



Montgomery Planning

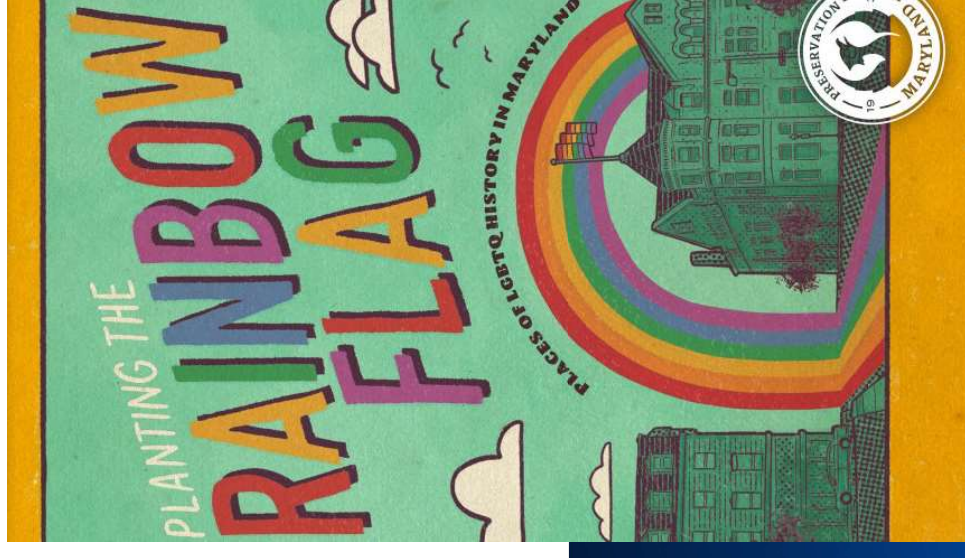


2SLGBTQIA+ Summit: Planting the Rainbow Flag



September 18, 2024

Planting the Rainbow Flag & Montgomery Planning's Historic Preservation Office



Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

M-NCPPC recognizes **diversity** as a dynamic mix of personal and cultural characteristics, perspectives, and relationships as a vital organizational resource...

M-NCPPC believes **equity** is an active commitment to unbiased treatment while providing access and opportunity for people of all backgrounds to participate and thrive in the workplace...

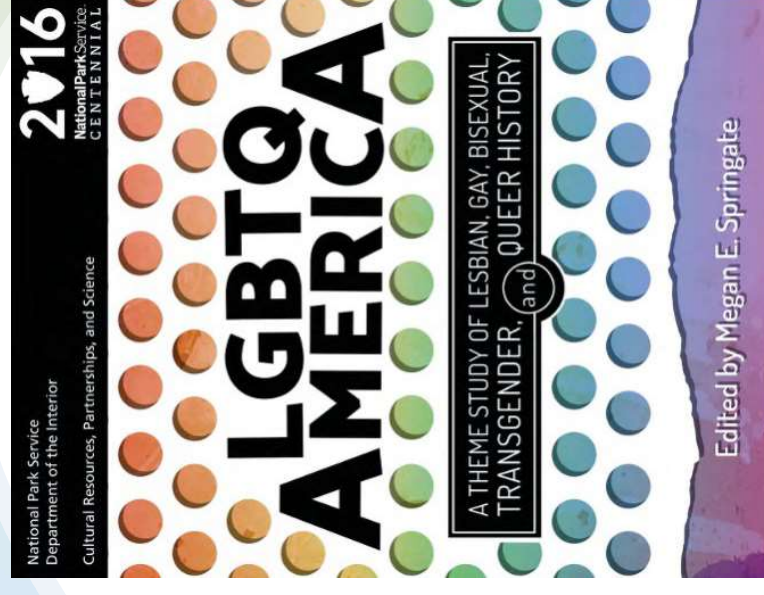
M-NCPPC strives to enhance **inclusion** with a true sense of belonging that encourages the participation of all individuals by removing barriers, building a culture of connectedness, and recognizing that every voice adds value to our organization.

