



Heritage REPORT

Welcome to the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County

Preserving and sharing more than 300 years
of Montgomery County's History



The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County is a nonprofit organization created to bring the county's rich history alive for the residents and visitors of the area. The heritage areas were begun as part of a state program to promote the enjoyment and appreciation of the County's past.

There are three themed districts that make up the Montgomery County Heritage Area.

- The Farming History cluster set in the 96,000-acre Agricultural Reserve with Poolesville, a farming center since the 18th century, as its gateway.
- The Quaker cluster, centered in Sandy Spring and including Brookeville, featured for its national importance in the history of religious tolerance and its role in the Underground Railroad.
- The Innovative Technology path included the construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Metropolitan Line of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the 19th century, which started the County on the path of technological and industrial innovation that continues to this day.

Montgomery County is only minutes away from our nation's capital, yet many people only know its commercial centers like Bethesda or suburban neighborhoods like Silver Spring and Rockville. But there is so much more to explore. We hope that you will come and sample Montgomery County's rich heritage, incredible natural and recreational sites, and its vibrant cultural life. You can visit 18th century homes, preserved railroad communities from the late 1800s, horse farms, weathered barns and notable Victorian architecture. They all wait to be discovered.

Table of Contents

Barns: Booklet, Poster & Notecards	2	Grants Update	4
Free Map Published	2	Romantic Escape	4
Heritage Days 2006	3	2006 Preserve America Awards.....	5
Mini Grant Program.....	3	Driving Tour.....	5



It's Not Too Late!

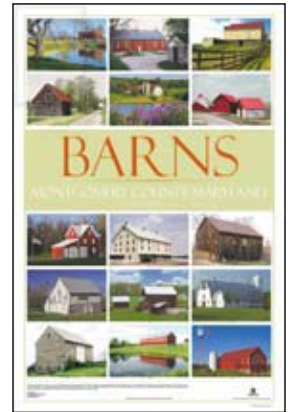
Barns: Booklet, Poster and Note Cards... Order Your Copies Today

In September, 2005 Heritage Montgomery produced a barn poster that features 15 County barns, all of which can be viewed from local roads. The 2' by 3' poster showcases dairy barns, grain barns and early tobacco barns (or houses, as they were called), barns from Olney and Laytonsville as well as barns from Poolesville and Comus. We selected twelve of these barn photos to be made into note cards, which we are marketing in boxed sets. Both have been very well received and sales have continued steadily.

The photos which were submitted were so compelling and of such high quality that the HTA staff had a very difficult task to narrow the field to 15. As a consequence, we decided to mount an exhibit entitled, "Memorable Montgomery Barns 1800-1920." This exhibit opened in May 2006 at the Waters House in Germantown and continued until August 2006. To document this exhibit and to have a tangible reminder of the wonderful barns in the County, Heritage Montgomery published a booklet that accompanied the show but was also designed to provide a brief historical overview and documentation of the area barns.

All of the barn offerings—the poster, the note cards and the booklet—are for sale by the Alliance at our office in the Waters House in Germantown and at the Montgomery County Historical Society in Rockville.

All proceeds from sales of the three barn-related items help our group, the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County, with our mission to promote appreciation of the County's rich history and to foster appropriate economic growth in the certified heritage area.

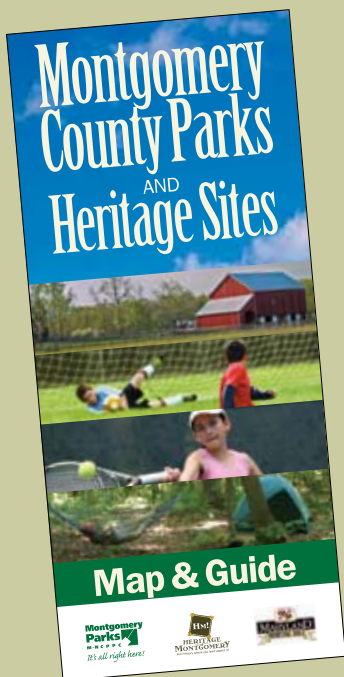


Copy of the poster – \$15.00

Box of 12 note cards – \$15.00

Memorable Montgomery Barns booklet – \$2.00

The holidays are coming soon; the cards make a wonderful gift! We thank you for your support.



Now Available!

Heritage Montgomery and Montgomery County Parks Publish Free Map

Created in partnership with the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County and Montgomery County Parks Department, this map contains in-depth information on many heritage sites and park land in the county. These sites include the Trolley Museum, Woodlawn Manor, Oakley Cabin, the Underground Railroad Trail and the Dairy MOOseum.

Residents and visitors to the county can find out about the many fun and educational activities the park system and Heritage Montgomery have to offer, including miniature golf, tennis, a splash park and skating. The map provides a description of all facilities and activities as well as phone numbers and web addresses for anyone interested in obtaining more information.

The map can be picked up at: Brookside Gardens; Black Hill Regional Park Visitor Center; Little Bennett Campground; Hudson Trail Outfitters; REI and L.L.Bean retail stores. For more information visit www.heritagemontgomery.org.



Heritage Days 2006

The 9th Annual countywide Heritage Days were held on June 24 and 25. This year there were 37 sites open to the public and despite heavy rain on Sunday more than 8,000 people visited sites located in all parts of the County.

Some of the sites that were open were:

- St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, built as a chapel for the Carroll family in 1774;
- The recently restored Monocacy Aqueduct, where musicians in 19th century garb performed;
- Especially noteworthy was Uncle Tom’s Cabin, open to the public for the first time;
- The Latvian Museum in Rockville, where Councilmember Phil Andrews danced wearing a leafy crown.

