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Historic St. Mary's City Commission
Plan of the Day
Saturday, March 24, 2007

12:45 – 2:15 Research, Land Use, Capital Programs Committee
Campus Center, Room 205

Committee Members

Barbara Carson, chair
June Auerback
Lonnie Bunch
Iris Carter Ford
David Orr
Ed Papenfuse

Staff Contacts

Henry Miller
Silas Hurry
Lois Green Carr

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY COMMISSION



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Historic St. Mary's City Commission Plan of the Day Saturday, March 24, 2007

10:30 – noon	Public Programs & Marketing Committee	Campus Center, Room 205
noon – 12:45	Lunch	Campus Center, Room 205
12:45 – 2:15	Research, Land Use, Capital Programs	Campus Center, Room 205
2:15 – 3:15	Finance & Administration Committee	Campus Center, Room 205
3:30 – 4:45	Full Commission Meeting	Library Trustee Room, 2 nd floor
5 – 6:30	Reception with HSMC Foundation board, 1634 Society members, St. Maries City Militia	Visitor Center, Rosecroft Road
7 PM (optional)	No-host dinner	Brome-Howard Inn

AGENDA

1. Call to Order Chairman Moe
2. Introduction of Patricia King Jackson,
HSMC Foundation President Dr. Sullivan
3. Minutes of October 2006 meeting
4. Committee Reports
a. Finance & Administration Mr. Cruse
(action item: Brome-Howard Inn lease)
b. Research, Land Use, Capital Programs Ms. Carson
c. Public Programs and Marketing Ms. O'Connor
5. Executive Director's Report Dr. Sullivan
6. Vice-Chairman's Report (SMCM Board of Trustees) Dr. Leak
7. Chairman's Report Mr. Moe
Discussion Item: Branding HSMC as a Destination
8. New Business
9. Adjourn

HSMC Research and Capital Programs Committee Meeting

24 March 2007

Research Projects

- St. John's Archaeological Analysis
- Bone Isotopic Study, Smithsonian
- College-assisted Analysis Projects
- 2007 Field School

Capital Projects:

- Chapel Reconstruction – Status, Schedule and Additional Research Needs.
- Print House Reconstruction
- St. John's Site Construction Status
- Shoreline Stabilization Projects (Dove Area)
- Ann Arundel Curation Facility/Visitor Center Status

Exhibit Development

- Van Sweringen Site Exhibit
- St. John's Exhibit
- Smithsonian Exhibit – Written In Bone
- Mackall Barn Stabilization and Exhibit
- Revised Visitor Center Exhibit

Collections Activities

- New Conservation Treatment Grant with Lisa Young Status
- Interns and IMPART students
- Return Smithsonian Loans of Printing Equipment

Reports, Publications, WEB Offerings

- In Press Articles (four)
- St. John's Analysis draft reports
- WEB Additions

Other

- John Smith Visualization Project – Chesapeake Gateways Network.
- 2007 Society for Historical Archaeology Conference, Architecture Session.
- Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference – Maryland Session.
- Guild of Colonial Artisans and Tradesmen 1607-1783 – Gift.
- Conferences: Maryland in a Wider World (Nov. 2007), CNEHA (2008).
- Public Presentations
- Garry Stone Award – Hannah White

Discussion Topics

- Future Research Projects, Reports and Requirements.

HSMC Research and Capital Programs Committee
Staff Activities Report
21 October 2006- 23 March 2007

Since the last meeting, the research crew has been engaged in numerous projects, although two have predominated: St. John's and Van Sweringen. The following report details the variety of tasks and activities.

Research Projects

St. John's Archaeological Analysis

Work focused on the analysis of critical aspects of this site so that the data would be ready for exhibit production. This has involved the study of the new 2001-2005 discoveries, integration of that data to the extent possible with the 1970s and 1982 excavation information and an initial attempt at selective synthesis. When the excavations concluded in December of 2005, the next seven months were used to complete cataloguing, computer entry of data, review and assembly of all field records, and production of a new site map that included all features. Since then, analysis has been underway. Due to the very limited time available, Miller developed a specific analysis plan that would target only those aspects of the site that directly related to the exhibit (See Attached). This postpones many aspects of the site analysis that is still required, but is necessary to meet the exhibit schedule.

