

# **African American Resources**

Compiled for use by  
Montgomery County Public School educators

Compiled by



January 2024

# INTRODUCTION

This guide was created especially for use by the educators at Montgomery County Public Schools by Heritage Montgomery. It contains listings of the history, cultural, and natural resources located in Montgomery County that feature African American history. Each listing details the resource and its African American history themes, along with field trip possibilities and digital assets that can be used in the classroom. The sites are organized geographically rather than in chronological order of their histories.

It is our hope that this resource guide will aid educators in planning field trips and lessons plans related to African American history. Heritage Montgomery is committed to keeping this guide up-to-date and welcomes feedback on ways our next edition can be improved.

You can learn more about Heritage Montgomery at [www.HeritageMontgomery.org](http://www.HeritageMontgomery.org) and communicate with us at [info@HeritageMontgomery.org](mailto:info@HeritageMontgomery.org).

## ABOUT HERITAGE MONTGOMERY

Heritage Montgomery—officially The Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County—was established by State legislations in 2003 as part of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority and became a Certified Heritage Area in 2004. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Heritage Montgomery was created by State officials and county leaders to raise the profile of the area's heritage, ensuring that residents and visitors alike understand and value the county's past. With a history stretching back beyond colonial times, Montgomery County has a long heritage evidenced by rich cultural and historical resources. As the area's population has exploded, there has been a growing awareness of the importance of heritage programs and a higher profile for the historic, cultural, and natural resources of the county. We provide grant and technical support to over 300 local museums, parks, and sites assisting in program, exhibit, and interpretive development.



[www.HeritageMontgomery.org](http://www.HeritageMontgomery.org)

P.O. Box 10237

Gaithersburg, MD 20898

301-515-0753

[info@HeritageMontgomery.org](mailto:info@HeritageMontgomery.org)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## African American Stories/Themes in this Guide

Pathways to Arrival in America .....	5
Slavery .....	5
Daily Life of the Enslaved .....	5
Freedom Seekers .....	6
Underground Railroad.....	6
Origin of Uncle Tom’s Cabin.....	6
Quakers and Anti-Slavery Support .....	7
African Americans in the Civil War.....	7
Emancipation .....	7
Reconstruction .....	8
Urban African American Experience .....	8
Rural African American Kinship Communities.....	9
Mutal Aid/Benevolent Societies .....	9
Kinship/Family Structure.....	10
Living off the Land/Self-Sufficiency .....	10
Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools.....	11
Education: Segregation of Schools .....	11
Education: Rosenwald Schools.....	11
Occupations After Emancipation .....	12
Railroad Town of Boyds/White Grounds.....	12
Lynchings.....	12
African American Baseball .....	12
Segregation/Desegregation .....	13
Civil Rights Movement.....	13
New Deal/Civilian Conservation Corps.....	13
Redevelopment/Urban Renewal/Discriminatory Land Practices .....	14
African Art and Culture .....	14
Accomplishments of African Americans .....	14
Genealogy .....	14
Archives .....	14
Cemeteries.....	15
General African American History Resources.....	15

## Historic Sites

### West: Dickerson/Poolesville/Boys/Germantown/Gaithersburg

Warren Historic Site (Dickerson).....	16
St. Paul's Community Church/Sugarland (Poolesville).....	17
Boys Negro School (Boys) .....	18
Button Farm Living History Center (Germantown) .....	19
Pleasant View Historic Site (Gaithersburg) .....	20
Black Rock Mill in Seneca Creek State Park.....	21

### East: Brookeville/Sandy Spring/Silver Spring/Wheaton

Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park (Brookeville) .....	22
Sandy Spring Slave Museum (Sandy Spring).....	23
Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge (Sandy Spring).....	24
Sandy Spring Museum (Sandy Spring).....	25
Woodlawn Museum (Sandy Spring).....	26
Underground Railroad Experience Trail (Sandy Spring).....	27
Smithville School (Silver Spring).....	28
Harper Cabin at Brookside Nature Center (Wheaton).....	28

### South: Rockville/Potomac/North Bethesda

Rockville African American Walking Tour (Rockville) .....	29
Montgomery History (Rockville) .....	30
Josiah Henson Museum and Park (North Bethesda).....	31
Carderock/C&O Canal National Historical Park (Potomac) .....	32
Scotland A.M.E. Church (Potomac) .....	33
Glen Echo Park (Glen Echo).....	34

# AFRICAN AMERICAN STORIES/THEMES

The heritage sites in Montgomery County interpret a wide variety of African American stories. Below is a list of these stories, the sites where these stories are told, and additional resources about the themes.

## Pathways to Arrival in America

Beginning in the 1600s, millions of African people were enslaved and transported to America as part of the African slave trade. Once they arrived in America, they were sold to enslavers and made to work in bondage. Families were separated and transported hundreds of miles away from each other at the will of the enslavers.

- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [The African-American Migration Story](#) (Website by PBS)

## Slavery

From the early 1600s to emancipation in 1863, millions of African people were forced to work in bondage. They were separated from their families, stripped of their social capital, and subjected to violence. These sites consider the complexities of slavery and its lasting impact on society today.

- Button Farm Living History Center (page 19)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Woodlawn Museum (page 26)
- Underground Railroad Experience Trail (page 27)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Josiah Henson Museum and Park (page 31)

### RESOURCES related to this theme:

- [Slavery in Montgomery County](#) (Article by Montgomery History)
- [A Guide to the History of Slavery in Maryland](#) (PDF by Maryland State Archives)

## Daily Life of the Enslaved

Agriculture was a primary vocation in Montgomery County in the 1700s and 1800s, and many of the enslaved worked as farm hands on plantations. Others worked in urban settings in trade shops or as domestic help.

