accommodated in a manner that is consistent with the historical significance of the study area.