



# CHANGING LANDSCAPES

## FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND • STUDIO 2019

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University of Maryland,  
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Historic Preservation Program

Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS)  
An initiative of the National Center for Smart Growth (NCSG)

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC)

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## Executive Summary

In the Fall semester of 2019, the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Studio class worked with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) in Prince George's County through the Partnership for Action Learning in Sustainability (PALS) program. The purpose of the partnership was to create a heritage trail linking the communities of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven in southern Prince George's County.

### *History*

Originally inhabited by Native Americans, this region of Maryland became a large contributor to the Chesapeake region's tobacco production. The War of 1812 and the Civil War had effects on the community and economy of the area. Woodville, known later as Aquasco, worked with the rest of the country to reconstruct after the Civil War. During this process, several African American churches and schools became an important part of the Woodville community. Former slaves became tenant farmers, but segregation prevailed for several decades. In the 1920s, Washington, D.C. and Maryland businessmen founded two African American resort communities along the Patuxent River: Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven. These served as summer resort towns for Baltimore and Washington, D.C. residents to recreate and relax. Today, Aquasco remains heavily agricultural and Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven continue to exist as summer communities with several year-round residents.

### *Rationale & Products*

Working within the provided Scope of Work, the team produced a Trail Guide, a Route Map, the design and content for Site Markers and Theme Kiosks, and an Audio Tour script and draft recording. Rather than providing the same information in each of these mediums, the team decided to frame each differently. The Trail Guide summarizes research for each site and includes images. This medium is meant to be used both on the trail and off location for interested travelers. The Route Map provides locations for trail stops and additional points of interest. The site markers provide a shortened version of the guide information. The four Theme Kiosks provide state-wide and national context for the four themes chosen with specific highlights pertaining to Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. The four themes – Tobacco and Reconstruction, Religion, Education, and Resort Towns – were selected because they offer tools for understanding the complex shared heritages of these three communities. Lastly, the Audio Tour provides information about each site in the broader context of history.

### *Methods*

The team gathered research from the Maryland Historical Trust, M-NCPPC, the Prince George's County Historical Society (PGCHS), community members, and other resources. To begin the project, the team conducted precedent research of other heritage trails throughout the country for inspiration and effective designs and strategies. They divided into four teams of two students focused on the creation of the Trail Guide, Route Map, Site Markers and Theme Kiosks, and Audio Tour.

In order to discern the exact content of the trail, the class conducted a windshield survey of properties in Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. After individual sites were selected by team consensus, each team member chose one to three sites to research and create content for. In addition to research, each student collected oral histories from members and former members of each of the three communities. Students also participated in the documentation of the Aquasco Mill ruins, which will aid in the creation of a Maryland Inventory of Historic Places nomination form for this previously undocumented site. To complete the project, the team presented to the M-NCPPC Planning Department, the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Department, and the community members of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. They also completed this report with a poster and provided all research and deliverables to M-NCPPC. This report also provides recommendations to M-NCPPC on additional directions in which to continue this heritage trail.

### *Conclusion*

This project created a comprehensive guide to the communities of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. The trail will teach its users about Maryland's contribution to the tobacco economy, rural communities during reconstruction, and the need for more recreational opportunities for African Americans during segregation. The students refined their research, oral history, writing, design, and teamwork skills. This project benefits the M-NCPPC Planning Department, the student project team, and the Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven communities alike. The completed product provides a cohesive and navigable narrative of life and culture in the area as well as promotes economic growth through heritage tourism to each of the three communities.

### **Overview**

The purpose of this project was to provide a complete and comprehensive 'heritage trail package' of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven to the Prince George's County division of M-NCPPC. The provided Scope of Work included the following deliverables:

1. Trail Guide, including an introduction to the trail, information on each site, and a bibliography;
2. Route Map, including a route layout, and locations for each site and additional points of interest;
3. Site Markers, including a summarized version of the trail guide information and images;
4. Audio Tour, including information about each site in the broader historical context, a script, and a draft recording.