- Button Farm Living History Center (agriculture) (page 19)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (urban) (page 29)
- Josiah Henson Museum and Park (agriculture) (page 31)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [Slavery in Montgomery County](#) (Article by Montgomery History)

## Freedom Seekers

Some African Americans decided to take control of their destinies by leaving their sites of enslavement. Seeking freedom was a dangerous proposition; while some were successful, many were captured, returned, and punished. Freedom Seekers had to wrestle with decisions that included: Should they stay or go? Could they take their family? What else can they take? How do they get north?

- Button Farm Living History Center (page 19)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Woodlawn Museum (page 26)
- Underground Railroad Experience Trail (page 27)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Josiah Henson Museum and Park (page 31)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [Maryland Freedom Seekers on the Underground Railroad](#) (Book by Jenny Masur)

## Underground Railroad

The Underground Railroad was a secret network of people who helped enslaved African Americans escape to freedom. It consisted of a series of safe houses where Freedom Seekers could eat, sleep, rest, and receive aid.

- Button Farm Living History Center (page 19)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Woodlawn Museum (page 26)
- Underground Railroad Experience Trail (page 27)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Josiah Henson Museum and Park (page 31)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [The Underground Railroad in Montgomery County](#) (Article by Montgomery History)
- [Network to Freedom Listings](#) (Website by the National Park Service)

## Origin of Uncle Tom's Cabin

Reverend Josiah Henson's 1849 autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada*, inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

- Josiah Henson Museum and Park (page 31)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- See list under Josiah Henson Museum and Park listing (page 31)

## Quakers and Anti-Slavery Support

Quakers rejected the practice of slavery, and members who did not emancipate their slaves were excommunicated. In Sandy Spring, Montgomery County, this happened in 1781, and in turn, the Quakers in this area became a cohesive anti-slavery group who are thought to have assisted Freedom Seekers as part of the Underground Railroad.

- Sandy Spring Museum (page 25)
- Woodlawn Museum (page 26)
- Underground Railroad Experience Trail (page 27)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [If You Lived Here: Slavery and Freedom in Sandy Spring](#) (Video by PBS)

## African Americans in the Civil War

Some African Americans participated in the Civil War as soldiers for both the Union and the Confederacy. All Blacks were impacted by battles, troop movements, and the changes in slavery the war portended.

- Montgomery History (page 30)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [African Americans in Montgomery County During the Civil War](#) (Article by Montgomery History)

## Emancipation

Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, coupled with the Thirteenth Amendment, were important milestones in ending legal slavery in America. Life after slavery was a mix of joy and difficulty for African Americans. They celebrated their newfound freedom, but also faced the brutalities of prejudice that persisted.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Woodlawn Museum (page 26)

### **RESOURCES related to this theme:**

- [Emancipation in Montgomery County, Maryland](#) (Article by Montgomery History)
- [Emancipation in Maryland](#) (Video by Montgomery History)

## Reconstruction

A turbulent era, Reconstruction attempted to address the inequities of slavery. Although Reconstruction saw the establishment of foundations for public schools, hospitals, and Black institutions of higher learning, Blacks had a difficult time facing prejudice and the Black Codes. During this time, Black communities developed, where community members isolated from white neighbors due to rampant racism and instead became self-reliant.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park (page 22)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Harper Cabin at Brookside Nature Park (page 28)

RESOURCES related to this theme:

- [“They Have Erected a Neat Little Church,” the Rural African American Experience, 1865-1900, in the National Capital Area](#) (Website by National Park Service)
- [Reconstruction in the National Capital Region](#) (Website by National Park Service)

## Urban African American Experience

African American have figured heavily into Rockville’s formation as the county seat, from the enslaved who worked the plantation farms to the tradesmen who built the town and served its citizens. The walking tour of Rockville demonstrates how life was different for African Americans living in a more urban setting.

- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Montgomery History (page 30)

RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [Rockville African American Walking Tour](#) (Website by Historic District Commission of Rockville)



## Rural African American Kinship Communities

These sites preserve the culture and buildings of African American communities; some formed by free blacks prior to the Civil War and others developed after emancipation. The communities who called these places home were close-knit and, in many cases, family. They were largely isolated from other towns and communities, due both to their rural location and because of segregation. At the center of these communities was the church, which often served not just as a place for spiritual aid, but also education, financial assistance, and personal improvement. Descendants of these communities still live in the area today.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Boyds Negro School (page 18)
- Pleasant View Historic Site (page 20)
- Black Rock Mill in Seneca Creek State Farm (page 21)
- Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park (page 22)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Hall (page 24)
- Woodlawn Museum (page 26)
- Harper Cabin at Brookside Nature Park (page 28)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Carderock/C&O Canal National Historical Park (page 32)
- Scotland A.M.E. Church (page 33)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [“They Have Erected a Neat Little Church,” the Rural African American Experience, 1865-1900, in the National Capital Area](#) (Website by National Park Service)

## Mutual Aid/Benevolent Societies

Mutual aid within the African American community was a necessity due to racial discrimination. The tradition of community-supported mutual aid grew out of the neglect of African Americans by the larger American culture. The societies provided relief for members who were sick or disabled or needed assistance to bury family members, among other things.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Hall (page 24)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [“They Have Erected a Neat Little Church,” the Rural African American Experience, 1865-1900, in the National Capital Area](#) (Website by National Park Service)

