

C A T O N S V I L L E

Tour Booklet



www.KatherineGahs.com

Charlestown
Retirement Community

Acknowledgments:

This tour would not be possible without the help and support
of the following organizations:

Charlestown Retirement Community

Catonsville Public Library

The Catonsville Historical Society

Mount de Sales Academy

The Baltimore County Public Library

Thank you for helping to produce such a unique opportunity for the
residents of the Charlestown Retirement Community to enjoy.

THE HISTORIC CATONSVILLE BUS TOUR



**TOUR GIVEN BY:
DONALD GAHS**

*Resource for information provided in "Lost Catonsville":

Wise, Marsha Wight. *Catonsville: Then and Now*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2010.

Tour Booklet Designed By:

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SITES YOU'LL BE SEEING:

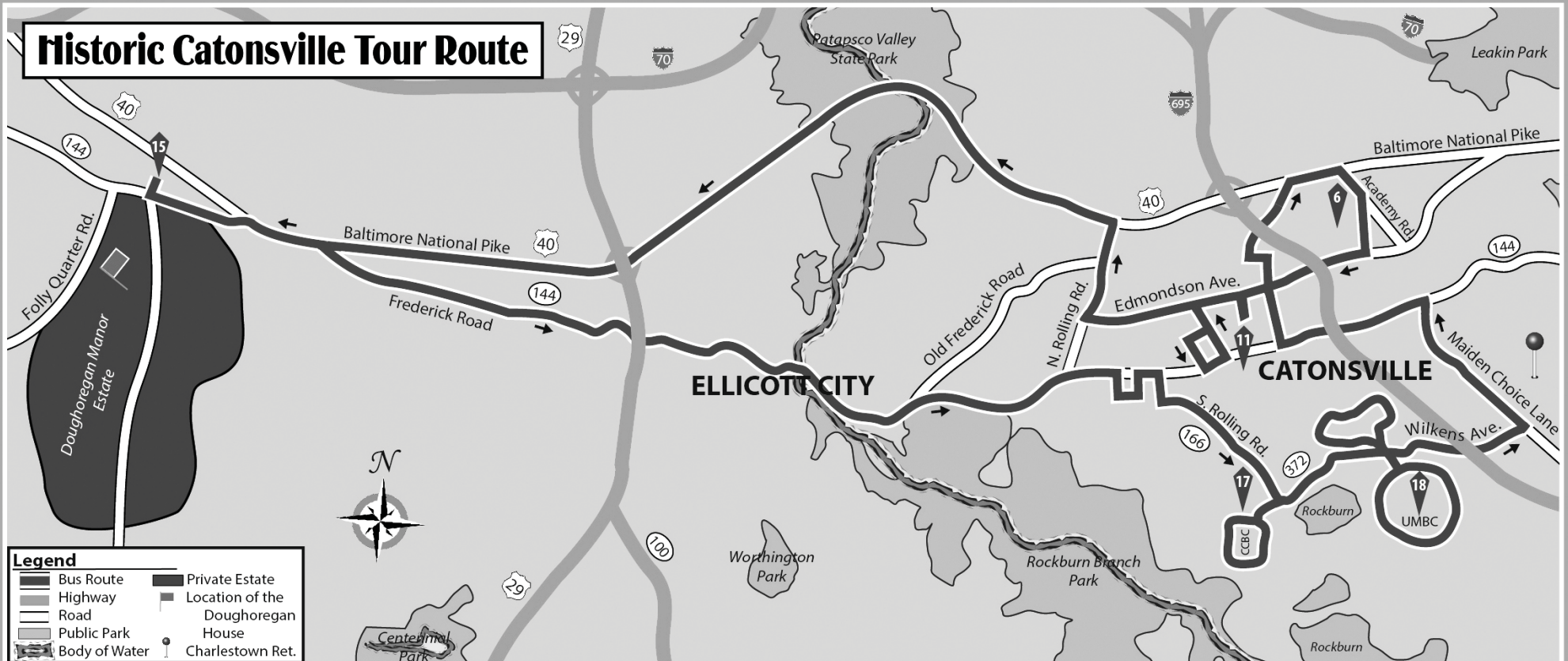
- The Belle Grove House
- The 'Overlea College' House
- The Waldeck House
- The Beverly House
- Old Salem Lutheran Church
- Mount de Sales Academy
- St. Timothy's Church
- The Homewood House
- The Oakwood House
- The Summit House
- Former Site of 'Castle Thunder'
- Community College of Baltimore County (C.C.B.C.)
- University of MD, Baltimore County (U.M.B.C.)
- Spring Grove Hospital
- St. Charles College Ruins
- Historic Ellicott City
- and more!



