

Oregon Ridge Park

From Falls Rd. follow Shawan Rd. east (right) to Oregon Ridge Park, a county recreational and cultural area that rises above pastoral valleys formed by Oregon Branch and Western Run, tributaries of the Gunpowder Falls. Iron ores were mined here for Oregon Furnace and nearby Ashland. The park features a swimming pond, nature trails, a ski run, and a concert shell that serves as a summer home for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Merryman's Ln., east of the park, recalls John Merryman, who owned **Hayfields** (private), a 474-acre farm north of Shawan Rd. just west of I-83. Nicholas Bosley first transformed this countryside into an agricultural showcase in the early 1800s. While Lafayette was touring America in 1824, he presented to Colonel Bosley a silver cup from the Maryland Agricultural Society for building the best farm in the state. Merryman, who inherited the estate, imported Hereford cattle from England and added to the farm's reputation. A Confederate sympathizer and officer in the local militia, he helped destroy Baltimore's northern rail links after the April 19, 1861, riot in Baltimore. Later arrested and held without charge at Fort McHenry, Merryman became the focus of a famous court opinion. Military authorities ignored a writ of habeas corpus that likely would have led to his release, and Chief Justice Roger B. Taney in *Ex parte Merryman* wrote forcefully in favor of individual protections under the Constitution, even in wartime. Merryman was later released and must have felt some satisfaction when, in the summer of 1864, he entertained Gen. Bradley T. Johnson and Maj. Harry Gilmor at Hayfields during their raid through Maryland. The Merryman family sold Hayfields in 1975, and subsequent owners have sought to develop the land for upscale housing and a golf course. Area residents and other farmers have fought such rezoning efforts, hoping to preserve the rural qualities of the surrounding countryside.

Falls Rd. continues above Shawan Rd. through horse-breeding and -training country to **White House** and Mount Carmel Rd. (Md. 137). At **Beckleysville**, the road loses its paved surface and begins to resemble its 19th-century appearance. Today it terminates in Carroll County at Schalk No. 1 Rd. At that point, turn right to travel through a remarkable "Old West" village at the River Valley Ranch on the way to the Pennsylvania line. A secondary road (right) leads back to I-83.

In its heyday Falls Rd., originating still farther north and fed by numerous back country roads, formed a river for the movement of farm products to Baltimore.

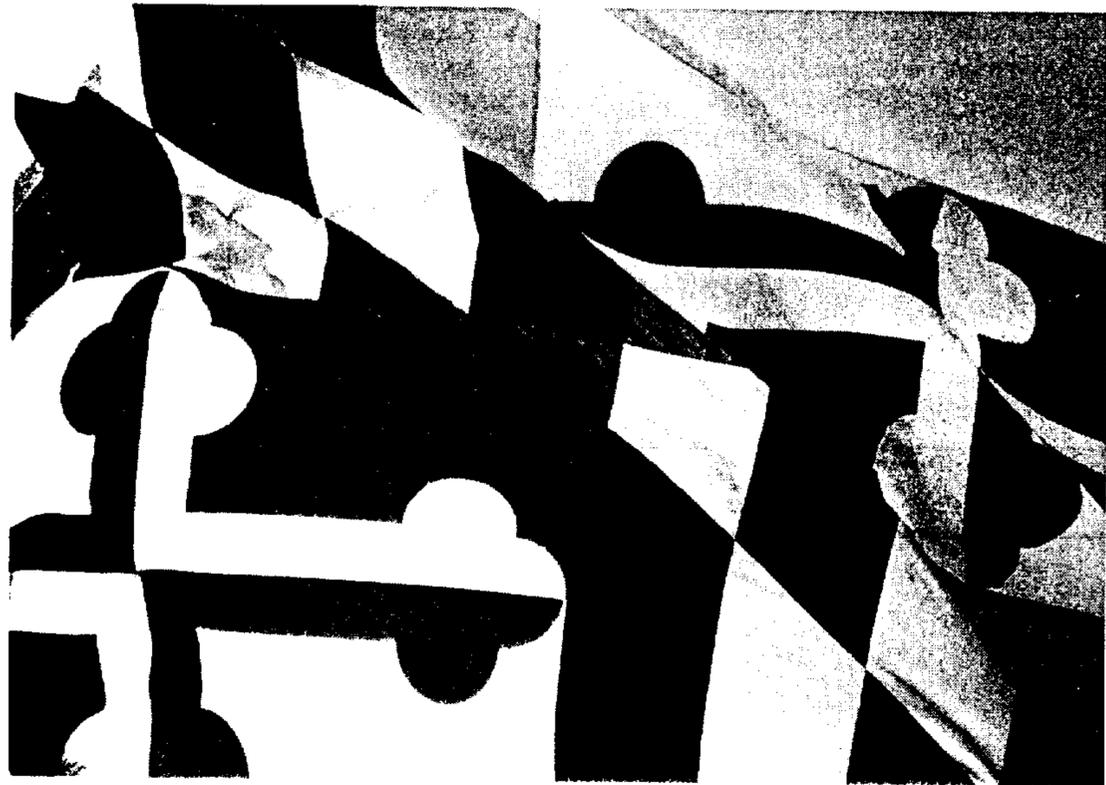
D. YORK RD. (MD. 45)

Md. 45, known as York Rd., runs the length of Baltimore County, from the Pennsylvania line into Baltimore City, roughly paralleling the new interstate highway I-83 (completed in 1959), which connects Baltimore to York and Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. York Rd. first appeared on maps in 1743 as the Susquehanna Rd. and became an improved turnpike in about 1807. The road opened the fertile Pennsylvania and Maryland hinterlands to the Chesapeake and contributed greatly to the growth of

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