

# A Story of Maryland Told in 100 Buildings

HOW THE  
FREE STATE  
HAPPENED



CRUDEN BAY BOOKS

# INTRODUCTION

Imagine a group of settlers arriving in an undeveloped location. First come shelters in which to live and then structures in which to work and shop. There are buildings for worship and education. As the community grows government buildings are required. With prosperity comes places in which to spend leisure time. And each step along the way builds a story only Maryland can call its own.

That story is all around you in the work of those who came before you. In these pages you'll learn the explanations behind the quirks, the traditions and the secrets that make Maryland uniquely Maryland. If only those walls could talk, this is what they would say. How basketball's Baltimore Bullets were named? Solved. Gold production in Maryland within walkign distance of the White House? A mystery no more. The first toll booth in Maryland? Identified. The origins of duckpins? Still unknown.

Drive-in theaters...Germanic influences...Sears kit houses...trolley parks...gambling...diners...history-changing forts...seafood...light-houses...beer...boardwalks...pioneering railroads...mimetic architecture...kissing bridges...super highways...octagonal buildings...horses...post office murals...record-breaking escalators...tea parties...life-altering inventions...the shopping palaces of Howard Street...sports nicknames...Civil War intrigues...stone bridge masterpieces...rammed earth houses...Prohibition Era shenanigans...

Almost all of the selections within are open to the public, or at least visible from public spaces. So, if you haven't seen these landmarks in person, fire up your GPS and get out and see the story of the Land of Enchantment standing in plain sight on Maryland streets!

**A STORY OF MARYLAND TOLD IN 100 BUILDINGS  
...HOW THE FREE STATE HAPPENED**

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# St. Mary's City

St. Mary's City  
1634



In the early 1600s the English looked for ways to develop North America as quickly as possible. King Charles I granted what is now the state of Maryland to Cecil Calvert, the second Baron of Baltimore with the expectation that Calvert would trade land for settlement to his colonists and build trade with Mother England and profit to the Calvert

family. In November 1633 two ships, the *Ark* and the *Dove*, set sail under Governor Leonard Calvert's command and eventually sailed up the Potomac River. After discussions with the indigent tribes the newcomers put down along the St. Mary's River, using land already cleared by the Yaocomaco Indians, who were preparing to leave. St. Mary's was the fourth permanent English settlement in North America. As more and more people took Lord Baltimore up on his offer of land the area's population grew and spread across the northern Potomac. In response, he chartered the town of St. Mary's in 1668. Community leaders were already meeting in Leonard Calvert's home and now Maryland had its first capital. When Annapolis won the tussle for colonial capital in 1695 St. Mary's was simply abandoned. Nothing ever came to take its place, just nature and some agriculture. The remains of Maryland's first established colony settled under the dirt, waiting to be rediscovered by archaeologists.

# Old Trinity Church

Church Creek  
1675



Old Trinity Church rests high on the lists of oldest church buildings in America and oldest buildings in Maryland. It was the first church mentioned in Lord Baltimore's report on the state of religion in Maryland in 1677. The church building on the banks of the Little Choptank River has been in service ever since. In the 1950s the 38-foot by 20-foot church building caught the eye of Edgar Garbish and his wife Bernice, daughter of American industrialist Walter Chrysler. They spearheaded an authentic restoration that ripped out a century-old Gothic remodeling in favor of the original English style. The Garbishes scoured the English countryside to retrofit Trinity in period 17th century trappings. The black walnut altar is original as are structural elements such as the brick floor laid on sand and oyster shells.

# Green House

Annapolis

1690s



The Jonas Green House is one of the two oldest residences in Annapolis. The Greens were a family of printers who came from Somerset, England, in 1627 to settle the colony of Massachusetts. This house is named after Jonas Greene, a cousin and printer's apprentice to Benjamin Franklin. Green came to Annapolis to take over as publisher of the *Maryland Gazette* which had been started by William Parks in 1727. Jonas brought his new bride, Anne Catherine, with him and together they moved in here in May of 1738. At that time there was only the kitchen building (built in the 1690s) and a one story home which consisted of a living room, dining room and hallway. He expanded the house to include offices for the paper. After Jonas died in 1767 Anne Catherine took over as editor and publisher, one of the first women in America to helm a newspaper. She guided the *Gazette* into the American Revolution (while raising 14 children) as a voice for independence. The paper would remain in Green family hands until 1909. In 1919 the *Gazette* merged with the *Evening Capital* and continues today as *The Capital*, the oldest newspaper in Maryland.

# Anne Arundel County Free School

Davidsonville

1724



The American colonies inherited the British concept of "free schools" that essentially provided formal education to upper middle class children along with a sprinkling of charity cases who were deemed promising. Maryland's attempt to establish free schools started in 1695 with a tax on the exportation of furs. Later imported Catholic servants and Negro slaves were taxed so that by 1723 there was enough money for each of the 12 counties to buy 100 acres of land as centrally located as possible and construct a schoolroom. A dwelling and a salary of 20 pounds per year for a schoolmaster was also required. This school building in Anne Arundel County is the only surviving example from that first stab at public education in Maryland. The building remained in educational use until the 1900s. Early records are mostly non-existent, but it is considered likely that the pre-teen Johns Hopkins, later to become the great benefactor of education in the state, attended the school that was near his family tobacco plantation, Whitehall.