SOME USEFUL INFORMATION:

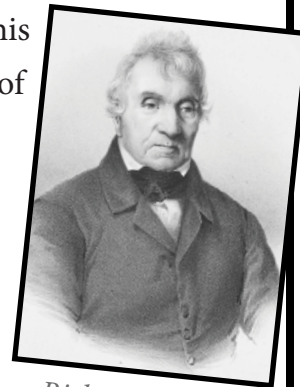
- The tour will last approximately 2 hours.
- There will be at least one stop on your route for you to get out and stretch your legs.
- If you have any questions, your tour guide will be happy to answer them.
- Photography is permitted and encouraged!

Historic Catonsville Tour Route



A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO: HISTORIC CATONSVILLE

In 1810, Charles Carroll of Carrollton (a signer of the Declaration of Independence) commissioned his son-in-law, Richard Caton, to develop an area of land on 'The Frederick Turnpike' (now known as Frederick Road). This area served as a place for travelers to rest as they traveled between Baltimore and *Ellicott's Flour Mill* (where today's Ellicott City is located).

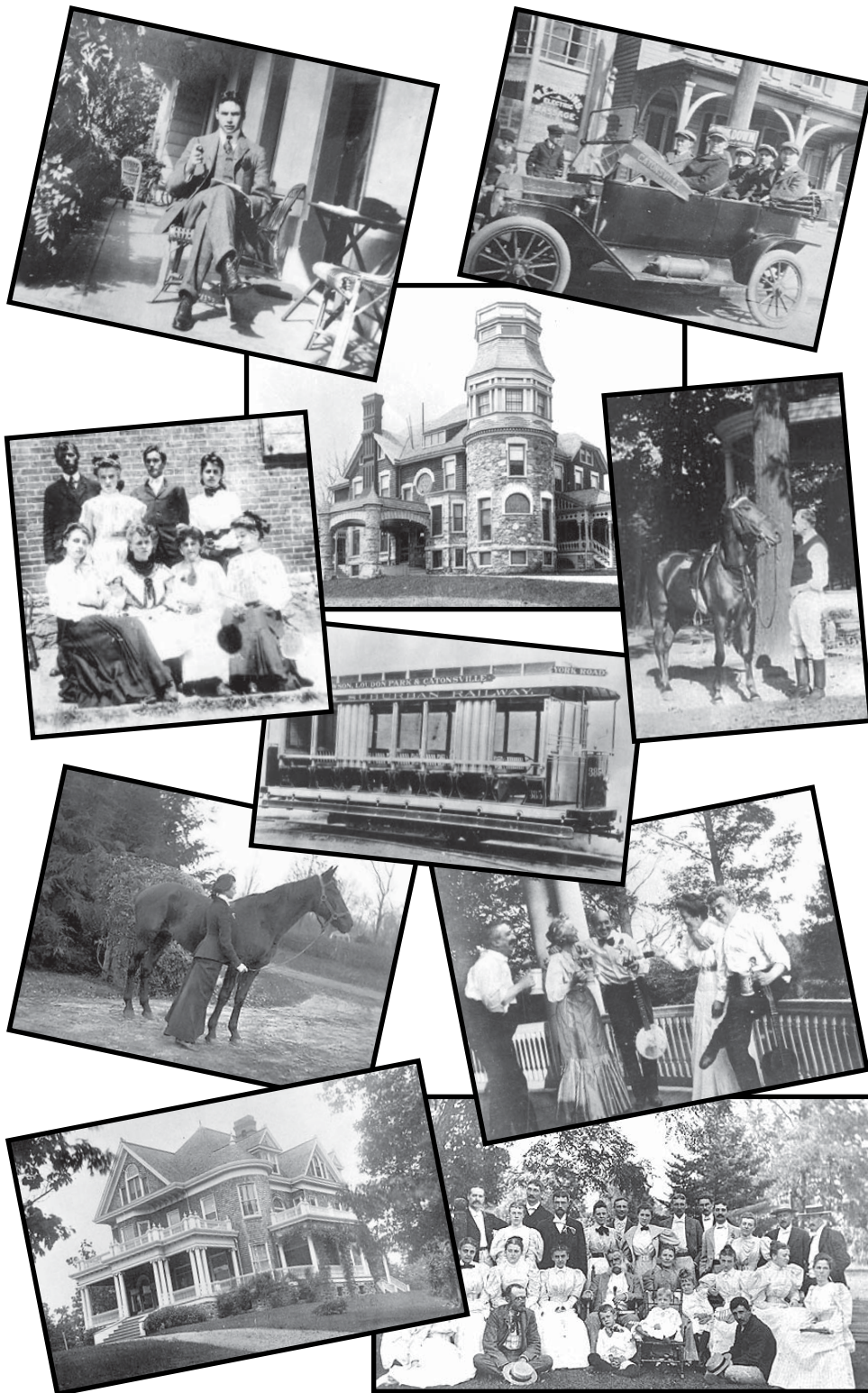


Richard Caton

In the later part of the 1800s, Catonsville had become populated with large, lavish estates. Wealthy Baltimore families would move out to them in the summer to escape the sweltering city heat. In 1890, an electric streetcar line was established between Catonsville and Baltimore. The trolley line brought not only more business opportunities, but also a large increase in the number of working and middle class families living in the area.