In addition to these deliverables, the team decided upon four themes to better communicate the shared histories of these three communities. Those themes include Tobacco and Reconstruction, Religion, Education, and Resort Towns. Each theme has its own four-paneled kiosk that introduces visitors to the trail and elaborates on one of the four themes, including broader state and national context as well as community specific stories.



The area which would one day become Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven was originally divided into several large land tracts in the seventeenth century. The area of Aquasco got its name from a near-by land tract known as “Aquascake.”<sup>2</sup> As these tracts were developed or sold, large plantations sprung up and became a central economic pillar to the area. During the eighteenth century, a small rural community named Woodville was established within the area of Aquasco. Tobacco remained a staple crop in the economy well into the nineteenth century, and so too did the area’s dependence on enslaved labor. While remaining predominantly agricultural even into the twenty-first century, Woodville developed additional industries such as productive fisheries, a mill, several small commercial stores, and a trade port along the Patuxent River.



Photo 1: William R. Barker House, Photograph by Marina King. Source: Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Commission.



Photo 2: Villa DeSales, Photograph by M. Dwyer. Source: Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Commission.

The nineteenth century brought several tumultuous episodes to Aquasco’s rural community. The War of 1812 included several devastating campaigns conducted by the British, especially for communities located along the Patuxent River. In August 1814 when the British landed in Benedict, Maryland, just south of the Prince George’s and Charles County line, Aquasco lay in the path of the British forces’ march north towards Washington. Then Secretary of State James Monroe scouted British troop movement from Aquasco Mills.<sup>3</sup> The British left a trail of destruction in their wake—destroying tobacco and private property as they made their way up the Patuxent to what would be known as the Battle of Bladensburg. The British also drew enslaved individuals from the plantations along the way, promising freedom if they would take up arms against American forces.<sup>4</sup>

The Civil War caused a massive upheaval in the social structure of Woodville’s agrarian society. Prince George’s County had the largest enslaved population in the state, especially in predominantly agricultural areas such as Woodville.<sup>5</sup> After emancipation, the African Americans remained in the area

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<sup>2</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *African-American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George’s County, Maryland*, February 2012, 191.

<sup>3</sup> Vogel, Steve, *Through the Perilous Fight: Six Weeks That Saved the Nation*, 85, 2013.

<sup>4</sup> Testimony from 1828 court case filed by the heirs of Ann Johnson over property loss in the War of 1812, from the personal collection of Gilbert Carr.

<sup>5</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *African-American Historic and Cultural Resources*, 191.

and became small land-holders and tenant farmers. During Reconstruction, these communities grew and established a school and several churches. While the agricultural core of the economy remained the same, the African American community grew into the 20th century. The areas of Aquasco, Cedar Haven, and Eagle Harbor were established; Aquasco as the inheritor of Woodville’s agricultural population, and Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven as new resort communities.<sup>6</sup>



Photo 3: St. Phillips Chapel, Unknown date. Source: St. Phillips Church, Baden Parish.

Founded in the late 1920s, Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven were African American waterfront neighborhoods which provided an escape from the summer heat and city life. These resort towns were established at a time when segregation was still heavily prominent, leaving African Americans with very few options on destinations to visit for water-related leisure and recreational activities. The beach at Eagle Harbor, which came to be known as the “Paradise on the Patuxent,” became quite the popular vacation destination for African Americans.<sup>7</sup> While the areas of Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven were initially intended to be temporary summer vacation spots, they slowly developed into more permanent communities with full-time residents who currently strive to ensure a sustainable future for themselves.



Photo 4: Cedar Haven “Picturesque Cedar Haven.” Source: Hornbake Library at UMD

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., 196.

<sup>7</sup> Town of Eagle Harbor. Eagle Harbor 2025 Planning for a Sustainable Community. Accessed November 20, 2019. <https://townofeagleharborincmd.org/documents/SustainabilityPlan.pdf>.