# Doughoregan Manor

Ellicott City  
1735



Even in a body of the country's most august men Charles Carroll of Carrollton stood out. Of all the signatories of the Declaration of Independence at the Continental Congress in 1775 the 38-year old Carroll was considered the most highly educated and the wealthiest. He therefore had the most to lose of all the rebels, primarily his 13,000-acre Manor of Doughoregan. As things turned out Carroll would live into his 95th year as the last surviving signer of the Declaration and Doughoregan would be the last property of the founders to remain in family hands, as it still is today. Carroll was the sole heir to the legacy begun by his great grandfather, Charles Carroll the Settler, who stepped off the boat from Ireland in 1688 to take up the post of Attorney General in Maryland. By the time of his death he was the richest man in the colony. Only two of his eleven children were around to claim an inheritance and Charles II used his share to begin a Georgian showcase that would eventually feature a 300-foot wide facade and an attached Catholic chapel. He named the estate after another the family owned back in Ireland. Doughoregan has been designated a National Historic Landmark and today's estate has been partitioned to fewer than 1,000 acres.

# Customs House

Chestertown  
1745



Beginning with a Governor's proclamation in 1668, the idea of establishing a port of entry at this spot on the Chester River had been kicked around for years. A courthouse was built here in 1697 and when that colonial port was officially decreed in 1706, it assured the founding of a town. The Customs House was completed in 1745 with local merchant Samuel Massey tending to the exquisite Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers. On May 23, 1774, "a group of Chestertown citizens undisguised and in broad daylight" boarded the brigantine *Geddes*, owned by Custom Collector William Geddes. The interlopers staged their own "tea party" by tossing barrels of tea into the Chester River. George Washington was a frequent visitor to town and gave his name to the local college that opened as Maryland's first in 1782. He then served on the board of directors and was given an honorary degree of doctor of laws in 1789. The landmark customs house now belongs to Washington College.

# Schifferstadt

Frederick

1750

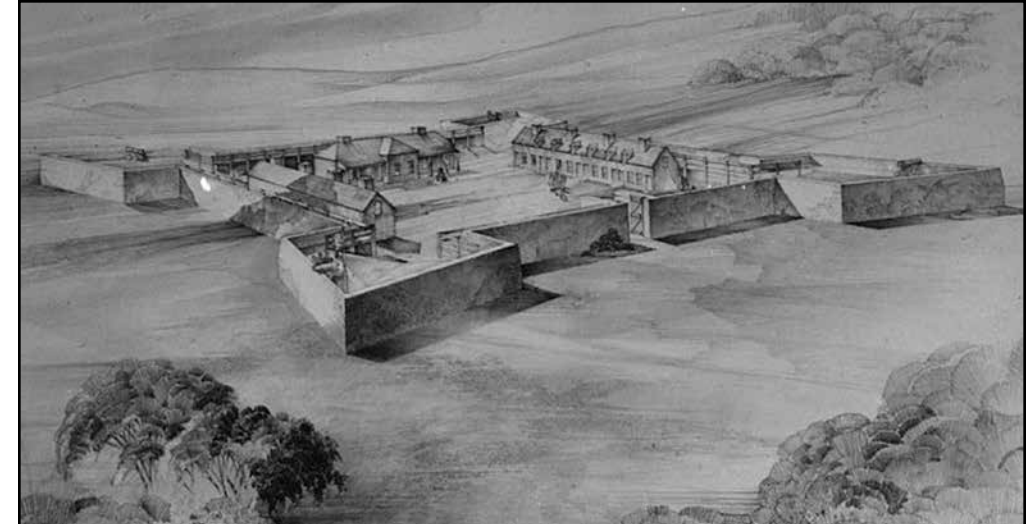


German immigrants were some of the most influential groups to settle the early American frontier in the Middle Atlantic states. Most disembarked in Philadelphia and spread west and south where they found rolling woodlands much like the economically depressed homeland they left. Joseph and Cathrina Brunner crossed the Atlantic Ocean in 1729, settled in Frederick County on 303 acres and began shaping the land with familiar Germanic traditions. The family began Maryland life in a log cabin but son Elias and his wife Albertina constructed the stone house with two-foot thick walls and hand-hewn wooden beams joined with wooden pegs. With much of its original detailing remaining Schifferstadt is the finest example of rural Germanic architecture in Maryland and the oldest house in Frederick County open to the public.

# Fort Frederick

Big Pool

1757



Fort Frederick was constructed on the Cumberland Valley frontier in 1756 to protect settlers during the French and Indian War. Named for Frederick Calvert, sixth Lord of Baltimore, this was one of the largest defensive building efforts ever undertaken by the English colonists. After two years the Maryland Assembly halted the financing but by that time the 18-foot high stone walls and three major buildings inside were completed. The garrison was built along the defensive works championed by French military engineer Sebastien de Vauban, often given credit for starting modern fortification. The Treaty of Paris in 1763 but an official stamp on the defeat of French claims in America and the English abandoned Fort Frederick. It was brought back to life as a prison camp during the Revolutionary War and garrisoned again in the Civil War. Now a state park, Fort Frederick is considered the best preserved pre-Revolution stone fort in America.

