



MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES
FISCAL 2019 OPERATING BUDGET TESTIMONY

Before the: House Public Safety and Administration Subcommittee, January 31, 2018
Senate Health and Human Services Subcommittee, February 9, 2018

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Subcommittee:

I am Timothy D. Baker, State Archivist and Commissioner of Land Patents. With me today are Elaine Rice Bachmann, the Deputy State Archivist, and Nassir Rezvan, Director of Administration.

For your reference and further reading, our annual report is provided to the Department of Legislative Services, Library and Information Services, and is available on our website along with the Minutes and Agendas of the Hall of Records Commission, which we publish electronically at <http://msa.maryland.gov/msa/intromsa/hrc/html/hrc.html>

I would first like to recognize and thank Legislative Analyst Sierra Boney for her fine presentation. I will now move to address the one informational item regarding the mold remediation project at our main facility in Annapolis. Following that, you will note that I have provided some additional information in our written testimony.

Mold Remediation Project

Department of General Services (DGS) project planning for the repair of mechanical systems is ongoing. DGS contracted with KBD Engineering Company to design and install supplemental mechanical components to prevent mold growth. DGS has received the proposed design specifications from KBD and is in the process of reviewing the proposal. Once the design is finalized the contractor will be able to order and install the new mechanical components. The lead time for component manufacture is approximately 12 weeks, with the installation time frame to be determined once the mechanical design drawings are approved. Once the design is approved work will begin immediately on elements that don't require the presence of the manufactured components. These repairs and modifications are designed to stop the mold from returning.

To further ensure that the mold will not return, it is imperative that all aspects of the building's systems be properly maintained by Annapolis Public Buildings and Grounds after this project is completed.

During their initial assessment of the building, Hoffman Architects recommended that the roof of the Archives and all eight roofs of its associated assemblies, be replaced. The roofs have numerous patch repairs and are coming to the end of their life. They further recommended that the existing roofs should be replaced with a new multi-ply modified bitumen membrane.

Project repairs to the building envelope have been completed. These repairs include:

Replacement of flashing membranes. Water infiltration into the building was attributed to several façade deficiencies. The primary issue was that water was being trapped in the wall assembly at some of the window heads and some of the through-wall flashings. The flashing membranes were replaced at these locations.

On the exterior of the building several conditions and defects were observed that were considered contributing factors to the leaks. These included open and deteriorated mortar joints, spalled concrete panels, and failed sealant joints. These conditions had the potential of allowing water to further infiltrate the wall assembly and they were repaired.

Mold growth was verified on the underside of the carpet in the public Search Room. The mold was at least partly due to water vapor coming from the underside of the concrete slab which lies directly on the ground in that part of our building. An epoxy coating was applied to that portion of the slab on-grade to inhibit moisture through the slab and reduce the likelihood of mold growth under the floor finish.

All staff areas were sealed off in rotation and all surfaces cleaned. Air scrubbers then operated for several days in the enclosed space. An air quality test was conducted to ensure the area met standards prior to reopening.

Archival material in the stacks was removed from shelving, vacuumed on an air bed, and returned to cleaned shelves.

The non-operative sump pump in the basement mechanical room was replaced, ductwork cleaned and sealed, and charcoal filters in HVAC units replaced.

During the entire process, Archives' staff continued to assist patrons on-site, setting up a Reference Service area in the Lobby during those periods when the Search Room was undergoing remediation.

The building's environmental conditions continue to be monitored, and if a determination is made that building conditions are becoming favorable for mold growth again (approaching 60% relative humidity) DGS will bring in portable dehumidifiers to condition the air to prevent mold growth. These dehumidifiers operated throughout the Archives during the 2017 summer months. It is expected that the dehumidifiers will have to be brought back in as the new mechanical system will not be functioning before late springtime humidity returns.

We are grateful to DGS for their ongoing efforts to put in place a lasting fix to this problem.

Next, I would like to offer brief updates on two legislative initiatives from last year and then make you aware of some programmatic activities that might be of interest.

Records Officer Program

Senate Bill 44 - Records Management and Preservation - State Units and Public Officials - Responsibilities

SB 44 accomplished several objectives, including clarifying the types of records transferred to the Archives and establishing agency requirements to maintain record inventories. But the cornerstone of SB 44 was the requirement that each head of a unit of State government designate a responsible Records Officer from the executive staff. The function of the Records Officer is to develop and oversee the records management program for that agency. The Records Officer also serves as the point of contact for interactions between the agency and the Archives and the DGS Records Management Division.

Initial response to the legislative change has been slow. Archives sent notifications to the 58 agency heads as well as to the Maryland Municipal League and the Maryland Association of Counties. As of now we have had 33 Records Officers appointed, all for State agencies. Our next step is to systematically follow up with agencies we haven't heard from to encourage compliance.