Though they have faced many challenges during their history—wars, slavery, racism, economic variability—all have remained resilient and continue to thrive today. Their most recent challenges include the presence of a coal burning power plant located just south of the communities on the Patuxent River, which inevitably carries environmental concerns, as well as the expansion of D.C. commuter suburban development into the southern reaches of Prince George’s County.

## Rationale

The purpose of this Heritage Trail package is to encourage more economic development in Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven through heritage tourism. The variety of deliverables was established to holistically narrate the rich history and stories within these communities. The team came up with different strategies when developing the Trail Guide, Route Map, Site Markers and Theme Kiosks, and Audio Tour. These approaches were decided upon through research on similar projects, best practices, accessibility, and critique sessions.

### *Establishing Broad Themes*

Establishing broad themes was necessary to provide a cohesive narrative between the selected sites. After researching these individual sites across Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven, many of them can be categorized in either Tobacco and Reconstruction, Religion, Education, or Resort Towns. The team decided that segregation would be an overarching theme since it is relevant to all four of the themes.



Photo 5: Project team working to establish themes. Source: Paula Nasta, October 2019

### *Diversity of Information Delivery*

The Scope of Work outlines diverse deliverables for the team to produce. Originally, the team developed a similar approach to the narrative across the Trail Guide, Site Markers, and Audio Tour. After many iterations and critiques, each deliverable was reimagined to convey different information about each site.

### *Trail Guide & Site Markers*

The Trail Guide focused more on academic research while the Site Markers provided a shortened version of that information. The images in both these mediums are an important aspect of their storytelling.

### *Audio Tour*

For the Audio Tour, the script became less about reiterating the same facts and research, and more focused on the larger national narrative and its presence in these communities during that time. An example would be how reconstruction and segregation in the United States during the late 1800s to 1900s impacted the entire nation, including the communities of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. Overall, the Audio tour ties the history of this small area in Maryland to much bigger, often more well known, themes throughout American history. The Audio Tour also provides an opportunity to diversify the information visitors can learn about the area. Music, including music produced by the community, is an aspect the team used to layer in additional information that is not present in the Trail Guide or Site Markers.

### *Route Map*

For the Route Map, the team decided to number the sites to allow clear direction and order to the heritage trail. The inclusion of points of interest was important to highlight sites that may not be part of the trail, but are still important in the overall narrative or for economic development. Two examples of point of interests are the William R. Barker House, which is mentioned in the Audio Tour, and Hardesty's Haven Cafe, where visitors can get a bite to eat. Another important consideration was color, because the team decided the Route Map needed to be legible as both a color print and a black and white print. Thus, the background of the map is white and the text and banners are bolder solid colors. Lastly, the final Route Map design became double-sided because the team found having the map and the sites listed together on one page was too difficult to read. By shifting the list of sites to the back, the Map and list of sites become more legible.

### *Site Markers and Theme Kiosks*

For the Site Markers, the team decided upon a size of 24" x 18," half the normal size of a standard M-NCPPC trail sign. In addition to these individual Site Markers, the team decided to create larger Theme Kiosks with four panels explaining both the trail and one of the broader themes with specific reference to certain stories of each community. The Post-Colonial Families kiosk is an example of a larger kiosk focusing on the related plantation families in Aquasco. Larger kiosks

allowed the heritage trail sites to clearly connect to one another, particularly since Aquasco is further away from Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven.

### *Conclusion*

Within the deliverable framework, the team found ways to optimize the requirements to provide the heritage trail program these communities desire. Broad themes created a level of cohesiveness and connection for the visitors across all mediums of information delivery. Customizing the project deliverables to reflect our analysis and understanding of the sites and community makes the heritage trail more understandable. Lastly, optimizing the various methods of delivery from visual to auditory experiences establishes a more holistic narrative of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven.

