

Department Order No. 5  
Headquarters Department of Maryland  
January 20, 2007

1. The Commander, Department of Maryland, is establishing a campaign to raise funds for the support of the restoration of the Charles Sumner Grand Army of the Republic Post #25 Hall in Chestertown, Kent County, Maryland.

2. This historic building was built in 1908 by the African-American Charles Sumner GAR Post #25 to serve as a meeting place for the members. It was also used by the Women's Relief Corps of the Allied Orders for relief work and to support the aging veterans, their widows, and orphans. The Sumner Post was active from 1883 until 1928. After serving as a hub for the African-American community for many years, it fell into disuse in the early 1980s. Preservation Incorporated, a local non-profit group, stepped in to purchase the building in 2003. Since then the building has been stabilized and is in the process of being restored to its original condition. The Hall will continue to be used by the community, but will also function as a house museum and will be open to the public. Additional information is available on the Department web site.

3. The Commander requests that the Camps of the Department and their members make contributions to the Department of Maryland Fund for the Restoration of the Charles Sumner GAR Post. Please make checks payable to "Maryland Department – SUVCW." Indicate "Sumner Contribution" somewhere on the check. Mail checks to the Department Secretary at the below addresses prior to March 30, 2007. Also, indicate individual donor names (or anonymous). Camps and individuals contributing to the Fund will be recognized at the Department Encampment in April.

Eugene Mortorff, Sec/Treas MD Dept SUVCW  
70 Curtis Drive  
East Berlin, PA 17316

4. The contents of the Department of Maryland Fund for the Restoration of the Charles Sumner GAR Post will be sent to Preservation Incorporated to assist in the restoration of the Hall.

5. Contributions from the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War to support the restoration of this unique piece of history of the "boys in blue" is in keeping with our order's mission to perpetuate the memory of the Grand Army of the Republic and the men who saved the Union 1861 to 1865.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
R. Keith Young, Maryland Department Commander

Attested: E. G. Mortorff, Secretary/Treasurer, SUVCW