-from portions of the M-NCPPC Diversity, Equity and Inclusion statement (June 2021)



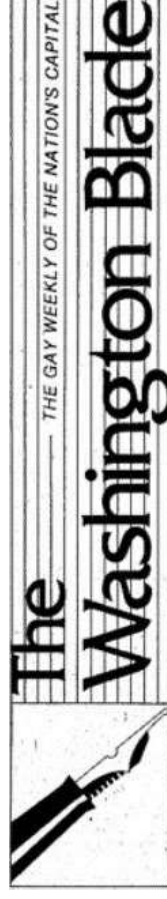
LGBTQ+ America: National Park Service Theme Study

- In 2016, the National Park Service authored the LGBTQ America theme study, and convened historians in the Washington Metro region to discuss the effort.
- Focused on sites potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, locally significant themes including political activism, law, art, and literature.



LGBTQ+ Heritage in Maryland

- There are only **18 historic sites** recognized for LGBTQ history out of a collection of **1.4 million** contributing resources, buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects, on the National Register of Historic Places.
- **None of them were in Maryland as of 2020.**
- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) perspectives are underrepresented in Maryland's history.
- Maryland is associated with pioneering LGBTQ+ political leaders, legal advocates, and artists, as well as activists that fought employment discrimination and government inaction amidst the AIDS crisis.



California is second to pass rights bill

by Lisa M. Keen
The California state senate voted yesterday afternoon to approve a Gay rights measure to protect Gays against discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. Barring a veto from the governor within the next 12 days, the action will make California the second state in the nation to enact a Gay rights law.

The vote on the bill, AB-1, came shortly after 3 p.m. EST Thursday, after more than an hour of floor debate which included an emotional appeal by one of the state's most conservative politicians.

Continued on Page 10

Mondale will back

In 1984, Montgomery County Council passed a bill that made it illegal to discriminate based on "sexual orientation" in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

Source: Washington Blade, February 17, 1984.

Montgomery bill passes

by Dave Walker
ROCKVILLE, MD.—The Montgomery County Council, over the objections of its conservative opponents, passed a bill Tuesday that would make it illegal to discriminate against Gays in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

The council's 3-2 vote, with two abstentions, was the narrowest of a complete victory for Gays. The final version of bill, No. 65-83, includes an amendment that permits employers to dismiss or refuse to hire anyone who is a member of a religious organization, with a minor of the same sex.

The council's action came after more than five months of work on the measure, which was introduced by the council's first openly gay member, William Hanna (center) last month. A relatively quiet crowd of more than 100 persons—both supporters and opponents of the bill—was present at the start of Tuesday's council session. The bill's opponents reacted with their fight against it. "We're going to try very hard to get the county executive to veto," said Rev. Robert Crowley, pastor of Mountaine Baptist Church here. "And we're going to try to get the county Commission, and he was 'extremely ecstatic' with the council action.

Continued on Page 10



Montgomery County Councilmember William Hanna (center) last month. The bill's opponents reacted with their fight against it. "We're going to try very hard to get the county executive to veto," said Rev. Robert Crowley, pastor of Mountaine Baptist Church here. "And we're going to try to get the county Commission, and he was 'extremely ecstatic' with the council action.



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LGBTQ+ Maryland Statewide Context

- In 2018, Preservation Maryland led a collaborative team of academic, municipal, and community stake holders to document the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community.
- Montgomery Planning's Historic Preservation Office was proud to support this effort by serving as readers and providing comments on the LGBTQ Historic Context Study.
- In 2020, Montgomery County Planning partnered with Preservation Maryland on a grant, funded by the National Park Service and administered by the Maryland Historical Trust, to list two LGBTQ-significant sites to the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties.
- 11 Themes are important to LGBTQ+ History in Maryland.