## Kinship/Family Structure

After having no control over their family relationships, enslaved African Americans would see their kin sold or traded, with little hope of reconnection. After emancipation, African Americans, with the help of the Freedmen's Bureau, began to reconnect with lost family members. Their community members became family members through both marriage and close friendships, as well. Today, African Americans face challenges in tracing their genealogy due to a lack of documentation of their ancestors.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Scotland A.M.E. Church (page 33)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- ["They Have Erected a Neat Little Church," the Rural African American Experience, 1865-1900, in the National Capital Area](#) (Website by National Park Service)

## Living off the Land/Self-Sufficiency

In the second half of the 1800s, the majority of Black landowners were farmers, producing milk, butter, eggs, meat, fruit, and vegetables to supply their families, while they (or their sons) worked out of the house. They were also skilled at a variety of trades, as they had to depend on themselves to build and repair structures and tools. The women worked the land, cooked, made and washed clothes, and performed other household chores. The community would come together to assist each other in the tasks of daily life.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- Button Farm Living History Center (page 19)
- Black Rock Mill in Seneca Creek State Park (page 21)
- Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park (page 22)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Harper Cabin at Brookside Nature Park (page 28)

### RESOURCES related to this theme:

- ["They Have Erected a Neat Little Church," the Rural African American Experience, 1865-1900, in the National Capital Area](#) (Website by National Park Service)
- [African American Heritage Cookbook – Introduction by historian Dr. George McDaniel](#) (Book/Website by Heritage Montgomery)

## Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools

After emancipation, African Americans were eager to learn after being denied access to education while they were enslaved. Because whites wouldn't allow Blacks to be educated alongside them, African American communities opened their own schools. Some students were educated in designated one-room schoolhouses, while others made use of the local church or gathering hall.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- Boyds Negro School (page 18)
- Pleasant View Historic Site (page 20)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Scotland A.M.E. Church (page 33)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [A Century of One- and Two-Room Schools: Teaching Yet Today](#) (Article by Montgomery History)
- [19th Century Education](#) (Video by Montgomery County Council)

## Education: Segregation of Schools

Legislation in 1874 proposing civil rights laws giving full rights of citizenship to Blacks failed to pass Congress, beginning the era of “separate but equal” education.

- Warren Historic Site (page 16)
- Boyds Negro School (page 18)
- Pleasant View Historic Site (page 20)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Smithsville School (page 28)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Scotland A.M.E. Church (page 33)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [Integration of the Montgomery County Public Schools](#) (Video by Montgomery County Council)
- [The Effects of Brown v. Board of Education in Montgomery Co.](#) (Website by Montgomery History)

## Education: Rosenwald Schools

A partnership between Julius Rosenwald and Booker T. Washington built 5,000 schools for African American children across the nation in the early 1900s. The schools continued until the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown v. Board of Education decision declared school segregation unconstitutional.

- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Smithsville School (page 28)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Scotland A.M.E. Church (page 33)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [A Century of One- and Two-Room Schools: Teaching Yet Today](#) (Article by Montgomery History)

## Occupations After Emancipation

While African Americans living in rural settings were largely farmers, Blacks in more urban areas had a range of occupations in the second half of the 1800s into the 1900s. They worked in skilled professions as carpenters, barbers, blacksmiths, hotel cooks, coopers, and plasterers. Unskilled workers found jobs on farms, and as boatmen, day laborers, and domestic help.

- Black Rock Mill in Seneca Creek State Park (page 21)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [Rockville African American Walking Tour](#) (Website by Historic District Commission of Rockville)

## Railroad Town of Boyds/White Grounds

Boyds is composed of two distinct communities – a white community (Boyds) and a black community (White Grounds) physically separated by approximately 600 feet. The town was built around the Baltimore and Ohio (B&O) Railroad, and many of the African Americans in town worked the line.

- Boyds Negro School (page 18)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [Boyds/White Grounds Historic District](#) (PDF by Maryland Historical Trust)

## Lynchings

Three documented lynchings took place in Montgomery County between 1880 and 1896.

- Montgomery History (page 30)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [African American Lynching in Montgomery County](#) (Website by Montgomery History)

## African American Baseball

Sandlot baseball was a popular pastime for African Americans during the 1940s-1960s. Teams formed in the Black communities, and the entire town would turn out for games. The best players joined the Negro Leagues.

- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)

### **RESOURCES related to this theme:**

- [In Search of the Ballfields of Montgomery's Black Communities](#) (Map by Montgomery History)
- [The Black baseball leagues of Montgomery County](#) (Article by MoCo360)
- [“In Search of the Ballfields of Montgomery's Black Communities”](#) (Presentation for Montgomery History by Bethesda Big Train Baseball)
- [Video Young Black People and Baseball – Their Field of Dreams](#)

## Segregation/Desegregation

In 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court issued their verdict in *Brown vs. Board of Education*, a decision that spurred the Civil Rights movement. This ruling established that “separate but equal” was unconstitutional and ordered schools to integrate.

- Pleasant View Historic Site (page 20)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Carderock/C&O Canal National Historical Park (page 32)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [“The Decree Had Been Handed Down.” The Experience of Public School Desegregation in Montgomery County](#) (Website by Montgomery History)

## Civil Rights Movement

After the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision in the landmark case *Brown v. Board of Education*, a nonviolent movement and campaign known as the Civil Rights movement worked to abolish legalized racial segregation, discrimination, and disenfranchisement in the country. These sites help to tell the story of that fight.