# Haberdeventure

Port Tobacco

1771



Thomas Stone was a pacifist and more interested in resolution than revolution. Yet he became one of four Marylanders to affix their names to the Declaration of Independence in 1775. The most consequential thing that happened to Stone during that summer in Philadelphia was an adverse reaction his wife Margaret had to a smallpox inoculation. Her health deteriorated and as a result Stone returned to his plantation home to care for her and his family and receded from public life. Stone had purchased the 442 acres he called "Haberdeventure and Hanson's Plains Enlarged" from an uncle in 1770, using money from his wife's considerable dowry. The land was not especially fertile and much was given over to growing peaches, a crop known to flower even in poor soil. Stone's peaches ended up in everything from hog slop to brandy. When he followed Margaret to the grave in 1787 it was said to have been from "a broken heart." Haberdeventure remained in the Stone family into the 1930s. Today the property is administered by the National Park Service and Port Tobacco has the distinction of being Maryland's smallest incorporated town with a population of 13.

# Brice House

Annapolis

1773



Captain John Brice emigrated to Maryland from Haversham, England in 1698 to become a gentleman planter and merchant. The Brice House, an excellent example of Georgian five-part architecture, is distinguished by its great size, dignity and huge chimneys. It took seven years to lay the 326,000 bricks and hammer the 90,000 cypress shingles into place - work done mostly by slaves. The mansion was built by son James, a one-time mayor of Annapolis and briefly an acting governor of Maryland. At the time there were fewer than 1,500 people in Annapolis, yet the town was the center of wealth, culture, and crafts in Maryland until it was surpassed by Baltimore during the American Revolution. The home remained in the Brice family for another century. Now in the possession of the State of Maryland, this is one of the most intact representations of wealth and elegance in pre-Revolutionary America.

# Chase–Lloyd House

Annapolis  
1774



Although Samuel Chase, an eventual signer of the Declaration of Independence, began building this house in 1769 while he was a young lawyer, he never resided in it. Chase sold the impressive bones unfinished in 1771 to Edward Lloyd IV, a wealthy Maryland planter and politician. Lloyd immediately engaged architect William Buckland, newly arrived in Annapolis, to continue construction, completing the job three years later with the aid of local designer William Noke. The structure, one of the first three-story Georgian townhouses erected in the American Colonies, ranks among the finest of its type in the United States. Two massive interior chimneys protrude through the broad, low, hip-on-hip roof. The brick walls are laid in Flemish bond and adorned by belt courses of rubbed brick at the second- and third-floor levels. In accordance with the last wishes of Hester Chase Ridout in 1886 the Colonial landmark provides safe housing for elderly women in the 21st century.

# Hammond-Harwood House

Annapolis  
1774



The Hammond-Harwood House was built for the 25-year-old tobacco planter Matthias Hammond on a large site comprised of four town lots he had acquired. Hammond retained William Buckland, a joiner by trade, in 1774. By this time, 40-year old Buckland was acknowledged as one of the first architects working in the Colonies. Working on one of America's first homes professionally designed from the ground up Buckland delivered a villa worthy of its inspiration - 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio. The building has a fine sense of scale and proportion with its three main sections, connected by hyphens, oozing sophistication inside and out. The hand-carved doorway is acknowledged as one of the nation's finest entries. Unfortunately, Buckland's masterwork would be his last as he died later that year. For his part, Hammond never lived in the house. Neither did his nephews who owned the property from 1786 until 1810. The landmark house has operated as a museum of decorative arts since 1940.



# Catoctin Furnace

Thurmont

1774

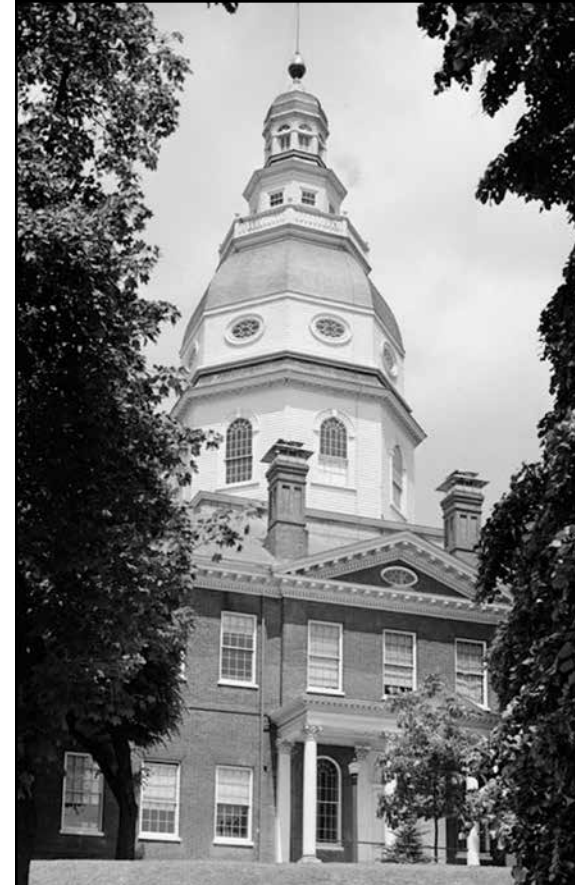


In the mid-1800s it would have been possible for a traveler to cross Maryland and see scarcely a stand of trees. Most of that timber was chopped down to burn in furnaces such as this one started by Thomas Johnson, Jr., a future governor, to smelt high grade hematite iron gouged from the Catoctin Mountains. In 1810 there were two great iron-producing nations. In England, where most of the land had been cleared for centuries, every furnace was powered by coke. In America, with abundant forests, there were no coke furnaces, every one was fired by charcoal. The owners of the Catoctin Furnace owned thousands of acres of woodlands but still had to buy charcoal to feed its hungry smelter. More than 300 woodcutters were on the company payroll. Through the years the Catoctin Furnace churned out thousands of stoves, cookware, and when necessary, cannon. By the time the furnace, now owned by the National Park Service, went cold in 1903 conservation of forests had become a priority over exploitation. Today, over 40 percent of Maryland's more than two million acres of land are forested, a remarkable number for the nation's fifth most populated state.

