

MARYLAND WOMEN'S HERITAGE TRAIL

Historic Site Descriptions

This section includes listings and descriptions of women's history sites in Maryland. Sites are listed in alphabetical order for each of Maryland's 23 counties and Baltimore City. Some additional national women's history sites in nearby Washington, D.C., are also included. Sites are keyed by letters and numbers to the *Poster Map*.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO (C&O) CANAL NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK **B-5**

Western Maryland Railway Station • 13 Canal Street • Cumberland, Maryland 21502 • 301-722-8226
www.nps.gov/choh

Women were vital to the operation of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, a manufactured shipping waterway located along the northern edge of the Potomac River between Washington, D.C. and Cumberland, Maryland. The Canal was in operation from 1850 to 1924. Whether in the strong supporting role as wife of a boat captain or locktender, or in the primary role as boat captain or lockkeeper themselves, women were essential to the life of the canal. Women such as Nina Spong, who risked her life to save her children in an accident on board the family canal boat waiting to unload at Georgetown; Elizabeth Burgess, Elizabeth Case, and Mrs. James O'Reilly, who all took over operation of the lift locks after their husbands died. Catherine Ensminger of Williamsport became a canal boat captain after her husband died, and during the Civil War period many other canal widows also took over their husbands' jobs. Cora Hebb from the area of Sharpsburg was well-known along the canal for her delicious baked bread. Many locktenders' wives supplemented the family income in this way. Women worked side-by-side with their husbands and children to make the C&O Canal run. Their contributions cannot be adequately measured.



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JANE FRAZIER HOUSE **B-5**

Route 51 Oldtown Road • Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Jane Frazier, wife of Lt. John Frazier, lived in a log house built in 1754 just beyond the Cumberland city limits. It was while returning to her home from the Fort Cumberland Trading Post several miles away that Jane was captured by Indians and taken to the Miami River in Ohio. She escaped and returned 18 months later to learn that her husband had remarried because he thought that she was dead. Jane's husband took her back and sent his second wife home to her father. A Frazier descendant wrote a book called "Red Morning" telling of Jane's experiences. The Frazier house was destroyed in the 1960's, but a marker designates its location.

ELIZABETH TASKER LOWNDES HOME **B-5**

Washington Street (Eastern End) • Cumberland, Maryland 21502

Mrs. Elizabeth Tasker Lowndes, wife of Governor Lloyd Lowndes, was born in Cumberland in 1842. She was known as a gracious hostess and entertained President Benjamin Harrison and other dignitaries in her Washington Street home. Equal to her high social attainment was her spirit of charity. Mrs. Lowndes was an ardent worker in church activities, and helped to establish a tuberculosis hospital in Cumberland in 1913. A marker designates the location of the Lowndes home.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

ANNAPOLIS HIGH SCHOOL **F-14**

2700 Riva Road • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-266-5240

Louise W. Linthicum (1877-1931) was principal of Annapolis High School from 1910-1928. She is reported to be the first woman to serve as principal in a Maryland Public High School in the 20th Century. In the decade prior to her appointment, Linthicum served as assistant to the Principal of the school, which went through seven male principals in 14 years from its founding in 1896. The literature on education from the early twentieth century makes it quite clear that only men were considered suitable for the principal's job at the high school level. Annapolis had been unable to keep its male principals because the salary was lower than what they could earn elsewhere in or out of state. Linthicum's own education is typical of young women from families with modest incomes who wanted to become teachers - she graduated from the State Normal School (today Towson University) in 1894. She earned an additional degree from Johns Hopkins in 1923.

BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM **F-15**

84 Franklin Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-947-2893

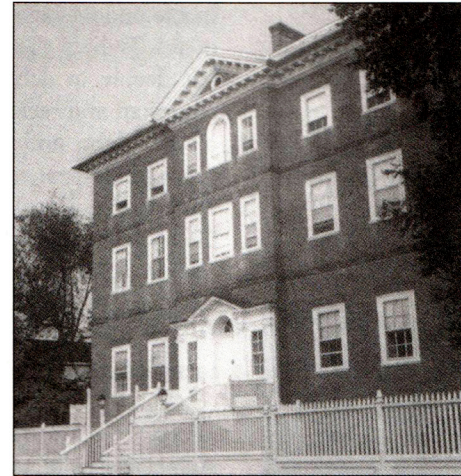
This building houses changing exhibits, lectures, and films about African American arts and culture, including contributions of women.

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CHARLES CARROLL HOUSE OF ANNAPOLIS **F-15**

107 Duke of Gloucester Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-269-1737

Molly (Mary Darnall) Carroll (1749-1782), hostess of the Carroll House in Annapolis, was described as “not only being perceptive and observant but also as having an intelligent and lively mind.” She married Charles Carroll of Carrollton - one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. According to eighteenth century upper class occupational opportunities, Molly was considered to have achieved a high degree of success by virtue of having married into a family that afforded her a high standard of living with important social advantages. The poise, gracefulness, popularity, love of pleasure, and charm of this Revolutionary hostess also helped advance her husband's political career.



Charles Carroll House

CHASE-LLOYD HOUSE **F-15**

22 Maryland Avenue • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-263-2723

Anne Baldwin, who married Samuel Chase, signer of the Declaration of Independence, lived in the house until 1769. Sall Wilks was born as a slave here in 1763. She had six children, Poll, Sucky, Anna, Charlotte, John, and William. She was in charge of the fine tableware, china, and linen, and her son William was the coachman. Hester Ann Chase Ridout, who bought the house in 1846 and died here in 1886, provided in her will that the house be used as a home for elderly ladies “where they may find a retreat from the vicissitudes of life.” Today it is home for up to twelve self-supporting women over the age of sixty-five. The house is listed as a National Historic Landmark.