- Pleasant View Historic Site (page 20)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Glen Echo Park (Page 34)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [Twenty Years of Civil Rights Progress](#) (Website by Montgomery County Office of Human Rights)

## New Deal/Civilian Conservation Corps

As part of the New Deal Program, Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1933. Also known as the CCC, the program enlisted single men between the ages of 18-25 to work at improving America’s public lands, forests, and parks. An African American CCC camp was based in Carderock along the C&O Canal, where the men rehabilitated the overgrown, out-of-use canal into the recreational spot we enjoy today.

- Carderock/C&O Canal National Historical Park (page 32)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- See Resources under Carderock/C&O Canal National Historical Park (page 32)

## Redevelopment/Urban Renewal/Discriminatory Land Practices

Learn how African American communities are working to redevelop their historic structures, preserving what hasn't been lost to discriminatory land practices like redlining, restrictive covenants, and land theft.

- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Scotland A.M.E. Church (page 33)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [Mapping Segregation Project](#) (Website by Montgomery County Planning)

## African Art and Culture

Explore African art and culture, which harkens back to the traditions Blacks brought with them from their home countries and interprets their lived experiences in America.

- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Sandy Spring Museum (page 25)
- Montgomery History (page 30)

## Accomplishments of African Americans

Learn more about some of Montgomery County's leading African Americans, whose contributions changed the world and made a lasting impact on others.

- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Historic Odd Fellows Hall (page 24)
- Smithsville School (Tuskegee Airmen) (page 28)
- Rockville African American Walking Tour (page 29)
- Montgomery History (page 30)
- Josiah Henson Museum and Park (page 31)

## Genealogy

These sites offer resources to help trace African American family genealogies.

- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Sandy Spring Slave Museum (page 23)
- Sandy Spring Museum (page 25)
- Montgomery History (page 30)

### RESOURCE related to this theme:

- [Montgomery History Genealogy file](#)

## Archives

These sites have archive collections accessible to the public.

- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Sandy Spring Museum (page 25)
- Montgomery History (page 30)

## Cemeteries

These sites preserve historic African American cemeteries.

- St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland (page 17)
- Button Farm Living History Center (page 19)
- Pleasant View Historic Site (page 20)

### **RESOURCE related to this theme:**

- [Historic Cemeteries \(Website by Montgomery Preservation\)](#)

## General African American History resources

- [African American Heritage brochure by Heritage Montgomery](#)
- [African American Heritage Self-Guided Tour by Heritage Montgomery](#)
- [YouTube channel including videos of Heritage Montgomery partners and Community Cornerstones conversations](#)
- [Community Cornerstones Video Project](#)
- [African American Heritage Projects](#)
- [Historic African American Communities](#)
- [African American Cookbook by Heritage Montgomery](#)
- [Montgomery County's Historic African American Places \(Map by Montgomery Planning\)](#)
- [Black History videos](#) (Videos by County Cable Montgomery)
- [The African American Experience in Rural Maryland, Virginia, and eastern West Virginia, 1865-1900.](#) (Report by National Park Service)
- Black Historical Resources in Upper Western Montgomery County: Republication of 1979 Sugarloaf Regional Trails Study by George W. McDaniel. (Book)

# HISTORIC SITES: West County

## Warren Historic Site

<https://warrenhistoricsite.org/>

22625 Whites Ferry Rd.

Dickerson, MD 20842

301-972-7263

[info@warrenhistoricsite.org](mailto:info@warrenhistoricsite.org)

### About the Site

The Warren Historic Site is a historic group of buildings that were once the center of an African American community called Martinsburg that was settled after the Civil War. It is likely the last site in Maryland that retains all three of the structures that were the heart of flourishing African American communities in the late 1800s and early 1900s: the church, school, and benefit hall.

### STORIES/THEMES

- Emancipation (page 7)
- Reconstruction (page 8)
- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Mutual Aid/Benevolent Societies (page 9)
- Kinship/Family Structure (page 10)
- Living Off the Land/Self-Sufficiency (page 10)
- Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools (page 11)
- Education: Segregation of Schools (page 11)

### DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Brief online history of the site with photos of the buildings](#)



# St. Paul Community Church/Sugarland

<https://www.sugarlandproject.org/>

14730 Sugarland Lane

Poolesville, MD 20837

301-717-9304

[info@sugarlandproject.org](mailto:info@sugarlandproject.org)

## About the Site

This historic church, which dates from the 1890s, and its cemetery were the heart of the post-emancipation community of Sugarland. Today, volunteers and descendants work to preserve the church; maintain a collection of artifacts, images, and documents; encourage research into the history of Sugarland and other African American communities in the area; and share that history with the public. Tours are given by appointment.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Emancipation (page 7)
- Reconstruction (page 8)
- Rural African American Kinship communities (page 9)
- Kinship/Family Structure (page 10)
- Redevelopment/Urban Renewal/Discriminatory Land Practices (page 14)
- Genealogy (page 14)
- Archives (page 14)
- Cemeteries (page 15)

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Video by Heritage Montgomery](#)
- [Historic photos](#)
- [Heritage Montgomery Community Cornerstones video](#)
- [Sugarland's Story](#) (Article by Montgomery History)
- [I Have Started for Canaan](#) (Video by Montgomery History)

## BOOK

- *I Have Started for Canaan*, published by the Sugarland Ethno-History Project. Tells the story of Sugarland from emancipation to the present day.