Since October 2006, preliminary studies have been completed on the quarter, kitchen, nursery, aisled outbuilding, plantation landscape features beyond the yards, and a unusual square shaped building in the back yard. Fence analysis, midden analysis and study of the quarter artifact assemblage are underway. A major task has been to convert the paper catalogue data from the 1970s excavations into computer data so that overall site mapping of artifact distributions can be made. This is being accomplished with the assistance of IMPART students. These efforts are essential because the new excavations, that were far more extensive than we had originally planned, have changed a number of the interpretations about the site.

Bone Isotopic Study, Smithsonian

As part of the Written in Bone exhibit, samples of animal bone have been requested from HSMC for isotopic analysis. Miller is selecting the small five gram samples from cattle, swine, sheep, Sheepshead fish, drum and fowl for this study. A comparable sample is being assembled by Joanne Bowen at Colonial Williamsburg. Results will be used to assess dietary practices of the colonists by providing data that can be used in assessing the isotopic composition of human bones.

College-assisted Analysis Projects

Interpretation of some of the St. John's findings can be enhanced by chemical analysis. This is especially the case for a black substance on daub samples from the strange square shaped structure in the back yard of St. John's. Analytic chemist Randy Larson at St. Mary's College is directing a student in the analysis of this material during the Spring semester of 2007. Results will help us understand this unusual building. In addition, classical historian Linda Hall has assisted in the translation of a latin motto found on the back side of a silver medallion from the Van Sweringen site. The front of this medal bears the image of Swedish king Gustavous Adolphus.

2007 Field School

The Field School site for 2007 is in the Town Center of St. Mary's City. The research goal is to find the house and kitchen of John Morecroft. Morecroft was an attorney, doctor and merchant who lived at the town center until his death in 1673. A land survey in 1672 specifically notes his buildings and his kitchen chimney was a key reference point in the survey. By finding this kitchen, we will be able to precisely define the Lawyer's Lodging tract in the center of the city. Additionally, the excavations will provide an artifact sample specifically associated with an attorney, a man Charles Calvert described as "the best lawyer in the country."

Capital Projects

Chapel Reconstruction

The Chapel walls were completed in late 2006. Design of the roof was reviewed and significantly modified due to a variety of factors. The timber was prepared over the winter. Roof tiles were selected from a range of samples submitted by English companies and the closest match for the original Chapel tiles selected. These tiles are on order. The roof will be completed before the summer of 2007.

Print House Reconstruction

This project was completed during the period of this report. Efforts included building of the wattle and daub chimney, installing the period windows, and landscaping to insure adequate drainage and visitor access. The building officially opens on Maryland Day 2007.

St. John's Site Construction Status

This project has experienced delays due to the construction company. Work is now underway with all foundation work and the steel framework completed. The research staff continues to monitor the onsite work, attend progress meetings and address various preservation issues as they arise. A serious problem has been flooding in the cellar due to water intrusion from the improperly covered site. A long delay in completing the

foundations delayed needed backfilling of trenches, further contributing to this problem. The walls and floor of the cellar will have to be cleaned and some repair work done before it can be exhibited. A major problem is mold growth on the walls. Completion of the building itself is currently projected for November 2007

Exhibit Development

Van Sweringen Site Exhibit

During this period, the exhibit text and graphics for the exhibit were finalized, a designer hired and all panels completed. Contracts for the frames and panels have been approved or are near approval. Construction of the Council Chamber began in November and has made good progress. An opening date of 23 June has been selected. Research staff has been heavily involved in the completion of the panels, addressing issues about the exhibit building and overseeing the project.