The Maryland Manual

The Maryland Manual Modernization Act House Bill 78 - State Government - Maryland Manual - Revisions

Sponsored by Delegate Marc A. Korman, HB 78 repealed provisions requiring the Maryland Manual to be published in print every two years and instead requires that it be published exclusively online. In response, the Archives has put in place a process to ensure that a version of the Maryland Manual website is captured each year and published as an online information resource. Every Maryland Manual that has been published since 1885 is now available at <http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/html/manual.html>

Commemoration of Birth of Frederick Douglass

On Friday, February 23, 2018 at 2:00 p.m. in the Joint Hearing Room, the Maryland State Archives will host a premiere event in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Douglass. Douglass was born in Tuckahoe, Talbot County, Maryland in February 1818, escaped from slavery in Baltimore in 1838, and published an unparalleled autobiography in 1845, becoming one of the leading voices for freedom and equality in the world. The Archives is fortunate to hold the only known birth record of Douglass. The ledger of Aaron Anthony lists enslaved individuals on the estate and includes an entry recording "Frederick Augustus son of Harriott" born two hundred years ago this month.

In honor of this significant bicentennial, the Archives is hosting Dr. Celeste-Marie Bernier who will present an illustrated public talk titled, *Our Bondage and Our Freedom: Frederick Douglass and Family in the Walter O. Evans Collection (1818-2018)*. Dr. Bernier is an esteemed international scholar and an award-winning author who serves as the Professor of Black Studies and Chair of English Literature at the University of Edinburgh and is the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of American Studies published by Cambridge University Press. Her talk will focus on Douglass as a family man, demonstrating the activism, artistry, and authorship of Frederick Douglass and his children: Rosetta, Lewis Henry, Frederick Jr., Charles Remond and Annie Douglass, all of whom played roles in the struggle for freedom as activists, educators, campaigners, civil rights protesters, newspaper editors, orators, essayists, and historians. The talk will be richly illustrated with rare Douglass materials held in the Walter O. Evans Collection. Dr. Evans will also be a special guest of the Archives at the lecture. We are sincerely thankful for the support of Delegate Cheryl Glenn, Chair of the Legislative Black Caucus of Maryland, who is sponsoring our use of the Joint Hearing Room for this special event. Please feel free to share this event with your staff and constituents. We hope to see you there.

Upcoming Publications

"A Dwelling House and Other Conveniences..." A History of Maryland's Government House

This first ever comprehensive history of Maryland's governor's mansion will be published in April 2018 in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the building of Government House. This book is being authored by staff of the Maryland State Archives and is based on years of research. The work is being underwritten by the Foundation for the Preservation of Government House of Maryland, Inc. Information on the book can be found at:

http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se14/000000/000046/gh_book_update.pdf

"Researching African American Families at the Maryland State Archives"

Updated by the staff of the Legacy of Slavery in Maryland program and republished, this helpful publication, originally authored by archivist Phebe R. Jacobsen, will be available both in print and online later this spring. This work is being funded by a generous grant from the Four Rivers Heritage Association and the Friends of the Maryland State Archives.

Outreach and Public Programs

The Archives' staff continues its commitment to offering high-quality public outreach and educational programming. The goals of these events are to assist stakeholders in better understanding the rich collections of the Archives, to teach the most efficient ways of using the archival materials, and to share untold stories found in the records which preserve our common heritage.

The Archives' conference facilities and public search room were closed from November 2016 through March 2017 due to mold remediation. This limited the number of programs we could hold in-house during this time period. While we could not hold any public programs at the Archives building, archivists did continue to speak at engagements at other institutions. When the building again became available for events, the Archives hosted a successful multi-part summer speaker series entitled "Meet the Archivist" which highlighted the diverse responsibilities of staff as they preserve and make available the public record. Staff also produced a full slate of public events for American Archives Month in October, including a successful open house in conjunction with our Legacy of Slavery program and student outreach work with the University of Maryland iSchool.

In addition to a reduction in staffing due to the loss of grant-funded positions, our numbers were also temporarily reduced through the secondment of a staff member to another organization from August 2016 through August 2017. The Governor's Office had requested the secondment of Ms. Maya Davis to head the Banneker-Douglass Museum during a time of staffing difficulties and building issues. She guided the museum through a very difficult transition period and has now returned to the Archives' Legacy of Slavery in Maryland project. Ms. Davis has recently been appointed by Governor Hogan to the Commission of African-American History & Culture which oversees the Museum.

The staff of the Archives has also been deeply engaged in cross-departmental training and core mission work, which has limited the time available to author new presentations and develop new programs. There is no supplemental budget to pay for out-of-agency guest speakers, therefore, beyond Archives' staff presentations, our programming is reliant upon securing no-cost participants or grant funding to pay for honorariums and supplies. This funding fluctuates from year to year.

Feedback from guests assists us in honing our programming to provide the highest quality and most sought after public events within our means. Calendar year 2018 already includes one major in-house event each month, as well as our continued commitment to partner with other institutions by sending archivists into the field to provide information about accessing our collections. The staff has also increased their collaboration with professional associations, such as the Council of State Archivists, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, Society of American Archivists, and National Council for Public History to further promote and disseminate

the resources of the Archives. In addition to providing in-person events, the Archives is committed to the continuing development of its website and online resources to assist customers remotely. In 2017, staff launched a YouTube channel hosting “how to” videos and in 2018 we are publishing an updated, detailed guide, both in print and online, on researching African American history within our holdings. By focusing both on in-person and online educational public outreach, the Archives staff can reach the widest audience and provide the highest quality service possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today. I am happy to answer any questions.