# Boyds Negro School

<http://www.boydshistory.org/bns/>

19510 White Ground Road

Boyds, MD 20841

[info@boydshistory.org](mailto:info@boydshistory.org)

## About the Site

This one-room, 22'x30' wooden building, heated only by a wood stove, served as the only public school for African Americans in the Boyds area from 1895-1936. The schoolhouse served students in grades 1-8, many of whom walked for miles to attend the school. The site was purchased in 1980 and is now maintained by the Boyds Historical Society. The school is open on the third Sunday of each month from 2-4 p.m. Tours can also be scheduled by appointment.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools (page 11)
- Education: Segregation of Schools (page 11)
- Railroad Town of Boyds/White Grounds (page 12)

## FIELD TRIPS

- Email [info@boydshistory.org](mailto:info@boydshistory.org) to schedule a visit. The school welcomes individuals, school groups, and home schoolers by appointment.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Video by Boyds Historical Society: Historic Lives Part 1](#)
- [Video by Boyds Historical Society: Historic Lives Part 2](#)
- [Video by Boyds Historical Society: History of Boyds Negro School](#)

# Button Farm Living History Center

<https://www.buttonfarm.org/>

16820 Blackrock Road

Germantown, MD 20874

240-570-5112

[info@buttonfarm.org](mailto:info@buttonfarm.org)

## About the Site

The historic Button Farm is Maryland's only living history center depicting 19th-century plantation life. Nestled on 35 acres inside of Seneca Creek State Park, Button Farm interprets the period when enslaved labor shaped the landscape and modern agricultural technology had not yet been developed. To bring this compelling story to life, the Farm recreates sensory experiences of the past, integrating the tastes, touch, smell, sights, and sounds of the 1850s into the daily operations of the farm. Different from most museum experiences, where visitors are passive observers, the Farm's guests are invited to help create the experience by cultivating crops, learning a trade, or lending a hand on the daily workings of the farm.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Slavery (page 5)
- Daily Life of the Enslaved (page 5)
- Freedom Seekers (page 6)
- Underground Railroad (page 6)
- Living Off the Land/Self-Sufficiency (page 10)
- Cemeteries (page 15)

## FIELD TRIPS

- Living history programs include Beyond the Big House, Foraging Freedom, Button Farm Almanac, and Cemetery Walk.
- Button Farm has partnered with GoAdventure Sports to offer orienteering, low ropes, mountain biking and much more on the farm and the surrounding trails of Seneca Creek State Park.
- A speaker from Button Farm can come to you either in person or via Zoom.
- [Details on all of these options are here.](#)

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Virtual tour of the 1850s Farm](#)
- [Video by Heritage Montgomery](#)
- [Video by Paths to the Present – African American Historical Sites](#) (From 2013. Starts at 1:33)
- [The Good Dirt Podcast: Tony Cohen and Juneteenth at Button Farm](#)
- [Video by Matter of Fact: Harriet Tubman's Legacy Lives on 200 Years Later](#)
- [Docs in Progress Button Farm: A Living History](#)

# Pleasant View Historic Site

<https://www.pleasantviewsite.org/>

11810 Darnestown Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

## About the Site

Pleasant View Historic Site includes a post-emancipation church, school, and cemetery that were the heart of the historic African American Quince Orchard community. After the 1968 assassination of Martin Luther King, three area churches—this African American church and two white churches—decided to overcome the racial divide and merged to create Fairhaven United Methodist Church.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools (page 11)
- Education: Segregation of Schools (page 11)
- Segregation/Desegregation (page 13)
- Civil Rights Movement (page 13)
- Cemeteries (page 15)

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [“Finding Fellowship” film](#) documenting the historic African American Quince Orchard community.
- [History and historic photos](#)
- [Heritage Montgomery Community Cornerstones](#)
- [Discover Gaithersburg video: Pleasant View Historical Site](#)
- [Pleasant View Historical Society: School Segregation in Montgomery County, MD video](#)
- [Pleasant View Historical Society: School Segregation in Montgomery County, MD 2 video](#)

## Black Rock Mill in Seneca Creek State Park

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/Seneca/History-Seneca.aspx>

16500 Black Rock Road

Darnestown, MD 20874

301-924-2127

[senecacreek.statepark@maryland.gov](mailto:senecacreek.statepark@maryland.gov)

### About the Site

Men from nearby African American communities along Black Rock Road and Brownstown took jobs at flour, lumber, and grist mills like this one. Mills also served as gathering places where Black farm laborers could exchange information with the mill workers and each other.

### STORIES/THEMES

- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Living off the Land/Self-Sufficiency (page 10)
- Occupations After Emancipation (page 12)

# HISTORIC SITES: East County

## Oakley Cabin African American Museum and Park

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/oakley-cabin-african-american-museum-park/>

5130 Brookeville Rd.

Brookeville, MD 20832

301-650-4373

[HistoryTours@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:HistoryTours@montgomeryparks.org)

### About the Site

An African American roadside community lived and worked on this historic site from emancipation well into the 20th century. Their culture and traditions heavily influenced those of surrounding communities, and their story is deeply woven into Montgomery County's rich history. At the center of this site is Oakley Cabin, an early log home, which was inhabited until 1976 and now serves as a living history museum. This was one of three cabins that were built on this land, where between 22 and 37 African Americans lived during reconstruction. There is also a 0.7-mile-long natural surface trail that can be used for hiking.