St. John's Exhibit

Work has begun on the exhibit development with an official startup meeting on 25 January. Artifacts have been selected for the exhibit and conservation of objects requiring treatment is underway. Graphic production and text writing will be the major task of research for the next 6 months. Besides this effort, it is also necessary to fully design the partial reconstruction of the west wall of the manor house and the kitchen. Only schematics of these were prepared for the design package. One further task will be the conservation of the kitchen chimney so that it can be stabilized for exhibition. This can only occur after the exhibit building is erected and the brick can be fully dried. It must be scheduled around release of the building by the construction company and availability of the conservation crew.

Smithsonian Exhibit – Written In Bone

Preliminary design of this exhibit continued during the period. Miller was selected as one of two professionals not employed by the Smithsonian to join the design team. The company selected to design the exhibit is MFM Design of Washington, D. C. Work on this project focused on fund raising during the winter period. More intensive design work and text writing is scheduled to begin in May or June of 2007. Gallery 27 at the Natural History museum has been designated for this exhibit (4800 square feet) and the planned opening in November or December of 2008.

Mackall Barn Stabilization and Exhibit

Another new project is the stabilization and development of exhibits in the 1785 Mackall Barn. This effort is also scheduled for 2007 and will involve the demolition of the 1940s sheds, repair of the original structure and construction of smaller sheds on each side that will both protect the original and provide valuable exhibit space. Four themes are to be interpreted in this unique building, all of which relate directly to the structure. These are

1) St. Mary's City after 1695 and its Agrarian History, 2) Architectural History as evidenced by the elements of this structure, 3) Tree Ring Dating and the revolution this effort produced in understanding of Maryland's colonial architecture, 4) Pollen analysis and the insights it provides about changing land use and the human impact on the environment.

Revised Visitor Center Exhibit

Due to the movement of the Printing Press to the reconstructed building and the need to remove St. John's artifact from display for their use in the new exhibit building, it was necessary to substantially redo the Visitor Center exhibit. Hurry oversaw this effort and the result is an enhanced and upgraded exhibit including a new video monitor that compares St. Mary's City in 1685 and 2007.

Collections Activities

Conservation

Treatment of artifacts from St. John's and Van Sweringen continues under the direction of conservator Lisa Young. This is part of a grant HSMC received for conservation. A number of the artifacts that will be displayed at St. John's are being processed in this effort. In addition, Hurry is directing student interns in glass conservation and IMPART students are also assisting in this work.

Return Smithsonian Loans of Printing Equipment

Hurry arranged for the return of printing furniture that the Smithsonian Institution had loaned to HSMC many years ago. This transfer was completed in late February.

Artifact Processing

Students continue to process and catalogue artifacts recovered from the Van Sweringen site and the field school of 2006.

Reports, Publications, WEB Offerings

A number of articles are currently in press. These include pieces about archaeological interpretation at St. John's but Hurry and Bodeman, overall St. Mary's City efforts by Miller, an article about Garrett Van Sweringen in a book on the Dutch in America by Miller, and a history of historical archaeology in Maryland by Hurry and Dinnel.

Draft reports on St. John's Analysis have also been produced that these include the Aisled Building, the Quarter, The Kitchen, the Nursery, the Landscape Features of the Plantation, and the Square structure.

WEB Additions: Hurry contributed a piece on Mark Cordea and Miller wrote a short article on the 17th-century Forts of St. Mary's City for the expanding HSMC web site. An additional article on the history of archaeology in St. Mary's City is being completed by Miller, and two master's theses about St. Mary's City will be added by the summer of 2007.

John Smith Visualization Project

HSMC was a co-sponsor of this project that was funded by the NPS Chesapeake Gateways Network. Miller consulted on the development of images, story lines, wrote text for the majority of the 52 images and reviewed the overall web site. The grant ended on 28 February and the web site should be debuted in late March by Pennsylvania State University.

Conferences and Presentations

For the 2007 Society for Historical Archaeology Conference in January in Willisamburg, HSMC sponsored a session on 17th-century Architecture in Maryland. Organized by Garry Stone and Henry Miller, this session featured papers by Stone, Hurry, Mitchell, Miller, and Riordan, along with presentations from Londontown (Al Luckenback and Donna Ware) and Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum (Sara Rivers-Coffield). In addition, Miller served as a discussant for the conference plenary session, and Riordan was discussant for a session on Mortuary Archaeology.