Maryland LGBTQ Historic Context Study

By Susan Ferentinos, PhD

With Benjamin Egerman

For Preservation Maryland
and Maryland Historical Trust

September 30, 2020

What Are Some of the LGBTQ+ Historic Sites Montgomery County?

Sisterfire

Started in 1982, Sisterfire was a women's festival held each year in Takoma Park. Held until 1989, the festival was a touchstone for many of the area's lesbian, bisexual, and queer women.



Food and Drug Administration

ACT UP chapters organized a day-long "Seize Control of the FDA" on October 11, 1988 to protest FDA drug development policies regarding AIDS therapies. The protest effectively closed down the FDA located in Montgomery County.





Sandy Spring Friends School

Site of 1969 Women's Liberation Conference, a foundational moment for many Women's movement activists and Lesbian activists regionally and nationwide.



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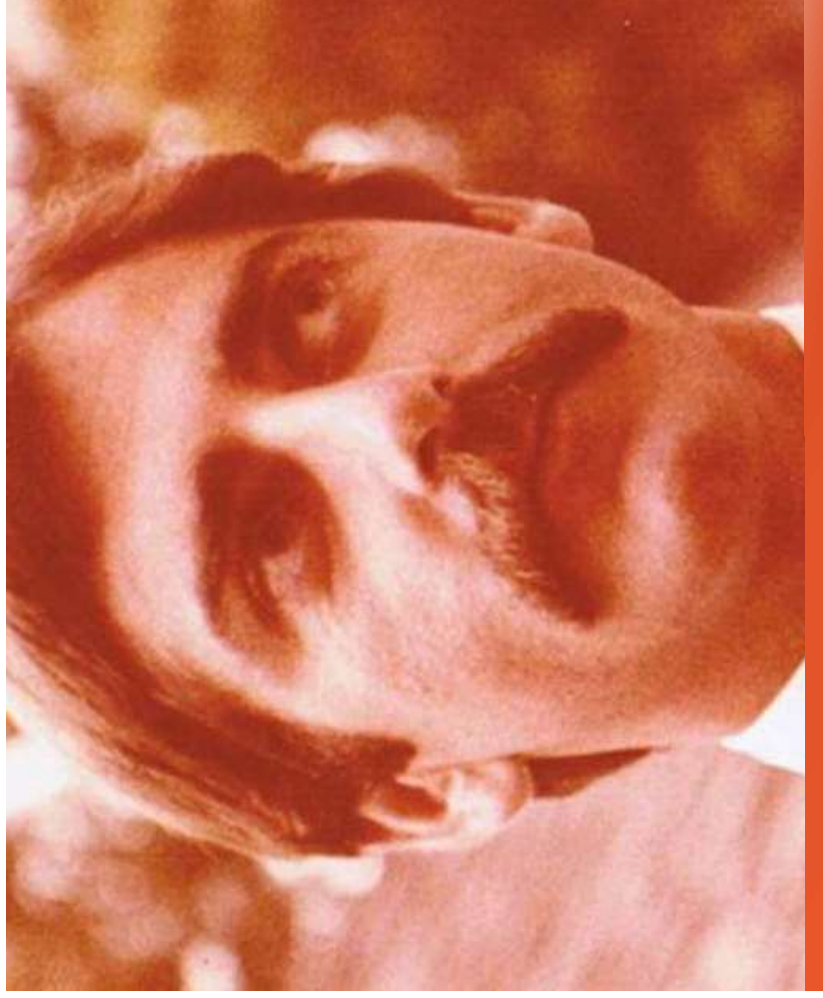
Summit: Planting the Rainbow Flag



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Joe Acanfora & Parkland Middle School

- Earth Science Teacher at Parkland Middle School
- Removed from his position in 1972
- Challenged his removal in court
- Essentially removed from his position following the lawsuits and judgements in 1973



Outlook Remains Grim for Outspoken Gay Teachers

CONSIDER THE CASE of Joseph Acanfora. Last September, he became the first self-declared homosexual to be granted a teaching certificate in the state of Pennsylvania. In the meantime, a federal court in Maryland ruled that removing him from a classroom teaching position violated his constitutional rights.