In the 1950s and '60s, many of these beautiful homes and estates were demolished to make way for the Baltimore Beltway (I-695) and later, the *University of Maryland, Baltimore County* (U.M.B.C.).

Catonsville now has a population of approximately 42,000 people and is home to the *Charlestown Retirement Community*, *Mount de Sales Academy*, and *C.C.B.C. - Catonsville*.



THE SITES



1. FREDERICK HOUSE & CARRIAGE HOUSE:

(BUILT: LATE 1800S)

The original owner of the property was a man named Dr. Smith. The property was a farm that spanned across both sides of Maiden Choice Lane. The Catholic Church bought 55 acres of Dr. Smith's property in the late 1800s for use as a summer camp. Dr. Smith's house, "Homewood", still exists today and is located at *910 Maiden Choice Lane (see #20).



2. THE BELLE GROVE HOUSE:

(BUILT: 1849)

The home and its surrounding 42 acres (now just 1 acre) was originally owned by a wallpaper manufacturer named Mr. Howell. **Note: The entranceway to the original estate still exists on Frederick Road.* *Architectural Features: Turret, carriage cover, wraparound porch. It has 21 rooms in total.



3. BEVERLY HOUSE & EDEN TERRACE:

(BUILT: 1893)

The home was purchased by George Suco's (manager of Bartholomew Brewery) daughter and her husband in 1915. **Note: Across the street (12 Woodlawn Ave.) is her parents' home. The descendants still live there today.* *Architectural Features: Tower, turret, wraparound porch.



4. THE STONE HOUSE - "OVERLEA COLLEGE":

(BUILT: 1853)

The home was originally built by Rev. George W. Ebeling with the Old Salem Lutheran Church. As well as being a pastor's home, it was also used as a school for boys called "Overlea College," from 1861-1895.



5. OLD SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

(BUILT: 1849)

The church was built to meet the needs of the increasing number of German Lutherans in the area. The original organ remains inside and can still be played. **Note: Both Old Salem Church and St. Timothy's Church claim to be the oldest church in Catonsville.*



6. MOUNT DE SALES ACADEMY:

(BUILT: 1852)

The school has 500 students with 100 graduating annually. Because it is at the highest point in Baltimore County (450ft), their views include: the Inner Harbor, Chesapeake Bay Bridge, and the State House dome in Annapolis.



7. ST. TIMOTHY'S CHURCH:

(BUILT: 1840s)

Claims to be the oldest church in Catonsville. **Note: It was originally a boys' military school. Graduates include: 2 Confederate Generals and John Wilkes Booth (President Abraham Lincoln's assassin).*



8. THE WALDECK HOUSE: (BUILT: 1878)

The home was originally owned by Gustav Gieske (a tobacco dealer). The property is approximately 6 acres and was once a funeral home.

**Note: "Waldeck" means 'wood corner'.*

**Architectural Features: Victorian style.*



9. THE OAKWOOD HOUSE: (BUILT: 1894)

The home was originally owned by August Brinkman (President of Baltimore Corset and Novelty Works) and was built as a summer home for his family. **Architectural Features: Victorian style.*



10. THE SUMMIT HOUSE: (BUILT: 1850s)

Originally built by James Gary (a Republican politician), the property once spanned 100 acres. It was converted into an apartment house in 1919 and remains so today.

**Architectural Features: Tower faces the Inner Harbor.*



11. "CASTLE THUNDER": (BUILT: 1787)

Originally the home of the Caton family (who founded Catonsville). The home was demolished in 1907. The Baltimore County Public Library was built on the site in the 1960s. **Note: While the house may be gone, a stone mile marker still sits in front of the library.*



12. BEAUMONT - TUDOR STYLED HOUSES: (BUILT: EARLY-MID 1900s)

The homes in this neighborhood display a great variety of architectural styles including a Tudor-era inspired style. Most properties in the community have very old trees and well kept, large yards.



13. ROLLING ROAD & NEIGHBORHOOD: (BUILT: 1880s-1920s)

The road's name derives from its history as a route used from 1750-1800 by slaves who rolled casks of tobacco from nearby plantations to Baltimore. **Note: North and South Rolling Road were originally connected, but were split in half in 1921.*



14. DOUGHOREGAN MANOR: (BUILT: 1750s)

This was a summer home for Charles Carroll (a signer of the Declaration of Independence). It was once 12,000 acres but is now

1,000 acres. **Note: This is Private Property and is CLOSED to the Public.*



15. ST. CHARLES COLLEGE RUINS: (BUILT: 1834)

The college was named for Father Charles Borromeo. It was destroyed by a fire in April 1911, leaving only the ruins of the Rec. Hall. **Note: The college was reconstructed at a new location and is now the Charlestown Retirement Community.*



16. THE OAK FOREST NEIGHBORHOOD: (BUILT: 1900S TO TODAY)

Houses with various architectural styles and histories can be seen throughout this neighborhood as the tour travels down Seminole Avenue, Montrose Avenue and Hilton Avenue. The tour will eventually be at the edge of Patapsco State Park.



