

(u) ~~“Permittee” means [any] A person [or entity] authorized and given the exclusive right by the Maryland Historical Trust to excavate or disturb a submerged archaeological historic property under the provisions of [§ 5-620] § 3-422 of this subtitle.~~

(v) ~~“Preservation” means the identification, evaluation, recordation, documentation, curation, acquisition, protection, management, rehabilitation, restoration, stabilization, maintenance, and reconstruction of a historic property.~~

(w) ~~“State Historic Preservation Officer” means the individual who administers the State Historic Preservation Program under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.~~

(x) ~~“State unit” has the meaning set forth in Title 11 of the State Government Article.~~

(y) ~~“Submerged” means beneath or substantially beneath the territorial waters of the State.~~

(z) ~~“Submerged archaeological historic property” means any site, structure, object, or remains which:~~

(1) ~~Yields or is likely to yield information of significance to the scientific study of human prehistory, history, or culture; and~~

(2) (i) ~~Is embedded in submerged lands and has remained unclaimed for 100 years or longer; or~~

(ii) ~~Is included in or has been determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.~~

(aa) ~~“Terrestrial” means relating to any and all lands above the mean high tide line and above all nontidal waters.~~

(bb) ~~“Trust” or “MHT” means the Maryland Historical Trust.~~

(cc) ~~“Undertaking” means a project that involves or may lead to building construction, building alteration, or land disturbance.~~

3-402.

The General Assembly finds that:

(1) ~~Historic properties significant to the State’s heritage are being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently, with increasing frequency;~~

(2) ~~Once historic properties are lost or destroyed, a vital part of our community life and development cannot be replaced;~~

(3) ~~Preservation of the State’s heritage is in the public interest so that present and future generations may be enriched by the cultural, educational, inspirational, social, and economic benefits of the past;~~