

## HERITAGE THEMES

The *Historic Sites and Districts Plan* presents a number of subject areas, or “themes,” which represent aspects of the county’s heritage. The following are some of the county’s important themes, and with each theme are listed representative examples of historic sites.

**Native Americans**—The land which became Prince George’s County was occupied for thousands of years before the first Europeans arrived; there is considerable archeological evidence of Native American settlements along both the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers. Examples: **Accokeek Creek Site**, **Nottingham Site**, and **Riverview Road Site**.

**Early Towns**—Charles Town on the Patuxent was first established in 1683 and became the seat of government when Prince George’s County was established in 1696. Five more port towns (Marlborough, Queen Anne, Mill Town, Nottingham, and Aire) were established in 1706 and Piscataway in 1707. Although the original settlements of these seven port towns have disappeared, several early structures and sites of structures represent them: **Piscataway Tavern** at Piscataway, **Content** and **Darnall’s Chance** at Upper Marlboro, **Mount Calvert** at Charles Town, and **Harmony Hall** and **St. John’s Episcopal Church** at Aire (Broad Creek).

**Colonial Churches**—When Prince George’s County was established in 1696, two parishes of the Church

of England were already in existence: St. Paul’s Parish on the Patuxent River and Piscataway Parish on the Potomac. Early churches (now Episcopal) survive in both of the original Anglican parishes: **St. Paul’s** at Baden and **St. John’s** at Broad Creek. Rural chapels for these two churches also survive: **Christ Church** at Accokeek, which was the “lower” chapel of Piscataway Parish; **Addison Chapel** at Seat Pleasant, which was the “upper” chapel of the same parish; **St. Thomas’** at Croom, which was the chapel of St. Paul’s of Baden. A new parish, Queen Anne, was created out of St. Paul’s in 1704; the church which was built for that parish in 1774 survives as **St. Barnabas’** at Leeland. One Roman Catholic church survives from the Colonial period: **Sacred Heart Church** at White Marsh.

**Later Churches**—As the population of the county increased, the Church of England parishes were divided, and more places of worship were built. Public places of worship were built for Roman Catholics after 1776, and the nineteenth century saw the rise of the Methodist Episcopal Church. There are fine examples of all of these in Prince George’s County today: **St. John’s Episcopal** at Beltsville, **St. Barnabas Episcopal** at Oxon Hill, **Trinity Episcopal** in Upper Marlboro, **St. Ignatius Catholic** at Oxon Hill, **St. Joseph’s Catholic** at Ammendale, **Cheltenham Methodist**, **Holy Family Catholic** in Woodmore, and **Perkins Methodist Chapel** in Glenn

Dale. New churches were built in the early twentieth century, often to replace older churches on the same site: **St. Thomas Methodist** near Baden, **Holy Rosary Catholic** at Rosaryville, **Ridgley Methodist** in the Landover area, **Union Methodist** in Upper Marlboro, **Old St. Margaret's Catholic** in Seat Pleasant, **Old Bells Methodist** in Camp Springs, **Chapel of Incarnation Episcopal** in Brandywine, **St. Mary's Episcopal** in Aquasco, **St. James Catholic** in Mount Rainier, **St. James Episcopal** in Bowie, **St. George's Episcopal** in Glenn Dale, and **Forest Grove Methodist** at Centreville (now Andrews Air Force Base).

**Earliest Plantation Establishments**—Earliest settlements were along the waterways, near the seven early port towns, and near the parish churches. Large tracts of land were developed into plantations; some surviving plantation houses from this early period are **Mount Airy**, **Billingsley**, **Bellefields**, **Mullikin's Delight**, **Harmony Hall**, **Partnership**, **Melwood Park**, **Belair**, **Poplar Hill on His Lordship's Kindness**, and **Wyoming**.

**The Revolutionary Period**—Reminders of the American Revolution are represented in the site of the revolutionary munitions and uniform manufactory operated by Stephen West at **The Woodyard**. **St. Barnabas' Church** at Leeland was the scene of pre-revolutionary confrontations during the tenure of outspoken Tory Rector Jonathan Boucher.

**Commerce**—Most of the early commerce in the county had to do with tobacco; the crop even served as legal

tender for debts. This commerce in the colonial period is best represented by the **Market Master's House** in Bladensburg, as well as the **George Washington House**, which served as a store in the same town. Later commerce is represented by the rural general store, e.g., the **Coffren Store** in Croom, the **Crandell-Rothstein House** in Upper Marlboro, and the **Marlow-Huntt Store** in T.B. Banks are represented by the **Brandywine Bank** and branches of the **Prince George's Bank** in Hyattsville and Mount Rainier.

**Early Industry**—The earliest industry in the county is represented by one remaining water-powered mill, constructed for the grinding of grain and for the spinning of cotton, **Adelphi Mill** northwest of Hyattsville. Iron was mined in the upper Patuxent region, and in the 1840s the **Muirkirk Furnace** was established in the Beltsville area. During the Revolution, munitions and uniforms were manufactured at Stephen West's Woodyard establishment, represented here in the **Woodyard Archeological Site**. Nineteenth-century industry is exemplified by the blacksmith/wheelwright shop at the **H.B.B. Trueman Farm**.

