

*limits. Hereafter in this sub-title such counties and municipal corporations are referred to as "county" or "counties" or "municipal corporation" or "municipal corporations" as the case may be. THIS SUB-TITLE IS EFFECTIVE ONLY IN THE COUNTIES OF ANNE ARUNDEL, CARROLL, CECIL, CHARLES, FREDERICK, HARFORD, HOWARD, MONTGOMERY, KENT, PRINCE GEORGE'S, AND ST. MARY'S.*

*(b) The purpose of an ordinance or resolution in any county or municipal corporation shall be (1) to safeguard the heritage of the county or municipal corporation by preserving the district therein which reflects elements of its cultural, social, economic, political, or architectural history; (2) to stabilize and improve property values in such a district; (3) to foster civic beauty; (4) to strengthen the local economy; and (5) to promote the use and preservation of historic districts for the education, welfare, and pleasure of the residents of the county or municipal corporation.*

*39. For the purposes of this sub-title each county and each municipal corporation may establish, change, lay out, and define districts which are deemed to be of historic or architectural value, following the procedure in such county or municipal corporation applicable to the establishment or change of areas and classifications of zoning.*

*40. A county or a municipal corporation may create a commission to be called "The Historic District Commission". The commission shall have a membership of from three to seven persons all of whom are qualified by interest and agree to serve on this commission and all of whom are residents of the county or municipal corporation as the case may be. The members shall be appointed for terms of three years each except that in making the initial appointments some appointments shall be established for less than three years in order that as these initial terms expire all appointments shall be for three years and shall not expire at the same time. Members of any commission are eligible for reappointment. Any vacancy on a commission shall be filled by the appointing authority for the unexpired term of the particular position. County or municipal authorities may consult private societies or agencies to request the names of possible members on a commission.*

*41. Before the construction, alteration, repair, moving, or demolition of any structure is made within the county or municipal corporation, if any changes are involved which would affect the exterior appearance of a structure visible or intended to be visible from an adjacent public way in the district, the person, individual, firm, or corporation proposing to make the construction or change shall file with the commission an application for permission to build, alter, repair, move, demolish, or make the addition. Every such application shall be referred to and considered by the historic district commission and no permit for any such change may be granted until the commission has acted thereon as hereinafter provided.*

*42. In reviewing the plans for any such construction or change the commission shall give consideration to (1) the historic or architectural value and significance of the structure and its relationship to the historic value of the surrounding area; (2) the relationship of the exterior architectural features of the structure to the remainder of the structure and to the surrounding area; (3) the*