Right now, Joe Acanfora is in Lansing, Mich., out of work.

The 23-year-old Penn State honors graduate has, almost involuntarily, raised a question most people would rather not think about.



Thomas Hine

made the newspapers. Some of his Maryland bosses read it, and hastily placed Acanfora on curriculum take

job created solely to get Acanfora away from students?

"I really can't give an honest answer to that question," says Stephen Rohr, director of professional personnel for the Montgomery County schools. "We do have teachers working regularly at curriculum jobs."

The case is now in the U. S. Court of Appeals. Acanfora has the National Education Association and the American Civil Liberties Union on his side, and his lawyers hope



Acanfora

Montgomery County schools. But when victory came in

Pennsylvania, Acanfora had no choice. The school administration charged that he had falsified his job application by not listing his membership in Homophiles at Penn State as an extracurricular activity. Now Acanfora is telling prospective employers. He doesn't have much choice, but he now thinks that it's the right thing to do.

Both major teachers' groups now have gay caucuses. Acanfora says he had gotten letters of support from all over the country, but few are coming out publicly to support his cause.

"It might have been to the advantage of teachers who wanted to continue to work to keep everything hidden," he says. "But is it to their ad-

They are all waiting to see what happens to the case of Joseph Acanfora. At the moment, he's out of work.

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Joe Acanfora & Parkland Middle School

“The biggest positive to come out of the whole experience for me? It was the support of my students,” he said. “There they were, 12-, 13- and 14-year-olds who were speaking at the court hearing, taking petitions around to get me reinstated.” - Joe Acanfora



Perspective by [Petula Dvorak](#)
Columnist

April 21, 2022 at 6:32 p.m. EDT

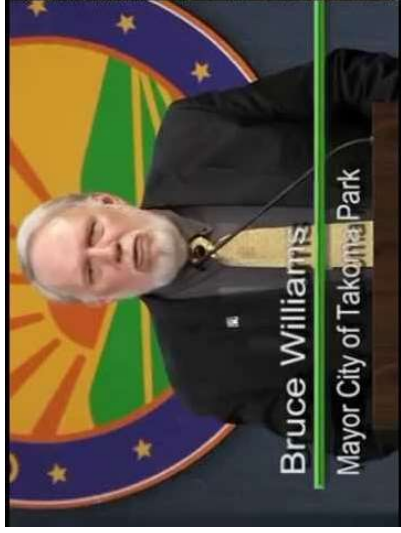


Joseph Acanfora, 71, was fired from his teaching job in Montgomery County 50 years ago because he is gay. (Hai Ngoc Lam/Joe Acanfora)

Montgomery County LGBTQ Special Study Sites



Bruce Williams House, Takoma Park



Susan Silber House, Takoma Park



Robert Coggin House, Silver Spring



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Robert Coggin

- Robert Coggin was the Founder of the LGBTQ rights movement in Montgomery County.
- Formed the Suburban Maryland Gay Alliance (SMGA) in 1982.
- Critical role in securing passage of legislation with Montgomery County Bill No.65-83 prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation in 1984.
- In 2021, Montgomery Planning initiated efforts to list the Robert Coggin House to the National Register of Historic Places.
- Maryland Governor's Consulting Committee found the Coggin House eligible for listing to the National Register.
- His former home is the first suburban, 20th century resource to be found eligible for LGBTQ history in Maryland.



Portrait of Robert Coggin.
Source: Washington Blade, January 29, 2014.



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Robert Coggin House; 4509 Bennion Road, Silver Spring, MD

Built in 1949 and located in Viers Mill Village subdivision.

The Property meets the National Register Criteria B and G.