HSMC also sponsored a table at the Public Archaeology session that was well attended. Besides the research staff, Roger Hill helped staff the booth.

HSMC also organized a session for the Middle Atlantic Archaeology Conference on 15-17 March 2007 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. This offered a variety of papers about 17th-century Maryland archaeology. HSMC participants included Hurry, Miller, Mitchell and Riordan with other papers delivered by Sara Rivers-Coffield, Michael Lucas of the Maryland Parks and Planning Commission and Elizabeth Ragan of Salisbury State University.

The staff is also participating in planning for a conference at St. Mary's City in November of 2007 that will consider the impact and developments since publication of David Quinn's *Maryland in a Wider World* in 1982. Planned in cooperation with the new Department of Anthropology and the Department of History at St. Mary's College, the conference will include 11 speakers on a range of subjects relating to the Atlantic World and early Maryland.

In October of 2008, HSMC will host the Council for Northeast Historical Archaeology, in cooperation with St. Mary's College.

Garry Stone Award

This year, the award for a graduating senior at St. Mary's College who has made significant contributions to St. Mary's City archaeology is given to Hannah White. She took the archaeological field school and laboratory class, volunteered as an artifact processor, was an IMPART intern, and assisted research in a number of ways.

Field School Support

Timothy Riordan was informed that the Colonial Dames, Chapter 1 (Baltimore) have decided to annually contribute \$1500 to St. Mary's College/HSMC for the support of a needy student who wishes to take the Field School. We are delighted with this significant level of support. It enhances an annual \$500 donation given to support a field school student given by Philip Mudd, a graduate of the field school in the 1980s.

Miller 15 March 2007

St. John's Analysis and Exhibit Needs

Battle Plan

1 February 2007

The process of analysis is proceeding and there are many areas that should be addressed. However, given the schedule and nature of the exhibit, a few take on an especially high priority. This is because the contract has already begun with the exhibit fabrication company. They officially started on 25 January and have one year to complete all the work. This means that their deadline for final text, captions, artifacts, and graphics will be very soon, perhaps as early as June for some things. Everyone needs to concentrate on this.

I have previously written a detailed overall analysis plan that should be guiding work but the pace of rigorous archaeological analysis that we need to do is too slow for the fabrication schedule. Out of urgency, I have gone through the entire exhibit package and attempted to identify the most critical aspects that will require solid archaeological and/or architectural data. While the written text will alter to some extent, based on the new evidence, there are also new artifacts to select and graphics to prepare. Silas has already begun work on the artifacts and identified the best of the recent discoveries for inclusion. It is the graphics that are the most crucial and demand the greatest amount of detailed archaeological evidence. There are many major illustrations that we must develop.

- St. John's overall at six points in time (ca. 1600, 1640, 1656, 1666, 1680s, 1825)
- The parlor in 1642.
- The parlor in the 1680s.
- The parlor in 1666 with Charles Calvert and the Susquehannock chiefs.
- The hall in 1642
- The exterior appearance of the quarter
- The small dairy as it would have appeared ca. 1645
- The kitchen interior in 1645.
- The kitchen interior in 1680.
- Selected computer maps of artifact distributions
- A complete site map with all features dated by phase (to the extent feasible)

In addition to these graphics, detailed architectural plans for the reconstruction of the west wall of the manor house must be fully designed, along with plans for the kitchen frame. Currently, we only have the rough sketches I prepared in the planning phase of the exhibit.

To produce these, we need to focus specifically on key tasks. These are as follows:

- **Fences and Landscape features of the house.** The sequence of fencing over time must be worked out. This requires assembling data on each fence section regarding artifact count, artifact density, any stratigraphic data that helps sort

them out, and fence type. The yardscapes cannot be modeled over time without this information. Trish has been working on this for several months and must continue to completion, with Henry's help (and his 1970s data).