# State House

Annapolis

1779



The Maryland State House is the oldest state capitol in continuous legislative use in America. This is the third building on the site to serve as the state seat of government, begun in 1772 and finished in 1779. Thanks to its central location this was also the nation's capital from November 26, 1783 until August 13, 1784. As such, the large brick structure on the hill was witness to the military and political conclusion of the American Revolution. Shortly before noon on December 23, 1783, George Washington walked into the Old Senate Chamber and, speaking emotionally in a short speech, resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army.

He concluded, "Having now finished the work assigned me, I retire from the great theatre of action; bidding an affectionate farewell to this august body, under whose orders I have so long acted, I here offer my commission, and take leave of all the employments of public life." Several months later, after years of negotiation, Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris in Annapolis, which formally ended the Revolutionary War. The multi-stage capital dome was built of entirely of wood, including pegs rather than nails.

# Lexington Market

Baltimore

1782



John Eager Howard earned a silver medal for commanding the 2nd Maryland Regiment in the American's tide-turning victory at the Battle of Cowpens in the South Carolina wilderness in 1781. Commander of the Continental army in the Southern Theater, Nathanael Greene, wrote in his report that Howard "deserves a statue of gold." Howard, who served in both houses of the United States Congress and three terms as Maryland governor, never got that gilded monument but he did get a county named after him and an equestrian statue. Then there is the legacy of the Lexington Market. Howard donated the land upon which the city's oldest and most famous public market rose. It began as an open air bazaar before evolving into two commodious buildings. It was the Western Precincts Market in those days before taking on the name of the first battle of the Revolution. Inside, founded in 1886, Faidley Seafood is one of the longest-operating and best-known purveyors of fresh and prepared seafood in the Chesapeake region. Today, it is owned and operated by Bill and Nancy Devine, descendants of founder John W. Faidley.

# Hampton Mansion

Baltimore

1790



Charles Ridgely III was known as "Charles the Mariner" for his formative days as a sea captain. His father was "Charles the Merchant" and his grandfather, who started it all, was "Charles the Planter." By the time Ridgely III got started on this house in 1783 his land holdings would have made up half of present-day Baltimore. In addition to the thriving fami-

ly-run Southern-style tobacco plantation the Ridgelys had branched into iron mongering and supplying the American Revolution had made them incomprehensibly rich. The location for the Hampton House was so remote that wolves howled at night and locals ridiculed the project in the wilderness as "Ridgely's Folly." It took seven years but when Hampton House was completed Ridgely was said to possess the largest private house in America. Perhaps the exertion killed him because he died shortly afterwards at the age of 57. In 1948, after housing six generations of Ridgelys, the Georgian mansion became the first site in the National Park Service to be recognized for its architectural merit and not its historical significance. Once a sprawling, self-sufficient empire of 25,000 acres, all that remains of the original Hampton estate is 63 acres. One wonders what Charles Ridgely would think of his final resting place inside the family's Greek Rival vault were he able to see it today - the brick-walled family cemetery now squeezes against an interstate highway with a view of a neighbor's backyard play set.

# Best Farm

Frederick

1798



In 1793, as George Washington was settling into his first term as United States President, 16-year old Victoire Pauline Marie Gabrielle de la Vincendière migrated with her family from the Caribbean to Frederick County. Five years later Victoire purchased

291 acres on the west banks of the Monocacy River to launch a real estate empire unique to her age and gender. She called her plantation L'Hermitage and built it to 748 acres while obtaining addition lands in western Maryland and Virginia. The shrewd Vincendière eventually sold L'Hermitage for \$24,025 - ten times its tax assessment - in 1827 and moved into Frederick to live out her remaining thirty years. The deed to the property shuffled around until 1864 when John Best began working the farm, which was used at various times in the Civil War by both the Union and Confederate armies as a camp. On July 7 that year Union General Lew Wallace, who would later write *Ben-Hur*, took up a defensive position with 2,700 men at Monocacy Junction, planning to check the advance of General Jubal Early and his 18,000 Confederates. The next day Wallace was joined by 3,350 men from General James Rickett's force. Confederates ringed the Best farm with artillery and positioned sharpshooters in the barn. The bloody battle ended in a decisive defeat for the overmatched Federals but the delay it caused Early probably kept the Washington from falling into Confederate hands. The farm land is virtually unchanged since the battle.

# Fort McHenry

Baltimore

1800



For Frederick-born Francis Scott Key, who enjoyed a four-decade career as a high-powered lawyer and served as United States Attorney for the District of Columbia under two presidents, the Star Spangled Banner was little more than a throwaway moment unrelated to his career. Key, then 35 years old, was retained to negotiate the release of a British captive held on a ship in Baltimore Harbor during the War of 1812. Part of the agreement was not to return to shore while English gunboats opened fire on Fort McHenry. After 25 hours of bombardment soldiers in the fort raised a large American flag in defiance and Key was inspired to jot down a few lines of poetry. Once back at home he fleshed out the "Defence of Fort McHenry" with a total of four verses. The poem was published the next week in a Baltimore broadsheet to popular acclaim. Key was never more than an amateur poet, usually with deeply religious overtones, and a collection of his works was not issued until 14 years after his death. Even more distant in the future, the words of The Star Spangled Banner were set to an old English drinking song and declared the national anthem by Congress in 1931. During the Civil War 47 years to the day after Key penned the future anthem his grandson Francis Key Howard was arrested as a secessionist sympathizer and brought to the fort, where he joined his father in captivity as political prisoners with, among others, the mayor of Baltimore.