Criterion B: Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Criterion G: Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years



Picture of Robert Coggin House 4509 Bennion Road.



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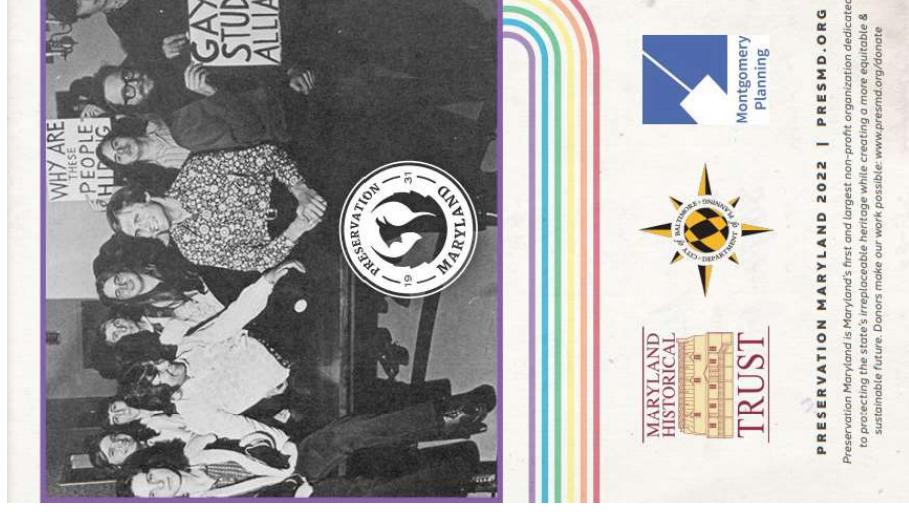
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Montgomery County Historic Preservation Office Outreach

Planting the Rainbow Flag

- Abridged publication of the larger Statewide Context Study.
- The database contains information on over 400 sites of LGBTQ+ heritage in each of Maryland's counties.
- Collaborative effort with M-NCPPC/Montgomery Planning, Preservation Maryland, City of Baltimore, and the Maryland Historical Trust.
- Hundreds of free copies distributed at Capital Pride M-NCPPC booth, at Montgomery Park sites, and to other affiliate groups.



https://www.preservationmaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PM_LGBTQ_FINAL_pages.pdf

Collaborations/Partnerships

APPA

American Planning Association

Creating Better Communities for All

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Policy and Advocacy

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PLANNING MAGAZINE

How to Uncover and Honor LGBTQ+ History in the Built Environment

Kentucky and Maryland are the first states to use historical context studies to highlight places influential to the LGBTQ+ community—and drive planning efforts.

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INTERSECTIONS HISTORIC PRESERVATION



John Waters, a prominent gay author and director, sits in his four-story home in Baltimore. His childhood home is one of nearly 400 sites that preservationists have recognized as part of the LGBTQ+ community's history in the U.S.

Photo by Andrew Margum/The New York Times

May 20, 2023

By TATIANA WALCOWSKIE

At least seven percent of U.S. adults—or more than 20 million people—identify as lesbian, gay, or transgender, according to a 2017 Gallup survey. The proportion was up from 4.5 percent in 2012, in part due to a generational shift in age. As Gallup reports, one in five adults born between 1997 and 2003 currently identify as LGBTQ.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

LGBTQ+ Stories Are American History

As the first national effort to identify and honor LGBTQ+ history in the built environment, the study is taking on new life with a dynamic, soon-to-be released report aimed at the public.

By Tatiana Walcowskie

AT LEAST seven percent of U.S. adults—or more than 20 million people—identify as lesbian, gay, or transgender, according to a 2017 Gallup survey. The proportion was up from 4.5 percent in 2012, in part due to a generational shift in age. As Gallup reports, one in five adults born between 1997 and 2003 currently identify as LGBTQ.

