MARYLAND WOMEN’S HERITAGE TRAIL

GARRETT COUNTY

COAL TALK ORAL HISTORY MUSEUM  B-2
Library Resource Center • Garrett Community College • 687 Mosser Road • McHenry, Maryland 21541 • 301-387-3003 • www.gcc.md.us/library.htm

The Coal Talk Oral History Museum includes stories and memories from Western Maryland coal communities. In Maryland’s two western-most counties, Garrett and Allegany, coal mining families evolved a culture linking life above and below ground in towns that are now hard to find even on a map. The Coal Talk project is dedicated to preserving the memories and subtle nuances of life in the coal towns and mines of Western Maryland. The collection includes material on the perspectives of the women in the coal mining families whose stresses and strengths have seldom been disclosed, as well as the insights, experiences, and contributions of women who went into the mines.

HERITAGE MUSEUM  A-2
261 Maple Street • Box 96 • Friendsville, Maryland 21531 • 301-746-4690

Alongside a collection of women’s household tools, the museum is building an exhibit of aprons and sunbonnets with photographs and biographies of local women. On display are feed sacks of the sort used for sewing clothes and curtains and making quilts. A large binder houses quilting patterns and templates cut from cereal boxes, greeting card boxes, and brown paper bags. Poetry, paintings, and recipes are being added daily. This site is a tribute to the mountain women who kept their families fed, clothed and alive – adding touches of beauty wherever possible.

PENN ALPS AND SPRUCE FOREST ARTISAN VILLAGE  A-3
17 Casselman Road, Route 40 • Grantsville, Maryland 21536 • 301-895-3332

Founded by Alta Shrock, one of the first Mennonite women to earn a doctorate degree, Penn Alps and the Spruce Forest Artisan Village were developed to showcase the arts and crafts of Appalachian artisans. Relocated original log cabins in the Spruce Forest Village house artists such as potters, weavers, and quilters, many of whom are women. Penn Alps, adjacent to the village, is a restaurant, craft gallery and shop. Dr. Shrock left plans in her will to have her house on the property become a museum celebrating Appalachian culture.

Historic Site Descriptions
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HARFORD COUNTY

MARY ELIZA WATTERS RISTEAU BUILDING  B-15
2 S. Bond Street • Bel Air, Maryland 21014 • 410-836-4500

This building was named in honor of Mary Eliza Watters Ristea, the first woman member of the Maryland House of Delegates (1921-27; 1931-34), first woman to preside over the House of Delegates, first woman in the Maryland State Senate (1935-37) and the first woman on the Maryland State Board of Education (1922-38). Referred to as Maryland’s “Miss Mary,” Mary Ristea was known for her sharp tongue, quick wit, and remarkable powers of persuasion to win over others to support the causes she believed in. Her portrait can be seen in the Harford County Courthouse and the Delegates Chamber in the Maryland State House. (Also see listing for “Mary Ristea Home.”)

MARY ELIZA WATTERS RISTEAU HOME  B-15
Jarrettsville, Maryland 21084

Mary Eliza Watters Ristea (1890-1978) was a woman of many firsts. This site is her former and long time home, her beloved farm in Jarrettsville. (Also see listing for “Mary Ristea Building.”)

STEPPING STONE MUSEUM  C-16
461 Quaker Bottom Road • Havre de Grace, Maryland 21078

This museum preserves and demonstrates rural arts and crafts. Many of the artisans are women.

SUSQUEHANNA MUSEUM OF HAVRE DE GRACE  C-16
Erie and Conestee Streets • Havre De Grace, Maryland 21078 • 410-939-5780 • http://users.erols.com/susmuseum/index.html

This site includes a restored 1835 lock house, canal lock, and swing bridge on the Susquehanna River. Period rooms and displays of Havre de Grace history depict women’s lives.

HOWARD COUNTY

ELLIOTT CITY MAIN STREET  D-13
8398 Main Street • Historic Ellicott City, Maryland 21043 • 410-313-1413 • www.historicEllicottCityConsortium.org

An Ellicott City Main Street tour begins with a visit to the Thomas Isaac Log Cabin, the first known Colored Church at Ellicott’s Mills, with discussions of a woman’s sphere in the 18th and 19th centuries. This includes the life of Ann Ellicott, mother of the founding Ellicott Brothers. The tour continues down the
MARYLAND WOMEN’S HERITAGE TRAIL

north side of Main Street, also known as the National Road, with stops at 18th & 19th century homes and businesses of the successful women of Main Street. No fewer than five women’s expertise influenced the development of Ellicott’s Mills.