# Riversdale

Riverdale Park

1807



Samuel F.B. Morse and Alfred Vail did most of the work on the invention of the telegraph at the Vail family Speedwell Ironworks facilities in New Jersey. When Morse sent his famous message "What Hath God Wrought" from the United States Capitol on May 24, 1844 to demonstrate electric telegraphy it was Alfred Vail waiting in Mont Clare Station in Baltimore to send a reply. It was not the first telegraphic transmission, just the first official demonstration. And it was not a shot in the dark. The invention was years in the making and Morse acquired several financial backers along the way before he finally wrangled \$30,000 out of Congress to build 38 miles of telegraph line between the cities. One was Charles Benedict Calvert, a natural descendant of the Baron Baltimore who lived on a 739-acre plantation called Riversdale. On April 9, 1844 Morse tested his telegraph with a transmission from the Capitol to Riversdale along lines above B&O Railroad tracks that ran through the estate. The five-stage Federal mansion was planned by Henri Josef Stier to resemble his residence back in Belgium, the Chateau du Mick. The Stiers had fled Europe in 1794 to escape the spreading French Revolution, taking 63 old Master paintings with them. By 1803, Napoleon Bonaparte had begun restoring order in France and the Baron returned home, leaving his daughter Rosalie and her husband George Calvert to finish the work on the future National Historic Landmark.

# Fort Washington

Fort Washington

1809



The first Fort Washington was completed here in 1809 to command the Potomac River entrance to the nation's capital. American troops sabotaged the fort in advance of a British attack during the War of 1812 but the fortification was completely rebuilt by 1824. Until the Civil War this was the only defense to protect Washington. The facility received updates over the years before the post was converted to an infantry training facility. Following World War II the property was given to the Department of Interior and even though it is a park today Fort Washington still stands ready to deal with any gunboats racing up the Potomac River.

# Davidge Hall

Baltimore

1812



Nowhere in America has medical instruction been offered longer than under this green-domed structure built in 1812. French-American architect Maximilian Godefroy is credited with designing the dome and the wooden Doric portico. The dome served as a skylight to illuminate the anatomy theater where students worked on cadavers. This was Dr. John Beale Davidge's second teaching facility. The first, which he paid for and worked in without the express written consent of the State of Maryland, was besieged and burned by rioters none too happy with the desecration of corpses going on inside, in the name of science or not. The new anatomy theater became part of the University of Maryland in another century and was named after Davidge in 1958. It is still operational today although the cadavers no longer arrive surreptitiously stuffed in unmarked barrels.

# Peale Museum

Baltimore

1814



This structure is the oldest museum building in the United States. Designed by Robert Cary Long, Sr. for Rembrandt Peale, the collection opened to the public in 1814 as "an elegant Rendezvous for taste, curiosity and leisure." For a 25-cent admission fee, Baltimoreans could marvel at "birds, beasts ... antiquities and miscellaneous curiosities" as well as paintings

by members of the Peale family. Charles Willson Peale brought the family to prominence as one of nation's first artists. Peale began his working life as a saddle maker but never had a way with leather. His twin passions for painting and politics came together in Philadelphia in 1776 where he completed portraits of most of the Founding Fathers. Peale would eventually produce nearly three score works of George Washington alone. He and his wife Rachel produced 10 children, most named for artists and several who became noted painters in their own right. Charles started the Philadelphia Museum after organizing the first scientific expedition in the United States in 1801. His son Rembrandt transported the idea to Baltimore, commissioning the first building in America constructed strictly as a museum. On June 11, 1816, Peale dazzled his attendees when he illuminated the museum with burning gas. The jaw-dropping feat led to the founding the same year of The Light Company of Baltimore, the first commercial gas company in the country. The young Peale, more of an artist than a business manager, was soon forced out of the enterprise and pursuing other interests. By 1830 the building was Charm City's second City Hall; it has since been resurrected as a museum to Baltimore life.

# Casselman Bridge

Grantsville

1814



The National Road was just that - the first monies Congress ever authorized for highway construction. Work crews started pushing west from Cumberland in 1806. Crossing the Casselman River required the largest stone arch bridge ever seen in this country - an open span of 80 feet, 30 feet high, completed in 1813. The National Road was dogged by controversy - many believed the federal government had no business being in the road-building game - and the Congressional money tap was turned off in 1838. The National Road has been subsumed by the likes of US 40 and I-70 but the Casselman Bridge stands in a small public park as testament to the builders who stimulated settlement of the country beyond the Appalachian Mountains.

# First Unitarian Church

Baltimore

1817



This classically ornamented cube was constructed in 1818 as the first building in North America built to be used as a Unitarian church. French-American architect Maximilian Godefroy infused his design with elements of French Romantic Classicism. It was the First Independent Church of Baltimore at the time and on May 5, 1819 when William Ellery Channing came from New England to deliver an ordination sermon. Channing laid out the developing theology of Unitarianism, speaking of a belief in innate human goodness and the light of reason, in what became known as the "Baltimore Sermon." Two centuries later the anniversary of Channing's appearance is still recognized in Maryland Unitarian houses of worship.