Despite making up a stable and growing part of the population, the diverse LGBTQ+ community rarely sees targeted design efforts that build on its history and help it shape the future. That's why a new study is working to change that with a valuable tool: historical context studies.

A means of identifying historically significant places around a theme, these reports can guide that planning work. The nation's first LGBTQ+ historical survey was created by the group Friends of 1800 for San Francisco in 2004. The city built on that with a study in 2015 that helped advocates create the City's Transgender Cultural District, which offers community services in the Tenderloin, where the country's first transgender uprising occurred.

Elsewhere, the National Park Service, which keeps the National Register of Historic Places, released in 2016 LGBTQ+ America: A Theme Study of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer-

History, the first national effort of its kind in the world. And at the state level, two context studies are being led by Kentucky's Historic Preservation Office and Maryland's Department of General Services.

Marland's in 2020. That project is taking on new life with a dynamic, soon-to-be released report aimed at the public.

"The statewide context, in my opinion, is one of the best ways to approach historic preservation in planning," says Margaret Buck, project manager of Maryland's study.



The U.S. Naval Academy's Maryland's LGBTQ+ study required searching for and identifying overlooked places, including maritime and naval architecture.

land's study and the director of communications at Preservation Maryland when they launched the project. "The report definitely filled a vacuum. People were really looking for this type of comprehensive look that then allowed and empowered them to do local-facing projects that really have impact."

Reflecting the community

Maryland's LGBTQ+ survey identifies almost 800 sites with ties to important figures, community groups, businesses, AIDS and marriage advocacy, and more. As in Kentucky, much of this work was grant funded and required extensive local engagement and coordination.

It's important to most members of the LGBTQ+ community to see their history reflected in public spaces, landmarks, and institutions. Historic Preservation Supervisor Rebecca Ballo as this week's MD-08 Local Hero. Supervisor for The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery County Historic Preservation Program, she has been documenting the often untold history of Montgomery County's LGBTQ+ community.

Learn about Rebecca and Montgomery County, Md., Planning Department's work documenting LGBTQ+ heritage sites here: <https://montgomeryplanning.org/.../lgbtq-heritage-sites/>

Rep. Jamie Raskin

June 11, 2021

Follow

As we celebrate Pride Month, I'm thrilled to feature Rebecca Ballo as this week's MD-08 Local Hero. Supervisor for The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission's Montgomery County Historic Preservation Program, she has been documenting the often untold history of Montgomery County's LGBTQ+ community.

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<https://www.facebook.com/RepRaskin/videos/514048349788585/>



Project Featured by Congressman Jamie Raskin

Historic Preservation Supervisor Rebecca Ballo was identified as Congressman Jamie Raskin's "Local Hero of the Week" for the Historic Preservation Office's work documenting historic LGBTQ sites.

WATCH



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<https://www.planning.org/planning/2022/spring/how-to-uncover-and-honor-lgbtq-history-in-the-built-environment/>

Collaborations/Partnerships

MCPS
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MONTGOMERY PLANNING
REGISTER HERE!

**LGBTQ+ HISTORY IN
MONTGOMERY COUNTY
FOR STUDENTS**

**OCTOBER 3, 2023
5:30-7:00 PM
ZOOM WEBINAR**

**2 SSL HOURS FOR
ATTENDING!**

- Webinars for MCPS Students and Teachers (October 2023 and January 2024)
- Joint Collaborations supporting research with Montgomery History & Pres. Maryland
- Oral Histories and resources donated to the Rainbow History Project
- Beginning new research as part of Planning Department Master Plan initiatives



<https://sites.google.com/view/lgbtq-in-montgomery-county/home>



PRESERVATION
MARYLAND

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Panel Recap: Inclusive Public History & Preservation Planning: LGBTQ History in Montgomery County and Maryland
BY NEAGAN BACCI | JAN 11, 2023

Collecting, preserving
and promoting LGBTQ
history in Washington,
D.C.



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