### STORIES/THEMES

- Reconstruction (page 8)
- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Living off the Land/Self-Sufficiency (page 10)

### FIELD TRIPS

- [Daily Life at Oakley](#) (grades 2-4)
- [Montgomery County During the Reconstruction Era](#) (grades 5 and up)

# Sandy Spring Slave Museum

<https://www.sandyspringslavemuseum.org/>

18524 Brooke Road

Sandy Spring, MD 20860

301-774-4066

[info@sandyspringslavemuseum.org](mailto:info@sandyspringslavemuseum.org)

## About the Site

The museum's Great Hall houses an extensive collection of historical art, exhibits, and artifacts telling the stories of African and African American history. A cross-section of a clipper ship, African hut, and log cabin are also on site.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Pathways to Arrival in America (page 5)
- Slavery (page 5)
- Freedom Seekers (page 6)
- Underground Railroad (page 6)
- Emancipation (page 7)
- Reconstruction (page 8)
- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Mutual Aid/Benevolent Societies (page 9)
- Kinship/Family Structure/Genealogy (page 10)
- Living off the Land/Self-Sufficiency (page 10)
- Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools (page 11)
- Education: Segregation of Schools (page 11)
- Education: Rosenwald Schools (page 11)
- Occupations After Emancipation (page 12)
- African American Baseball (page 12)
- Segregation/Desegregation (page 13)
- Civil Rights Movement (page 13)
- African Arts and Culture (page 14)
- Accomplishments of African Americans (page 14)
- Genealogy (page 14)

## FIELD TRIPS

- The Sandy Spring Slave Museum offers students [educational tours and optional bonus tours](#) with hands-on activities designed to help students learn more African American history. School tours are offered to grades K-12, Monday through Saturday. All guided tours are approximately 2 hours.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Video by Heritage Montgomery](#)
- [Video by Sandy Spring Slave Museum – Civil Rights to Black Lives Matter](#)
- [Video by Sandy Spring Slave Museum – Origins of Race in America](#)
- [Video by Sandy Spring Slave Museum – Critical Race Theory](#)

## **Sandy Spring Odd Fellows Lodge**

<https://www.oddfellowslodge.org/>

1308 Olney-Sandy Spring Road

Sandy Spring, MD 20860

### **About the Site**

Built between 1906-1909, the Lodge has served Sandy Spring and surrounding communities for over a century. This piece of land was once a place for worship when the building of the oldest Black Church in Montgomery County, Sharp Street United Methodist Church, burnt down. It provided an invaluable space for a school and a home for a benevolent society and was the premier gathering space for African Americans from all walks of life before it closed in 1975. The building is one of the last standing structures built by descendants of enslaved people in Montgomery and Howard Counties. It now serves as a heritage museum, highlighting the contributions of African Americans and minority groups in the County.

### **STORIES/THEMES**

- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Mutual Aid/Benevolent Societies (page 9)
- Accomplishments of African Americans (page 14)



# Sandy Spring Museum

<https://www.sandyspringmuseum.org/>

17901 Bentley Road

Sandy Spring, MD 20860

301-774-0022

[info@sandyspringmuseum.org](mailto:info@sandyspringmuseum.org)

## About the Site

Sandy Spring started as a Quaker community in the early 18th century and has had a rich history, from stories of agricultural innovation, women's suffrage, and progressive education, to establishing one of the largest land-owning African American communities in Maryland, to current residents who can trace their lineage back almost 300 years. Sandy Spring's long history is preserved in a vast archive collection of photographs, documents, and artifacts.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Quakers and Anti-Slavery Support (page 7)
- African Arts and Culture (page 14)
- Genealogy (page 14)
- Archives (page 14)

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Video 50+ in Maryland: Historical Significance of Sandy Spring to Black community](#) (starts at 09:54)
- [Video by Heritage Montgomery](#)
- [Digital Primary Sources](#) (Wage and Labor records, photographs, miscellaneous other records)

# Woodlawn Museum

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/woodlawn-manor-cultural-park/woodlawn-museum/>

16501 Norwood Road

Sandy Spring, MD 20860

301-929-5989

[Woodlawnprograms@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Woodlawnprograms@montgomeryparks.org)

## About the Site

The Woodlawn Museum's stone barn hosts exhibits that tell the story of a bustling farm, its community, and those who made a bold bid for freedom on the Underground Railroad.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Slavery (page 5)
- Freedom Seekers (page 6)
- Underground Railroad (page 6)
- Quakers and Anti-Slavery Support (page 7)
- Emancipation (page 7)
- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)

## FIELD TRIPS

- Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park includes the popular Underground Railroad Experience Trail and the Woodlawn Museum inside the 19th century stone barn. Guided hikes are available for groups of 15+ paying visitors, April through November. Wednesday through Saturday.