- **The broader landscape** beyond the yard. This will be in the background of the paintings. Tim is synthesizing this evidence and should be finished soon.
- **Structures.** Their physical appearance needs to be determined as much as possible. Much of this is already completed for the quarter. Also need beginning and ending dates for each building. Henry will complete study of the structures appearances sufficient for paintings.
- **Dumps, when and where were they.** Information on them relates both to the fence dating and how the yards are depicted in the paintings. Indeed, this evidence in the form of a "trash accumulation factor" is essential for sequencing the fences in some areas. One major graphic in the exhibit is of midden development at the site. Silas will map, create assemblages and help date these, with Trish's assistance.
- **The quarter.** Was it a quarter or is there a better interpretation and name for this building? What does the overall artifact assemblage say about its usage? Is the overall composition different from that of the kitchen or the large backyard dump or similar, showing no major distinctions? Write panel for exhibit on this structure. Tim will address this.
- **The Kitchen.** What was its interior looking like in the 1640s? The focus must be on the east wall that will be depicted with a changing photographic projection. How did it differ after the 1678 renovations? The photos will merge one period view into the next. For this, we need information on door locations, windows (shutter or glazed), plaster walls, mud walls or bare clapboard, type of floor, hearth and chimney nature, special features of the interior such as the storage box. Note that this evidence will also be necessary to design the partial reconstruction. Ruth will focus on this.
- **Overall map of features by phase.** This will involve an update of the 1970s feature map I prepared for the site. Ruth, including data from above analyses.

Hopefully, the tasks below can be determined with existing data, using Garry's architectural studies and my previous analysis of materials such as the window glass. On the other hand, features such as door placement will rely on the new evidence.

- **Manor House Parlor.** Architecture, finishes over time, likely furnishings and any special materials implied by archaeology (unusual window pane shapes, nice ceramics, etc.). Historical data for the 1642 meeting of the legislature must also be assembled to determine individuals in scene. Similarly, the innkeeper details must be developed for the Exon period. Henry
- **Manor House Hall.** Architecture, finish and furnishings in 1642. Henry
- **Architecture of the Manor House** for the west wall reconstruction. Henry

Other Tasks

Computer Maps for Exhibit and analysis. Silas.

Artifact preparation, mounting work, and writing all captions. Silas.

Historic St. Mary's City Commission Spring 2007 Schedule

Saturday, March 24, 2007

10:30 – noon	Public Programs & Marketing Committee	Campus Center, Room 205
noon – 12:45	Lunch	Campus Center, Room 205
12:45 – 2:15	Research, Land Use, Capital Programs	Campus Center, Room 205
2:15 – 3:15	Finance & Administration Committee	Campus Center, Room 205
3:30 – 4:45	Full Commission Meeting	Library Trustee Room, 2 nd floor
5 – 6:30	Reception with HSMC Foundation board, 1634 Society members, St. Maries City Militia	Visitor Center, Rosecroft Road

7 PM (optional)	<i>No-host dinner</i>	Brome-Howard Inn
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Sunday, March 25, 2007

9 AM (optional)	<i>Maryland Day Catholic Mass</i> celebrated by Rev. William George, SJ	St. Ignatius Church, St. Inigoes
10:30 (optional)	<i>Maryland Day prayer service</i> led by Rev. John Ball	Trinity Episcopal Church, St. Mary's City
11:30 (optional)	<i>Wreath-laying</i> led by St. Maries City Militia	Trinity Church Cemetery
12:00	Luncheon with federal, state, and county elected officials, college trustees & officials	State House of 1676
1:30	Maryland Day Ceremony	HSMC Town Center
2:45	Ribbon-cutting at Dinah and William Nuthead Print House	HSMC Town Center
4:00 (optional)	<i>St. Mary's College concert</i>	St. Mary's Hall
5:00 (optional)	<i>County's Maryland Day Ceremony</i>	Potomac River Museum, Colton's Point