**Agricultural Heritage**—From the period of the establishment of Prince George's County until well into the twentieth century, agriculture was the basis of the county's economy and directly or indirectly provided the livelihood of its residents. Tobacco was the principal crop, and created wealth for the leading families of the county; the tobacco heritage is exemplified in the **Warington Barn**, and the barns of early plantations

like **The Cottage**, **Weston**, **Bleak Hill**, etc. Other agricultural efforts are represented in the **Seton Belt Barn** and the **Ashland Hay Barn**.

Agricultural research is represented by **Riversdale**, the plantation home of Charles B. Calvert, founder of county and state agricultural societies and of the Maryland Agricultural College. The latter institution is represented in the **Rosborough Inn** on the campus of the University of Maryland at College Park; this building served during the late nineteenth century as the agricultural experimentation station.

There are many examples of planters' and farmers' houses, notably **Compton Bassett**, **Solitude**, **Blythewood**, **Rosemount**, **Brookefield of the Berrys**, **Brookewood**, **Woodstock**, the **James Hamilton House**, **Mount Lubentia**, **Weston**, **The Cottage**, **Oakland**, **Strawberry Hill**, **Villa de Sales** and **Sunnyside**.

**Landings and River Crossings**—The earliest arteries of transportation were the waterways, and the first towns were established on the major waterways. Landings were established at the tobacco inspection stations and at other locations on the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers. During the nineteenth century, steamboats traveled along these watercourses, stopping at old landings like **Trueman Point**. Bridges were built across the Patuxent River near the Duvall sawmill, **Queen Anne Town**, and **Hill's Landing**; they are represented in the twentieth-century truss bridges which replaced the earliest bridges:

**Queen Anne Bridge**, **Duvall Bridge**, and **Governors Bridge**.

**Taverns**—At strategic points along the major roads, and especially in the principal towns and river crossings, taverns were established; they catered to the needs of travelers and provided gathering places for the exchange of news and opinion. Several early taverns still stand: the **George Washington House**, **Rosborough Inn**, the **Surratt House**, **Piscataway Tavern**, **Hardy's Tavern**, and **Horsehead Tavern**.

**Thoroughbred Horse Breeding and Racing**—Prince George's County has from the early eighteenth century been in the forefront of horse breeding and racing. Several historic sites illustrate that tradition: **Belair Mansion**, **Belair Stables**, **Kildare**, **Fairview**, and **Weston**, **Pleasant Hill** and **Bowling Heights**.

**The War of 1812**—Prince George's County was directly affected during the War of 1812 by the British invasion of Washington. As the British marched north and west through the county, their impact was felt at several important sites: **Bellefields**, **St. Thomas' Church** at **Croom**, **Trinity Episcopal Church**, **Melwood Park**, **The Woodyard**, **Mount Lubentia**, **Addison Chapel**, **Bostwick**, the **Market Master's House**, the **Hilleary-Magruder House**, **The Magruder Spring**, **Crawford's Adventure Spring**, and **Fort Washington**.

**Civil War**—Several historic sites represent the Civil War period in Prince George's County, including two forts, **Fort Foote** and **Fort Washington**, used in the defense

of Washington, as well as the **Surratt House**, implicated in the assassination by John Wilkes Booth of President Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington.

**Transportation**—The way of life in Prince George's County was significantly changed with the construction of two major railroad lines: the Baltimore and Ohio line in 1835 and the Baltimore and Potomac line in 1872. Reminders of the importance of these rail lines survive and are represented by the **Bowie Railroad Buildings** and **Chew's Bridge**. The rise of automobile transportation is represented by the **Baltimore-Washington Parkway** and **Suitland Parkway**.

**The Law**—Many important Prince Georgians achieved fame in the field of law, and their homes and offices survive as reminders of this endeavor and of the prominence of the Upper Marlborough bar: **Marietta and Law Office** (of Gabriel Duvall), **Trelawn** (home of Joseph K. Roberts, Jr.), the **Digges-Sasscer House** (home of prominent attorneys Daniel C. Digges, William A. Jarboe, and L.G. Sasscer).

**Education**—The field of education is represented by many historic sites in Prince George's County, from the one-room schoolhouse to the state university: **Friendly School**, **Seabrook School**, **Silesia School**, **Berwyn Heights Schoolhouse**, **Briarley Military Academy**, **Ridgeley School**, **Woodville School**, **Highland Park School**, **Rossborough Inn**, and the **Greenbelt Center School**, as well as the **D.S.S. Goodloe House**, home

of the first principal of the Maryland Normal and Industrial School (now Bowie State University).

**Political History**—Because of Prince George's County's close association with the national capital, it has been much involved in political movements and events. Several historic sites represent this political history: one is the **Grigsby's Station Log Cabin**, which stood on the farm where Belva Lockwood was nominated for the U.S. Presidency in 1884; others were homes of prominent statesmen and politicians, like **Riversdale** (home of George Calvert and Charles Benedict Calvert), **St. James Hill** (home of Benedict Semmes), **Marietta** (home of Gabriel Duvall), **Belair** (home of Samuel Ogle and Benjamin Ogle), **Fairview** (home of Oden Bowie), the **Digges-Sasscer House** (home of Lansdale G. Sasscer), **The Cottage** (home of Charles Clagett), and **Oxon Hill Manor** (home of Sumner Welles).