COFFEE HOUSE **F-15**

195 Main Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21403

The Coffee House, operated in the late 1700's by Cornelius and Mary Wallace Howard (d.1797), catered to the gentry of Maryland. Mary Howard also sold imported merchandise here.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE **F-15**

State Circle • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-974-3531

Home of the Governor of Maryland, this building hosts a permanent collection of “Portraits of First Ladies and Official Hostesses of Maryland.” The collection was developed by Frances Hughes Glendening when she served as First Lady of Maryland in the 1990's.



Government House

ANNE CATHERINE GREEN HOUSE **F-15**

124 Charles Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-263-5892 • 877-892-4845
www.jonasgreenhouse.com

Anne Catherine Green, first woman master printer and editor/publisher in Maryland, was born in 1719 in Holland. At 19 she married Jonas Green (cousin of Benjamin Franklin) and moved to Annapolis. Jonas Green was not only the licensed printer for the colony and Maryland Colonial Legislature, but also was the publisher of the Maryland Gazette. Jonas and Anne Catherine had learned the printing trade from Benjamin Franklin.

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In the middle class home that they leased, they had fourteen children - eight of whom passed before the age of six. To help the family, Anne also sold chocolates at the dock. When Jonas died in 1767, having been left deeply in debt, without ownership of house or business, Anne Catherine took over the business, requested and received an affirmative response to her petition to continue as the legislature's printer, paid off the debt, and purchased their house within three years. Under her direction the paper became a propaganda tool for the patriots. The Gazette was described as "...midwife to the birth of an aroused American political consciousness." The paper furthered the cause of liberty and revolution, although Anne died a year before the Declaration of Independence.



Zeona Hatcher
Haley

ZEONA HATCHER HALEY BURIAL SITE **G-14**

Lakemont Memorial Gardens • 900 West Central Avenue • Davidsonville, Maryland 21035

Zeona Hatcher Haley (1904-1998) was the stepmother of Alex Haley (author of *Roots* and *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*). She was a Golden Life member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and was a teacher of teachers for forty years. She received a myriad of awards and honors including a "Women in NAACP" plaque recognizing her service to the community. Alex Haley stated that the training in writing she provided for him was instrumental in his development as a noted author.

JAVA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE **F-14**

Edgewater, Maryland 21037

This is a Smithsonian Institute archaeological site with trails, a hunting lodge, and displays related to the ways of life of Piscataway women and men in the 1600's - 1700's.



Jeanette R. Wolman
Commission
Founder

MARYLAND COMMISSION FOR WOMEN **F-15**

45 Calvert Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-260-6048 or 1-877-868-2196 • fax 410-974-2307 • www.dhr.state.md.us/mcw

The Commission for Women works on education, health, social, legislative, and employment issues impacting women. Its office houses records of the Commission's history and accomplishments.

MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES **F-15**

350 Rowe Boulevard • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-260-6400 or 1-800-235-4045 • www.mdarchives.state.md.us

The Archives houses primary documents and photographs related to many facets of Maryland history, including information on individual women's contributions and on the history of women's organizations. The Archives also helped salvage 400 paintings and sketches of noted Maryland artist Florence Riefler Bahr, after a fire claimed her life, home, and studio in 1998.

MARYLAND WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME **F-15**

Maryland Law Library • 361 Rowe Boulevard • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-260-1430 • www.lawlib.state.md.us

The Maryland Women's Hall of Fame was established in 1985 through the efforts of the Maryland Commission for Women and The Women Legislators of Maryland. Its purpose is to honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political,



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cultural, and social life of the state, and to provide visible models of achievement for tomorrow's female leaders. Permanent plaques naming the honorees are on display, and up to five new inductees are honored each year.

WILLIAM PACA HOUSE AND GARDEN **F-15**

186 Prince George Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-267-7619 • www.willampaca.com

Mary Chew was the daughter of one of Maryland's prominent wealthy families. Her marriage in 1763 to William Paca, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, helped ensure his social and economic position. The mansion and extensive garden in Annapolis were begun four days after they married.

PRIMOSE HILL **F-15**

3 Milkshake Lane • Annapolis, Maryland 21403

Primose Hill was the home of artist John Hesselius and his wife, Mary Young Woodward. The property was originally known as Young's Inn, owned by Samuel Young, who left it to his son Richard Young, from whom Mary inherited it in 1748. When she married Henry Woodward in June 1755, the Maryland Gazette described her as a daughter and heiress with a "pretty fortune." Woodward died in September 1761, leaving his widow and four young children. Mary then married John Hesselius, America's first native born artist. She continued to live at Primose Hill after the death of her husband in 1778 and opened her home to gatherings of local followers of Methodism. A 1905 history of Anne Arundel County described Mary Hesselius as an "intellectual, earnest believer, brilliant in conversation."

LUCY SMITH HOUSE **F-15**

160 Prince George Street • Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Lucy Smith and her husband, John, a free Black couple, became tenants of this house, built between 1735-1747. "Aunt Lucy" operated a successful bakeshop. Meanwhile, John operated a livery stable, carting and carriage business at the rear of the house. The property was purchased around 1820 by the Smiths and was called Aunt Lucy's Bake Shop. It was originally located near the corner of Greene and Main Street.

HELEN AVALYNNE TAWES GARDEN **F-15**

Adjacent to Maryland Department of Natural Resources •
Tawes State Office Building E-3 • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 •
410-260-8189 •
www.dnr.state.md.us/programs/tawesgarden.html

Various geographic areas of Maryland are featured in this 5-acre garden. It is named in honor of Helen Tawes, first lady of Maryland from 1959-1967. Her husband was Governor Millard Tawes.

*Helen Avalynne Gibson Tawes
First Lady 1959-1967*