# Baltimore Basilica

Baltimore

1821



This is Baltimore's greatest work of architecture, from the pen of the man considered America's first professionally trained architect, Benjamin Henry Latrobe. Work began in 1806 and wrapped up in 1821 as Latrobe was dying from yellow fever in New Orleans. America's first Bishop, John Carroll, cousin of Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, guided the project to completion. As the first Roman Catholic cathedral built in the United States, it became known as the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. For the better part of 200 years, more priests were ordained here than in any other church in the United States. The Basilica was not even Latrobe's most impressive work in Baltimore at the time. He also helped design the Merchants' Exchange Building that was the largest domed building in America. The Exchange helped stamp Baltimore as a port of commercial importance to rival Philadelphia and New York. The iconic landmark was torn down in the early 1900s and replaced with the current Baltimore Custom House.

# Hilton

Catonsville

1825



This slice of Baltimore County was first surveyed in 1678 as "Taylor's Forest." Development did not occur until the 1820s with the construction of this building that began life as a stone farmhouse on 511 acres. Through the 19th century the most prominent owner of Hilton - so-named for its relatively high elevation - was William Wilkins Glenn, publisher of the pro-Confederate *Daily Exchange* in Baltimore. By the end of the century the property was in disarray and subdivided into 25 lots. John Mark Glenn donated 43 acres to the Maryland Board of Forestry in 1907 that became Patapsco Valley State Park and the foundation of the Maryland state park system. That first state park now covers over 14,000 acres and State Forester Fred Besley, the first manager, would rule over Maryland parks and forests for a record 36 years. The Maryland Park Servicem however, would not actually form its own department until 2005. By that time it was believed that almost everyone in Maryland resided within 15 miles of a state park. The old farmhouse received a Georgian Revival makeover in the early 20th century and has been owned by Baltimore County Public Schools since the 1960s.

# Concord Point Light

Havre de Grace

1827

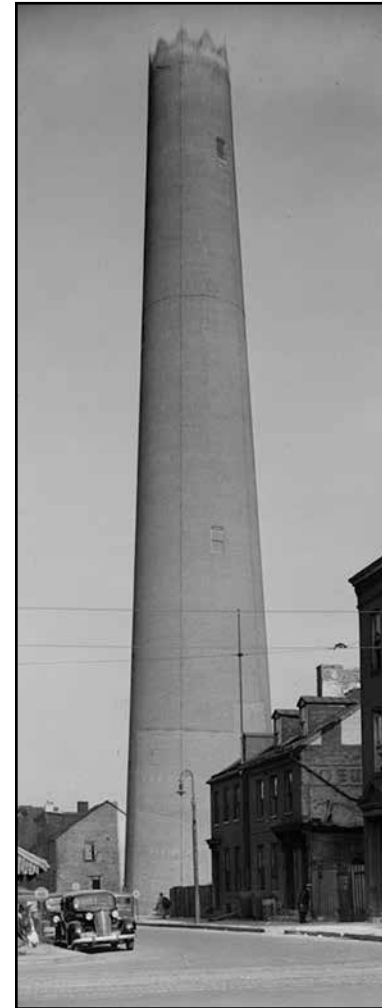


During the Revolutionary War this small hamlet was visited several times by General Marquis de Lafayette who noted in his diary on August 29, 1782: "It has been proposed to build a city here on the right bank and near the ferry where we crossed. It should be called Havre de Grace." Three years later the town was incorporated and heeded his suggestion to become the "Harbor of Grace." With its strategic perch on the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its position near the center of the original 13 colonies, Havre de Grace was very seriously considered as the site of America's new national capital but lost out to the Potomac River site by only one vote. Concord Point Light overlooks the vista where the Susquehanna River flows into the Chesapeake, an area of increasing navigational traffic at the time it was built in 1827. The tower of local Port Deposit granite was built by go-to Maryland lighthouse guru John Donahoo. It is the most northerly lighthouse in the state and the oldest continuously operated lighthouse in Maryland. The walls are 31" thick at the base and narrow to 18" at the parapet. The lantern was originally lit with nine whale oil lamps with 16-inch tin reflectors. The lighthouse was automated in 1920.

# Phoenix Shot Tower

Baltimore

1828



William Watts, an English plumber, and Isaac Newton had a lot in common. Newton observed an apple falling and came up with a theory of gravity. Watts observed that he could pour molten lead into a perforated metal pan and after the droplets fell through space he could collect them from water troughs below as perfectly round bits of shot. Watts patented his idea and built the first shot tower in 1782, about 90 feet tall. Fast forward to Baltimore in the 1820s. The Burns and Russell Company used one million wood-fired bricks to build a cylindrical tower 234 feet high from the design of Jacob Wolfe. The Phoenix Shot Tower was the tallest building in the United States for almost two decades. The "factory in a smokestack" produced over two million pounds of shot during a good year until giving way to more sophisticated ways of manufacturing lead shot. In the 1920s the tower was slated for demolition but Baltimore had an abiding affection for its shot-making past. There were once four shot towers in the city and this was the last one left. The local citizenry pooled together

\$17,000 to buy the tower with the proviso it be preserved. That affection for lead shot had scarcely abated when professional hoops came to Baltimore in 1944 with the American Basketball Association. The team was immediately dubbed the "Bullets," a name that eventually resurfaced in the NBA when the Chicago franchise relocated to Baltimore in 1963.