**Social History**—Social history is represented in its many facets in Prince George's County historic sites: the rise of the beneficial society is represented in **St. Mary's Beneficial Society Hall** and **Abraham Hall**, the practice of dueling in the **Bladensburg Dueling Grounds**, and the sport of the hunt in the **Marlboro Hunt Club**.

**Black History**—African-Americans played a large part in the history of Prince George's County, and this is illustrated in many historic sites: **St. Paul's Baptist Church**, the **Butler House**, **Abraham Hall**, **Ridgley Church**, **St. Mary's Beneficial Society Hall**, **Knights of St. John Hall**, **Mt. Nebo Church**, **St. Thomas**

Methodist Church, Union Methodist Church, Dorsey Chapel, Nottingham-Myers Methodist Church, Carroll Methodist Chapel, North Brentwood A.M.E. Zion Church, the homes of D.S.S. Goodloe, Thomas J. Calloway, and Peter Randall, and the site of the slave quarters at Northampton, as well as Ridgeley, Highland Park, and Woodville schools.

**Suburban Growth**—In the late nineteenth century and the early twentieth century, residential suburbs were developed to the north and east of Washington, D.C., along the two railroad lines. Examples of this residential growth are the O’Dea House, the Kleiner House, the Pickett House, the Cross House, the Wetherald House, the E.J. Taylor House, and the Berwyn Heights Schoolhouse in Berwyn Heights; the Welsh House, Frederick Holden House, Lewis Holden House, William Shepherd House, Benjamin Smith House, McEwen House, Wheelock House, W.G. Lown House, Harriet Ralston House, Edgewood and Fox’s Barn in Hyattsville; the Cory House and the McDonnell House in College Park; the Seabrook Cottage, Kelly Cottage, and Seabrook School in Seabrook; the Straining House, Harmon-Phelps House, and Ryon House in Bowie; the Harry Smith House, Wernek House, and Warren House in Riverdale Park; the Baker-Holliday House, the LaValle House, and the Bowers-Sargent House in Daniels Park; and the Bellamy House in Cheverly.

**Aviation**—Prince George’s County can boast the oldest continually operating airfield in the world at the

College Park Airport, where Wilbur Wright conducted military flight instruction in 1909.

**Residential Architectural Styles**—Fine examples of historic domestic architecture survive in Prince George’s County, from the turn of the eighteenth century through the first half of the twentieth century. Important examples of each architectural style are listed below:

*Colonial/Georgian:* Belair, Hilleary-Magruder House, Mount Airy, Mount Pleasant, Piscataway House, Admirathoria, Bellefields, Harmony Hall, Bostwick, and Melwood Park.

*Late Georgian/Federal:* Montpelier, Compton Bassett, Mount Lubentia, and Poplar Hill on His Lordship’s Kindness.

*Federal:* Oaklands, Snow Hill, Marietta, Riversdale, Wyoming, Goodwood, Beall’s Pleasure, Pleasant Prospect, Concord, and Mount Calvert.

*Transitional Federal/Greek Revival:* Bowieville, Williams Plains, Brookefield of the Berrys, Pleasant Hills, Fairview, and Weston.

*Greek Revival:* Hitching Post Hill, Buena Vista at Wixon Farm, Melford, The Cottage, Brookewood, West End Farm, Bleak Hill, the Holy Trinity Church Rectory, the Coffren House, Bellevue, Oakland, Charles Hill, Belvidere, J.E. Turner House, Trumps Hill, Woodstock, and Gwynn Park.

*Italianate:* Waverly, the Straining House, Ashland, Mount Clare, and the P.A. Bowen House.

*Gothic Cottage:* Kingston, Waring's Grove, and the Kelly House.

*Victorian Vernacular:* The James Hamilton House, the McLeod House, the McDonnell House, the Webb-Brown House, the Turton House, the Wyvill House, the Furgang Farmhouse, the A.T. Brooke House, the Augusta DuVal House, Locust Grove, the Van Horn House, and the LaValle House.

*Victorian Gothic:* Bowling Heights and Villa de Sales.

*Queen Anne:* The O'Dea House, the McEwen House, the Adams-Bowen House, Ellerslie, the Cissel House, the Traband House, the Harry Smith House, the Lake House, and the William W. Early House.

*American Foursquare:* The D.S.S. Goodloe House, the Baker-Holliday House, the Arthur G. Bowie House, Beechwood, and the Terrett House.

*Colonial Revival:* The Boyden House, Boxlee, and the Green Hill Overseer's House.

*Spanish Mission:* The Bellamy House, Belle Chance, and the Holbrook House.

*Pattern Book Houses:* The O'Dea House, Kleiner House, McEwen House, Bellamy House, Holbrook House, and Ziegler Cottage.

*Twentieth-Century Estate Mansions:* The McCormick-Goodhart House, and Oxon Hill Manor.