History, music and food—what better way to tour the County!



Mini-Grant Program



Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County is conducting its second annual mini-grants award program. The mini-grant program recognizes groups in the County which contribute to interpreting, promoting, preserving, researching and/or supporting our historical legacy. The program furthers the mission of the Alliance to increase the appreciation for the region’s rich legacy while enhancing quality of life and strengthening economic opportunities by assisting heritage sites and organization within the area to develop new and innovative programs, exhibits, tours and events that incorporate heritage themes.

Last year we awarded mini-grants to seven recipients:

- Sandy Spring Museum;
- Hyattstown Mill Arts Project;
- National Capital Trolley Museum;
- Historic Medley District in Poolesville;
- Glen Echo Park Partnership for Art and Culture;
- The King Barn Dairy MOOseum;
- The Town of Brookeville.

This year the grants awarded by the Alliance will range from \$500 to \$2,500. We will announce this round’s recipients in November.



Update on Grants

Received from the Maryland Heritage Area Authority

Five local projects have been chosen by the Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA), the state agency that funds and oversees Heritage Montgomery, to receive grants which will support heritage activities.

- A capital grant of \$75,000 was given to Historic Medley District for acquisition of the former Poolesville Town Hall in the center of the historic town;
- A non-capital grant of \$5,000 was awarded to the Sandy Spring Museum for enhancements of its exhibit hall;
- A capital grant for \$10,000 was given to the Sandy Spring Museum to furnish the Visitors Center in the new Library;
- A non-capital grant of \$5,000 was given to Historic Medley District to research, design and publish a guidebook to the Seneca Historic District and Seneca Quarries;



- A capital grant of \$100,000 was awarded to Historic Medley District for rehabilitation of the old Poolesville Town Hall and reuse as an Agricultural History and Civil War Museum.

These funds are made available to organizations and businesses that promote heritage tourism and economic development in our heritage areas. We are looking forward to working with Historic Medley as it transforms the old Town Hall and expect that the Library addition to Sandy Spring Museum will attract many new visitors.



Romantic Escape Getaway

In April, Heritage Montgomery joined the Maryland Office of Tourism's campaign to promote romantic destinations within the state by offering a special "Romantic Escape Getaway" in the rural heritage area of our county. Overnight accommodations are offered in the beautifully restored 1892 Victorian Gaithersburg Inn, which includes full, homemade breakfast and afternoon tea. For dinner, you make a scenic drive through the rural Upcounty to the Comus Inn, housed in a newly restored, Civil War-era structure. Toast the sun setting over Sugarloaf Mountain as you enjoy an outstanding, three-course meal. Perhaps you will savor a bottle from the Inn's acclaimed wine cellar. You may want to upgrade with a car and driver (Gaithersburg Inn can give you names) for the inn to inn journey, sipping champagne along the way! The price of \$249.00 includes overnight accommodations for two (breakfast and tea included) and dinner for two (excluding beverages). Taxes and gratuities are not included. Valid until 1/1/07. For more information on the Gaithersburg Inn, go to www.gaithersburginn.com or call 800-771-0282. For additional information on the Comus Inn, go to www.thecomusinn.com or call toll free 866-349-5101. What a great gift this would make.



2006 Preserve America Presidential Award



Representatives of Heritage Areas receiving the award from the Secretary, Maryland Department of Planning, from left to right, are:

Elizabeth Watson, Executive Director, Stories of the Chesapeake;

Peggy Erickson, Executive Director, Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County;

Elizabeth Shatto, Director, Heart of the Civil War;

Natalie Chabot, Director, The Heart of Chesapeake Country;

Planning Secretary Audrey Scott;

Donna Dudley, Executive Director, Annapolis, London Town, and South County (Four Rivers Heritage Area);

Roz Racanello, Executive Director, Southern Maryland;

Bill Pencek, Director, Baltimore City

The Maryland Heritage Area Authority (MHAA) was selected as one of two organizations for activities advancing heritage tourism. Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County is one of eleven certified heritage areas within MHAA. The Presidential Awards are one component of Preserve America, a White House initiative to preserve our national heritage. The award is sponsored by First Lady Laura Bush and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation as part of the Preserve America program. The program helps communities use heritage tourism to build their economies while protecting, developing, and promoting their cultural, historical and natural resources. It is given annually for exemplary work in preservation of cultural or natural heritage assets; a demonstration of commitment towards integration of assets; or integration of these assets into contemporary community life.

The Alliance also won an award from Montgomery Preservation Inc. for the Outstanding Local Preservation Media Project for the Historic Barn Poster, Cards, Exhibit and Brochure.

Driving Tour of the Agricultural Reserve

We at Heritage Montgomery enjoy showcasing the lesser known sections of the county, especially when they are in Heritage Areas. On our website www.heritagemontgomery.org you can access a tour that we have created called "Montgomery's Rural Heritage Tour" by clicking on "Traveling in the County" in the sidebar at the left of the home page. Enjoy shopping in Poolesville, visiting the tasting room at Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard or eating at the Comus Inn. You don't have to go away to get away! Enjoy exploring our beautiful county.





Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County
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Heritage Montgomery is a 501(c)(3), a non-profit organization and your contributions are tax deductible.

Update on “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”



The first opportunity that visitors had to tour the recently acquired “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”, the home of slave Josiah Henson on the former Riley Plantation now along Old Georgetown Road, was on the 9th Heritage Weekend. More than 1430 people lined up to view the interior of the 250 year old structures; some stood patiently in the rain for their chance to connect with our past. The Park and Planning Commission is developing plans for its future reuse which will include opportunities for public access.



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Montgomery County Historical Society

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