Many of the girls in town were among the first in the nation to receive a scholarly education, enabling a woman to care for herself and family at the loss of her husband. Ann Hunt owned substantial property on Main Street and was able to amass a small fortune from her millinery store that far surpassed her male counterparts on Main Street. Many of these early Victorian businesswomen were mothers. The tour explores the roles of these merchant children and the slave children that served their families. The tour’s focus is on social, industrial and education and educational development of Ellicott’s Mills from 1772-1860.

HISTORIC SAVAGE MILL   E-13
8600 Foundry Street • Savage, Maryland 20763 • 410-792-2820

Savage Mill is a restored 19th century cotton mill with specialty shops. Many shops reflect women’s traditional arts and crafts.

HOWARD COUNTY CENTER OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE    D-13
5434 Vantage Point Road • Columbia, Maryland 21044 • 410-715-1821

Group tours are provided of rotating exhibits preserving the history and culture of African-American women and men in Howard County and Maryland.

PATAPSCO FEMALE INSTITUTE HISTORICAL PARK    D-13
3691 Sarah’s Lane • Ellicott City, Maryland 21041 • 410-465-8500

The Patapsco Female Institute (PFI), restored in 1985, is on the National Register of Historic Places, and was one of the most famous schools for girls in 19th Century America. The school officially opened its doors in 1837, and in 1838 Mrs. Mary Norris became principal and expanded the curriculum beyond English, the classics, languages and the natural and abstract sciences. Mrs. Norris included modern history, chemistry, botany, and classes such as piano, painting and guitar. In 1841, Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps was persuaded to take charge of the school. She had a national reputation as an educator from teaching under the direction of her sister, Emma Willard, at the Troy Academy in New York, and from publishing her own successful book, “Lincoln’s Botany.” Under the direction of Mrs. Phelps, the Patapsco Female Institute flourished. From 1842 through 1856 attendance rose steadily, the curriculum expanded, and the school became financially successful. The PFI gained a national reputation and attracted over 100 students for at least six of the fourteen years she was principal. Almira Hart Lincoln Phelps was one of the most influential women in mid-nineteenth century America. She lived well into her nineties. The park includes an active archaeological site and hosts special education programs.
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TOBY'S DINNER THEATER   D-13

5900 Symphony Woods Road • Columbia, Maryland 21044 • 301-596-6161

This dinner theater, which features musical productions, is owned and operated by Maryland arts leader and educator Toby Orenstein, who also directs the theatrical productions. Toby founded the Columbia School for Theatrical Arts, and also produces shows for children which teach the valuing of diversity and honor Maryland leaders such as Dr. Ben Carson. She coordinates a traveling performing group, the young Columbians, who have performed at the White House and across the nation.

KENT COUNTY

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE COUNCIL MUSEUM   D-16

Worton, Maryland 21678 • 410-778-3499

Built in 1890, this last one-room school house in Kent County for “colored” children now houses a collection of photographs, articles, and memorabilia, including those of Harriet Hynson, who died at the age of 92 in the 1990’s.

KITTY KNIGHT HOUSE   C-17

14028 Augustine Herman Highway • Georgetown, Maryland 21630 • 410-648-5777

The plaque near the front door reads “In honor of Mistress Kitty Knight, revolutionary Belle and Beauty, a friend of General George Washington.” When the British burned Georgetown in 1813 her heroic efforts saved this house which later became her home. As the soldiers were setting fire to the house young Kitty kept beating out the flames with a broom until the commanding officer, impressed by her dauntless spirit, ordered the house spared. She refused to leave a sick friend in the house, declaring, “If you burn this house you burn me with it.” Today her house is an inn.

C.V. STARR CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE   E-16

Customs House • 101 South Water Street • Chestertown, Maryland 21620 • 410-810-1461

The center focuses on 18th and 19th century Eastern Shore history and supports studies of African-American history, including an archaeological dig at Harriet Tubman’s birthplace.

STILL POND   C-16

Route 292 • Betterton, Maryland 21610

A small town established in the late 19th century, Still Pond granted Maryland women the right to vote 1908. This pre-dated the passage of the U.S. Suffrage Amendment, which became law in 1920.