# Washington Monument

Baltimore  
1829



Robert Mills designed two Washington Monuments, the iconic one on the National Mall in the nation's capital and this one, the first architectural monument intended to honor the first President. Construction of the Monument began in 1815 and continued for nearly 15 years, by which time the first actual memorial to the "Father of Our Country" - a 40-foot high rough-stone cylindrical tower - was erected near the summit of South Mountain's Monument Knob near Boonsboro, Maryland. This didn't dampen the enthusiasm for Baltimore's efforts, which had been scaled back considerably when costs soared to twice the \$100,000 appropriated. Naval officer James D. Woodside was recruited from the Washington Naval Yard to devise a system of pulleys, levers and braces to hoist the statue to the top of the 178-foot shaft of Beaver Dam marble from Baltimore County. Dedication took place in 1829.

# Mount Clare Shops

Baltimore  
1829



The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad headquartered in the Mount Clare Shops with horse-drawn cars, was the birthplace of America's railroads. The nation's first passenger trains left Mount Clare Station heading west in 1830. Peter Cooper operated the first steam engine locomotive here; known as the *Tom Thumb*, the little engine would engage in "The Race of the Century" against a horse. The *Tom Thumb* led for much of the course before losing steam and allowing the charging grey stallion to surge to victory. But the tiny steamer had ignited the public's imagination. Railroading was on its way to becoming the most important industry of the 19th century. In time the steam engine that could not outrun a single horse would evolve into a monster machine weighing 320 tons that could pull the loads of 7,500 horses. So many cars and engines were built in the shops around Mount Clare that the site was known as "The Railroad University." The iconic domed roundhouse built in 1884 measures nearly 240 feet across and stretches 123 feet high; it stayed busy until 1953. Today it is the world's most important museum devoted to railroading.

# Carrollton Viaduct

Baltimore

1829



As railroad visionaries looked west from Baltimore with dreams of conquering the vast American interior the first obstacle they saw was Gwynns Falls. Within a year of its founding in 1827 the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad set to work on a granite bridge to ford the stream. Charles Carroll, a veteran of the Revolutionary debates held more than a half-century earlier, laid the first stone saying, "I consider this among the most important acts of my life, second only to my signing the Declaration of Independence." James Lloyd drew up the plans for the 312-foot span with an 80-foot stone arch and Casper Wever directed construction. The first crossings were made by horses but nearly 200 years later the Carrollton Viaduct handles modern trains as the planet's oldest railroad bridge.

# Edgar Allan Poe House

Baltimore

1830



Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston in 1809 but an often fruitless pursuit of literary success led to a peripatetic existence to such cities as New York, Philadelphia, and, most prominently, Baltimore. But while Poe is world renowned 200 years later as a poet, a short story writer and pioneer of the detective story, among other influences, his actual life before dying at age 40 under mysterious circumstances in Washington College Hospital gave little evidence to this reputation. The modest brick row home Poe lived in here for a few years in the 1830s is typical of his circumstances. Things did not improve much in the immediate aftermath of his death. Poe's relatives erected a small

gravestone in Westminster Hall and Burying Ground but before the stone could be installed a train crashed through the monument yard and destroyed it. The Poe House itself has dodged the wrecking ball several times and survived through intermittent funding. The poet is remembered on his birthday every January 19, when a mysterious "Poe Toaster" leaves half a bottle of cognac and three roses at the grave. On the weekend closest to Poe's birthday, a party is held in his honor. A Halloween tour is also scheduled each year. And, of course, Edgar Allan Poe is the only poet to ever inspire the naming of a National Football League team.

# B&O Station

Ellicott City

1830

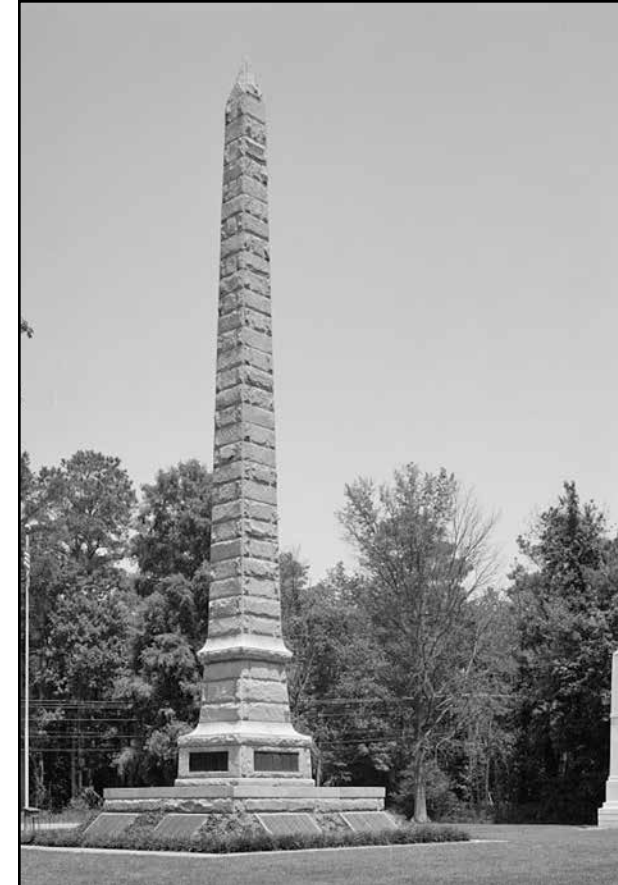


Completed by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1830, the Ellicott City passenger depot is the oldest surviving railroad station in America and the site of the original terminus of the first 13 miles of commercial track ever constructed in America. Those first cars hauled by horses arrived on May 24, 1830. This station was built the next year, and soon iron rails replaced wooden ones. The line became strategically important to the Union Army war effort in 1861 and the local Patapsco Guard were among the Federal troops that guarded the road. Supplies en route to the Union armies passed the station day and night. After the battles of Antietam and Gettysburg, prisoners were held here pending parole or transfer to prison camps. In the 1970s the station was restored as a museum and a second facelift in 1999 returned the building to its 1857 appearance. The rounded stone wall, extending south from the station and now part of the platform, was the foundation of a locomotive turntable.