17. THE HILTON HOUSE - C.C.B.C. CAMPUS: (BUILT: EARLY 1900S)

The property was originally 5,000 acres. Now the Community College of Baltimore County owns one third of the estate. **Note: Parts of the home date back to a cottage that once sat on the estate (originally built in 1836).*



18. UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, BALTIMORE CO.: (FOUNDED: 1956)

U.M.B.C. is part of the University System of Maryland and offers 42 undergraduate majors and several post-graduate programs. The university is made up of approximately 770 staff members and 13,000 students. Its campus spans across approx. 500 acres.



19. THE SPRING GROVE PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL: (EST: 1852)

While the hospital was founded in 1757 (making it the 2nd oldest psychiatric hospital in the nation), the hospital didn't move from its original location (near Johns Hopkins Hospital) to its current location until 1852.



20. THE HOMEWOOD HOUSE: (BUILT: 1889)

Was once a home to Dr. Smith and 6 other owners. The K.A.-Lydia Zink School was started here in 1948 as a private school which helped kids with dyslexia. It is now an insurance office. **Architctural Features: 3 turrets, cupola. The house was built around a cottage built in 1863.*



LOCATIONS INDEX

1. Frederick House & Carriage House: *715 Maiden Choice Lane*
2. The Belle Grove House: *11 Belle Grove Road*
3. Beverly House & Eden Terrace: *12 Woodlawn Avenue*
4. The Stone House - "Overlea College": *108 Delrey Avenue*
5. Old Salem Lutheran Church: *701 Ingleside Avenue*
6. Mount de Sales Academy: *700 Academy Road*
7. St. Timothy's Church: *200 Ingleside Avenue*
8. The Waldeck House: *736 Edmondson Avenue*
9. The Oakwood House: *1300 Summit Avenue*
10. The Summit House: *10 Stanley Terrace*
11. "Castle Thunder": *1100 Frederick Road*
12. Beaumont - Tudor Styled Houses: *Beaumont Avenue*
13. Rolling Road and Neighborhood: *North and South Rolling Road*
14. Doughoregan Manor: *3500 Manor Road, Ellicott City*
15. St. Charles College Ruins: *Terra Maria Way, Ellicott City*
16. The Oak Forest Neighborhood: *Seminole Avenue-Hilton Avenue*
17. The Hilton House - C.C.B.C. Campus: *800 South Rolling Road*
18. University of Maryland, Baltimore Co.: *1000 Hilltop Road*
19. The Spring Grove Psychiatric Hospital: *55 Wade Avenue*
20. The Homewood House: *910 Maiden Choice Lane*

LOST CATONSVILLE

A LOOK AT HOMES AND BUILDINGS NO LONGER IN EXISTENCE.



The Shortline Depot (Blt. 1884) - Stood on the south side of Frederick Road near Mellor Avenue. Was torn down to build office buildings after the railroad was abandoned in 1972.

Catonsville Casino (Blt. 1894) - Had no gambling; it was a country club. Burned down in 1906 from a fire in the bowling alley.



Arden (Blt. 1898) - Built by Victor G. Bloede (owner of the Eden Construction Company which built the Eden Terrace Community) for an estimated cost of \$13,000 (equal to \$361,000 in today's money). Burned down in 1922.

Eureka House (Blt. 1850s) - owned by Dr. Charles G.W. MacGill, President of the First National Bank of Catonsville. Was torn down in 1950 to build a gas station.



Gray Gables (Blt. 1900s) - Used to be in the Eden Terrace Community and was once owned by Charles Wacker (a partner in the Struven & Wacker firm). Was demolished in 1960 to build the beltway.



Gardens at 'Farmlands' (Blt. 1848) - Farmlands was owned by Gustav Lurman. The property was demolished in 1952 to build a new Catonsville High School.

Spring Grove Hospital (Blt. 1852) - The original buildings were demolished in 1963 and replaced with more modern construction.



Bloomsbury Mansion (Blt. 1881) - Acquired for the Rolling Road Golf Club in 1916. Was demolished in 1991 to build the current club house.

Harlem Lodge (Blt. 1849) - Built by Werner Dressel and sold in 1891 for use by the Maryland Inebriate Asylum. Once located at 329 Harlem Lane. Was closed and razed in 1977 by State Inspectors.