## **Methods**

### *Precedent Studies*

Prior to beginning actual documentary research for the project, the team researched heritage trails across the United States. Examples of heritage trails used for this assignment were required to have an Audio Tour component from which to draw relevant examples. Each team member chose a different state to conduct their precedent research in order to provide a variety of formats and delivery methods. Research on the heritage trails was then shared with the rest of the team, allowing for a group discussion about best practices.

### *Project Teams*

The class was divided into four teams of two students each. Project teams were designated based on skills and interests. One team was responsible for the creation and formatting of the Trail Guide. Another team was tasked with the creation of the Route Map. A third was responsible for the design of the Site Markers and Theme Kiosks. Last but not least, the fourth team was responsible for creating and recording the Audio Tour and draft recording.

### *Site Visits*

The class conducted a windshield survey early on in the project to gain a better understanding of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. The team noted basic observations of the building including the condition, basic architectural style, the current use of the structure, its visibility from the road, and whether or not the structure has historic integrity. Photographs were taken of the site when possible.

Site visits became a common occurrence throughout the semester. Initially, the visits were to familiarize the team with the area and its historic sites; however, as the semester progressed, these site visits became opportunities to meet with the Mayor and one Councilman of Eagle Harbor, conduct oral history interviews, and to engage in the documentation of sites.



Photo 6: Fieldwork surveying historic structures in Aquasco. Source: Kenneth Turscak, September 2019

### Documentary Research on Local History, Cultural, and Cultural Resources

Every component of this project required documentary research to some degree. In the beginning phases of this project, the team selected three key historic sites in the area that would be added to the trail and then looked at a variety of sources to gain an understanding of their history and significance. In addition, the team utilized the Maryland Historical Trust’s Medusa program (Maryland’s Cultural Resource Information System), National Register for Historic Places forms, the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties forms, the Library of Congress’ website, the University of Maryland’s Hornbake Library Special Collections, and other relevant books and databases in order to conduct their research.

Property Name	MIHP Number	Address	Orientation	Brief Description
Truman Point	(needs photos) PG: 60-25_2007-01-20_01.tif (example)			
Miss Sarah Hall House	PG: 87B-10_2019-09-10_01	22300 Aquasco Road	South (Camera Facing)	Current sign in front of Miss Sarah Hall House
Miss Sarah Hall House	PG: 87B-10_2019-09-10_02	22300 Aquasco Road	East (Camera Facing)	Context of West Facade of Miss Sarah Hall House from roadside
Miss Sarah Hall House	PG: 87B-10_2019-09-10_03	22300 Aquasco Road	East (Camera Facing)	West Facade of Miss Sarah Hall House from roadside
Miss Sarah Hall House	PG: 87B-10_2019-09-10_04	22300 Aquasco Road	East (Camera Facing)	West Facade of Miss Sarah Hall House from roadside
Wood House	PG: 87B-15_2019-09-10_01	22606 Aquasco Road	East (Camera Facing)	West facade of Wood House taken from inside car for safety
Selby-Grimes House	PG: 87B-22_2019-09-10_01	22609 Aquasco Road	West (Camera Facing)	East Facade of Selby-Grimes House through heavy vegetation
Selby-Grimes House	PG: 87B-22_2019-09-10_02	22609 Aquasco Road	West (Camera Facing)	East Facade of Selby-Grimes House through heavy vegetation
Selby-Grimes House	PG: 87B-22_2019-09-10_03	22609 Aquasco Road	East (Camera Facing)	West Elevation of Selby-Grimes House
Selby-Grimes House	PG: 87B-38_2019-09-10_01	18610 Truman Point Road	East (Camera Facing)	West facade
Eagle Harbor Community Center	PG: 87B-38_2019-09-10_02	23320 Patuxent Blvd	East (Camera Facing)	West facade
Eagle Harbor Artesian Well	PG: 87B-38_2019-09-10_03		North (Camera Facing)	Artesian Well memorial
Eagle Harbor Artesian Well	PG: 87B-38_2019-09-10_04		East (Camera Facing)	Artesian Well overview & Patuxent River
Eagle Harbor Artesian Well	PG: 87B-38_2019-09-10_05		Northeast (Camera Facing)	Artesian Well overview & Stairs

Figure 2: Spreadsheet used to catalog photographic documentation. Source: Veronica Martin, December 2019

### Community Collaboration

Ms. Maxine Gross and Dr. Mary Sies of the Lakeland Community Heritage Project visited the class and gave a special presentation on her project. Their presentation included special oral histories and newspaper articles about the area and the area’s residents. This provided the team with additional background information on the history of African Americans and their culturally significant sites in Prince George’s County and the types of challenges this community faces.