# Point Lookout

Scotland

1830



Captain John Smith explored Point Lookout, a peninsula formed by the confluence of the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River, in 1612. The government built a lighthouse here in 1830 and William Cost Johnson bought most of the land on the peninsula in 1857 to develop as a resort. The Civil War upset those plans and a hospital for Union soldiers was built here and in 1863, after the Battle of Gettysburg, captured Confederates were sent to the remote spit of land. Point Lookout - further south than Fredericksburg, Virginia - turned into the largest Union prison camp of the

war with more than 50,000 men detained here at one time or another. Housing was tents-only, with as many as 16 prisoners forced to share a single tent. No one knows exactly how many men died from exposure, starvation, and disease but the mass grave marked by the memorial obelisk holds the remains of 3,384 Confederate combatants. When the war ended everything was dismantled and sold for scrap with an alacrity which the government seldom operates. A state park today, the only significant remains above ground at Point Lookout from the dark days of the Civil War are the lighthouse and the memorials.

# Nassawango Iron Furnace

## Snow Hill

### 1830



Iron was so important to early America that entrepreneurs were often tempted to make a run at the impure form of the mineral that often was formed by precipitation of groundwater flowing into wetlands. One such venture to refine this bog ore was the Maryland Iron Company formed in 1830. The Nassawango Furnace was one of the first operations to employ a hot blast gear technique pioneered in England just a few years before. The interior of the brick furnace could be heated to 3000 degrees Fahrenheit and in good years produced

700 tons of usable iron. As newer, better sources of iron were discovered as the country expanded westward bog iron operations like Nassawango fell by the wayside. By 1849 the furnace went cold. But its impact was such that the Nassawango Iron Furnace has been tabbed by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers as a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark.

# Thomas Viaduct

## Elkridge

### 1835



The Baltimore & Ohio Railroad warmed up for crossing the Patapsco River in 1833 with several stone bridges that proved successful. Benjamin Henry Latrobe II's solution here was a Roman-arch bridge divided into eight sections to cover 612 feet with a 4-degree curve - not only the nation's largest railroad bridge but the first multi-span masonry structure to bend. The project was ridiculed as "Latrobe's Folly" and many expected the Woodstock granite structure to collapse under its own weight before any locomotives even rolled across the Patapsco. Instead the Thomas Viaduct - named for the B&O's first president, Philip Thomas - continues to carry heavy freight traffic to this day. Latrobe's work has more than earned its status as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.

# La Vale Toll Gate

La Vale  
1836



Maryland became America's "Gateway to the West" when the federal government began constructing the National Road in 1811. For the first decade everyone could travel for free. In 1822 Congress passed a bill authorizing the collection of tolls but President James Monroe vetoed it. There were plenty of Americans who believed the government had no role in anything besides managing foreign trade, protecting the borders, and delivering mail. They certainly had no business collecting money to use roads. In

1835 Maryland took over responsibility for its share of the road and the first thing the State did was begin work on a toll booth right where all traffic began its journey. There were separate fares for pedestrians, animals, and wagons. The haul the first year was \$9,745.90. La Vale was the only toll booth in Maryland for six years as tolls became an accepted way of life for travelers. Tolls on the National Road were collected until 1878 when the west was almost exclusively reached by railroad. The two-story polygonal structure was forgotten but never knocked down. It was rediscovered in the 1960s, fixed up and added to America's National Register of Historic Places.

# Pump House

Chesapeake City  
1837



Almost from the time the first Europeans arrived on the Delmarva Peninsula in the 1630s people have been wanting to cleave the place in two. That is because only 14 miles separate two great bodies of water - the Chesapeake Bay and the Delaware Bay. A route for a canal was first surveyed in the 1760s but construction on a great ditch did not begin until 1822. With 2,600 men digging and hauling dirt, the waterway finally opened for business in 1829, slicing 300 miles off the ocean

route between Philadelphia and Baltimore. Since the land was so flat and no great rivers crossed the terrain there was a need to pump water into the lock system to move the vessels along. Enter the pumping complex with buildings for the boilers and engines. Eventually the system was capable of moving 20,000 gallons of water every minute. The federal government took complete control over the canal in 1919 and deepened and widened the channel to eliminate the need for locks. Today the 14-mile long, 450-foot wide Chesapeake and Delaware Canal is one of only two vitally commercial sea-level canals in the United States. Dredged to a depth of 35 feet, the "C&D" is deep enough to handle ocean-going ships. Over 20,000 vessels of all shapes and sizes float down the waterway, making it one of the busiest canals in the world. The pumphouse is now part of the C&D Canal Museum, one of America's first National Historic Landmarks to recognize a feat of engineering.