



Maryland Department of Planning
Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Richard Eberhart Hall
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Matthew J. Power
Deputy Secretary

***** NEWS RELEASE *****

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Erin Atkinson, 410-586-8512
Special Events and Marketing Coordinator

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Vote For Breckenridge Tobacco Barn!

St. Leonard, MD- Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum has entered the Breckenridge Tobacco Barn (located at JPPM) into a contest through *Dwell* magazine in hopes of winning \$10,000 for preservation. The winning entry is decided by popular vote so vote early and often before February 20th at <http://new.dwell.com/contests/rethinking-preservation/submissions/the-breckinridge-tobacco-barn>. If chosen, \$10,000 will be presented to the Maryland Historical Trust for preservation projects such as repairing the barn.

Why is the barn a worthy candidate?? Erected in the late 19th century by the Peterson family and their tenant farmers, the Bowen family, it was used for air drying tobacco. Tobacco cultivation was historically the main source of income for much of the population in Southern Maryland. The decline of this way of life was recently documented in a November 14, 2011 Washington Post article. In May 2004, the National Trust for Historic Preservation included Southern Maryland tobacco barns in its 2004 list of America's Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places. The main threats to the survival of Southern Maryland's historic tobacco barns are suburban development and the state tobacco buyout program. The Breckenridge Barn, while protected, is used only for ancillary storage. Despite the valiant efforts of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum staff it is largely neglected in these times of economic turmoil. The building needs a new roof, flooring, water, lighting (electricity has been run to it) and the interior needs renovation in order to allow the barn to be used as a space where we can teach the new generation in Southern Maryland about their heritage.

Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum, a state museum of archaeology and home to the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory, is a program of the Maryland Historical Trust, a division of the Maryland Department of Planning. It is located on 560 scenic acres along the Patuxent River and the St. Leonard Creek in St. Leonard, Calvert County, Maryland. For more information, call 410-586-8501 or visit www.jefpat.org.

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