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Paths to the Present video](#)
- [Video by Montgomery County Parks: Maryland Emancipation Day](#)
- [Video by NBC News Learn: Edmonson Sisters](#) (tried to escape slavery)
- [Video by Paths to the Present: Ann Maria Weems](#) (escaped on the Underground Railroad)
- [Video by myMCMedia: Who Was Josiah Henson?](#)
- [Online Resources: Underground Railroad History](#)
- [Online Resources: Recommended Reading List for Underground Railroad](#)
- [Online Resources: Underground Railroad Experience Trail](#)

# Underground Railroad Experience Trail

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/woodlawn-manor-cultural-park/underground-railroad-experience-trail/>

Woodlawn Manor Cultural Park

16501 Norwood Road

Sandy Spring, MD 20860

301-929-5989

[MCP-WoodlawnPrograms@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:MCP-WoodlawnPrograms@montgomeryparks.org)

## About the Site

This self-guided trail commemorates the Montgomery County residents who were involved in the Underground Railroad, as well as the traditions and heritage of Sandy Spring's Quaker community. Although this trail was never actually used as part of the Underground Railroad, it includes local resident stories and interpretive panels describing how fleeing slaves evaded capture. It connects Woodlawn and Sandy Spring and is part of the Rachel Carson Greenway and the National Park Service's Network to Freedom program.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Slavery (page 5)
- Freedom Seekers (page 6)
- Underground Railroad (page 6)
- Quakers and Anti-Slavery Support (page 7)

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Video: 50+ in Maryland: Underground Railroad Experience Trail](#) (starts at 08:56)
- [Online Resources: Underground Railroad History](#)
- [Online Resources: Recommended Reading List for Underground Railroad](#)
- [Online Resources: Underground Railroad Experience Trail](#)

## Smithsville School

<https://www.iul1906.org/smithvilleschool>

811 East Randolph Road

Silver Spring, MD 20910

[contactus@IUL1906.org](mailto:contactus@IUL1906.org)

### About this Site

This Rosenwald school was built in the 1920s to serve African American children from the area. Today, it is used as a community center offering enrichment classes and an exhibit on local Tuskegee Airmen.

### STORIES/THEMES

- Education: Segregation of Schools (page 11)
- Education: Rosenwald Schools (page 11)
- Accomplishments of African Americans (page 14)

## Harper Cabin at Brookside Nature Center

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/brookside-nature-center/explore-brookside/>

1400 Glenallan Avenue

Wheaton, MD 20902

301-962-1480

[mcp-brooksidenc@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:mcp-brooksidenc@montgomeryparks.org)

### About the Site

Originally part of a post-civil War African American community north of Poolesville, this 1880s log cabin was moved to Brookside and now portrays daily life of newly-emancipated African American families in the late 1800s.

### STORIES/THEMES

- Reconstruction (page 8)
- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Living off the Land/Self-Sufficiency (page 10)

# HISTORIC SITES: South County

## Rockville African American Walking Tour

<https://www.rockvillemd.gov/DocumentCenter/View/978/Historic-Rockville-African-American-Walking-Tour-Brochure?bidId=>

Red Brick Courthouse  
29 Courthouse Square  
Rockville, MD 20850

### About the Site

This walking tour documents the people and places in the city's downtown core that played significant roles in black history from the 18th century through the 20th. The tour touches on the historic themes common to the African American experience, such as slavery, emancipation, religion, education, commerce, and civil rights.

### STORIES/THEMES (Site numbers correspond to the PDF of the Walking Tour)

- Slavery (sites 3, 4, 6, 7)
- Daily Life of the Enslaved (sites 1-18)
- Freedom Seekers (sites 3, 4)
- Underground Railroad (sites 3, 4)
- Urban African American Experience (sites 1-18)
- Mutual Aid/Benevolent Societies (sites 1, 10, 11)
- Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools (sites 12, 14)
- Education: Segregation of Schools (sites 1, 2, 12, 14)
- Education: Rosenwald Schools (site 14)
- Occupations After Emancipation (sites 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 13)
- Segregation/Desegregation (sites 2, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 18)
- Civil Rights Movement (sites 1, 2)
- Redevelopment/Urban Renewal/Discriminatory Land Practices (sites 10-17)
- Accomplishments by African Americans (sites 3, 9, 11, 13, 16)

### DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Walking Tour PDF](#)

# Montgomery History

<https://montgomeryhistory.org/>

111 W. Montgomery Ave.

Rockville, MD 28050

301-340-2825

[info@montgomeryhistory.org](mailto:info@montgomeryhistory.org)

## About the Site

Montgomery History—the county’s historical society—has been serving residents and the region through its research library, adult programs, educational activities, publications, exhibits, and conferences since the organization was founded in 1944.

## STORIES/THEMES

- African Americans in the Civil War (page 7)
- Urban African American Experience (page 8)
- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Kinship/Family Structure (page 10)
- Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools (page 11)
- Education: Segregation of Schools (page 11)
- Education: Rosenwald Schools (page 11)
- Lynchings (page 12)
- Segregation/Desegregation (page 13)
- Civil Rights Movement (page 13)
- African Art and Culture (page 14)
- Accomplishments of African Americans (page 14)
- Genealogy (page 14)
- Archives (page 14)

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Online Collections](#) (includes manuscripts, objects, and photographs)
- [Online exhibits: Segregation in Education](#)
- [African American online exhibits](#)
- [African American Lynchings in Montgomery County](#)
- [African American Paths to the Present videos](#)
- [“The Decree Had Been Handed Down:” The Experience of Public School Desegregation in Montgomery County exhibit](#)
- [The Effects of Brown v. Board of Education in Montgomery County exhibit](#)
- [Genealogy Holdings](#)
- [Archive Resources](#)
- [List of online resources](#)

## Josiah Henson Museum and Park

<https://montgomeryparks.org/parks-and-trails/josiah-henson-museum-and-park/>

11410 Old Georgetown Road

North Bethesda, MD 20852

301-765-8790

[HensonPrograms@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:HensonPrograms@montgomeryparks.org)

### About the Site

Josiah Henson Museum & Park is the former plantation property of Isaac Riley where Reverend Josiah Henson was enslaved. This park is a historic resource of local, state, national, and international significance because of its association with Reverend Henson, whose 1849 autobiography, *The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada*, inspired Harriet Beecher Stowe's landmark novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

It is one of the few properties in Montgomery County that interprets slavery and the experience of the enslaved. The museum strives to accurately portray Henson's life and the Maryland enslaved experience as well as to explore the impact of Stowe's novel. The multimedia exhibits use video and art in the style of a graphic novel to appeal to their intergenerational visitors.

The park contains the historic Riley/Bolton House (circa 1800-1815) and its attached log kitchen (circa 1850-51). Ongoing archaeological excavations seek to find where Josiah Henson may have lived on the site.

This park is part of the National Park Service National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom program. (<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/index.htm>)

### STORIES/THEMES

- Slavery (page 5)
- Daily Life of the Enslaved (page 5)
- Freedom Seekers (page 6)
- Underground Railroad (page 6)
- Origin of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (page 6)
- Accomplishments of African Americans (page 14)

### FIELD TRIPS

- Searching for Josiah Henson learning kit, part of an exciting new outreach program designed for students in grades 4 – 8. This presentation provides interactive lessons designed to fit within a single class period. The presentation focuses on Rev. Henson's life, enslavement in Maryland and the Underground Railroad experience. The presentation is also accompanied by a three-week rental of the History-In-A-Box learning kit included in the program fee. For booking and rental information, email: [HensonPrograms@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:HensonPrograms@montgomeryparks.org) or call 301-765-8790.

## PRIMARY SOURCES

- [The Life of Josiah Henson, Formerly a Slave, Now an Inhabitant of Canada as Narrated by Himself. Written by Josiah Henson, 1789-1883.](#)
- [Truth Stranger Than Fiction. Father Henson's Story of His Own Life. Written by Josiah Henson, 1789-1883.](#)
- [An Autobiography of the Rev. Josiah Henson \("Uncle Tom"\). From 1789 to 1881. With a Preface by Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe. Written by Josiah Henson, 1789-1883.](#)
- [Young People's Illustrated Edition "Uncle Tom's Story of His Life \(1789 to 1877\)" by John Lobb, F.R.G.S. \(1877\)](#)

## VIDEOS

- [Video by MPT Digital Studio. The Dig: Josiah Henson.](#)
- [Video by Montgomery Parks. Josiah Henson Museum & Park Tour](#)
- [50+ in Maryland: Josiah Henson Museum and Park](#) (starts at 14:44)
- [Video by Montgomery History: Josiah Henson Museum and Park](#)

## Carderock/C&O Canal National Historical Park

<https://www.nps.gov/choh/index.htm>

Clara Barton Parkway

Potomac, MD 20854

### About the Site

The C&O Canal had ceased operation in 1924 and had fallen into disrepair. Its rehabilitation became a project of the Works Progress Administration during the New Deal. During the 1930s, Company 333, an African American unit of the U.S. Civilian Conservation Corps, was stationed here. The work they performed restored portions of the C&O Canal and its towpath to be used for recreational activities, and the workers were able to support their families with their income.

## STORIES/THEMES

- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Segregation/Desegregation (page 13)
- New Deal/Civilian Conservation Corps (page 13)

## DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [The Civilian Conservation Corps on the C&O Canal](#)
- [African American Communities Along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal](#)
- ["Our Only Alma Mater:" the Civilian Conservation Corps and the C&O Canal](#)



## Scotland A.M.E. Church

<https://scotlandamezion.org/>

10902 Seven Locks Rd.

Potomac, MD 20854

301-299-5226

### About the Site

The Scotland African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Zion Church was built by hand and opened in 1924 by Black congregants in Potomac. Registered as a State Historic Site by the Maryland Historical Trust, today the church is the only historic building to survive in the Scotland community.

### STORIES/THEMES

- Rural African American Kinship Communities (page 9)
- Kinship/Family Structures (page 10)
- Education: One-Room Schools/Community Schools (page 11)
- Education: Segregation in Schools (page 11)
- Education: Rosenwald Schools (page 11)
- Redevelopment/Urban Renewal/Discriminatory Land Practices (page 14)

### DIGITAL RESOURCES

- [Montgomery County Council Paths to the Present](#)
- [Montgomery County Reflections: Honoring historic African American communities](#)
- [Scotland Photo Gallery by Montgomery History](#)

## **Glen Echo Park**

<https://www.nps.gov/glec/index.htm>

7300 MacArthur Blvd.

Glen Echo, MD 20812

301-320-1400

### **About the Site**

From its beginning, Glen Echo Amusement Park enforced a strict segregation policy. In the summer of 1960, a group of Howard University students joined with local citizens in a protest of these policies. After being denied entry at the gate, they rushed to the carousel, where they were confronted by police and five protesters were arrested. When the park reopened in 1961, it opened to all patrons, regardless of skin color.

### **STORIES/THEMES**

- Civil Rights Movement (page 13)

### **FIELD TRIPS**

- Park Ranger-led field trips are available. All programs are free but reservations are required. Call 301-320-1400 to schedule a field trip.

### **DIGITAL RESOURCES**

- [Summer of Change: A Civil Rights Story](#) (Website by National Park Service)