The site marker and theme kiosk group met with Aaron Marcavitch, Executive Director of Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc. The team consulted with Mr. Marcavitch on the best practices for marker designs in order to ensure high quality products.

### *Interviewing Community Members*

Connecting with members of the Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven communities was a crucial part of this project. Conducting these oral histories enabled the team to unearth compelling stories about the area's heritage and history that would otherwise be lost. Together, the team brainstormed a list of 24 questions to help drive the interviews. These questions were used as an outline for the interviews, with the students taking the opportunity to ask follow-up questions when appropriate in an attempt to obtain more details about an interviewee's given answer.

In addition to oral history interviews, the class attended a consulting meeting at the Eagle Harbor Community Center with the Mayor of Eagle Harbor, the Honorable James D. Crudup, Sr. and one of the town's Commissioners, the Honorable Jack B. Martin. This meeting was spent learning about the town's history, issues faced in the past and present, and the plans that the town has for its future.

On November 20, 2019, four of the students and the instructor attended a Greater Baden Aquasco Citizens Association community social event. This event was a great opportunity for the students to speak with community members about the project. The project team set up a table complete with maps of Aquasco through history and a measured drawing of the Aquasco Mill ruins. Their table was integrated with other businesses and organizations. Throughout the evening, they interacted with the community members and showed them some significant documents that the students uncovered during the semester. The students were also able to meet with some of the property owners of some of the sites included in the project; these discussions lead to new and valuable information. Lastly, the group passed out flyers and encouraged community members to attend the community presentation at the Eagle Harbor Community Center on December 12, 2019.

### *Documentation*

One site in particular, the Aquasco Mill ruins, required the team to conduct an on-site walk through followed by a subsequent visit to record the mill ruins. During this site visit, Historic American Building Survey-style measured drawings were recorded, and photographs were taken of the ruins. Based on these drawings and information received from the property owner, a Maryland Inventory of Historic Places form was then completed for the site.

### *Presentations*

On December 9, 2019, three team members, participated in a poster session to present the final project to the M-NCPPC and PALS. On December 10, 2019, the other four partnership members presented their deliverables to the University of Maryland's Historic Preservation Department. Additionally, the entire project team conducted a final visit to the area to present their work to the community members of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven on December 12, 2019 at the Eagle Harbor Community Center.



Photo 8: Fieldwork measuring the Aquasco Mill ruins. Source: Paula Nasta, November 2019

## Products

### *Trail Guide*

The Trail Guide includes an introduction to the history of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven to provide visitors with the necessary background information. The Guide also provides information about the trail including an overview of the four themes. The Route Map was incorporated into the Guide so that visitors only had to print one complete document in order to participate in the trail. The Trail Guide includes the twenty-two sites that the team researched over the course of the project. Each site has a one-page narrative with images. The Trail Guide also contains information from two of the theme kiosks: “The Barker, Bowling, and Forbes Family” and “Resort Towns.”

### *Route Map*

The Route Map includes the twenty-two sites condensed into nineteen stops. Five points of interest are included as stops to acknowledge sites mentioned in the Audio Tour and indicate places where visitors can stop along the trail. The trail was designed to ensure all the sites would be on the rider’s or driver’s right for safety when pulling off to view the sites. Aquasco Road, also known as Maryland Route 381, currently does not have pedestrian or bicycle crossings.

### Site Markers

The Site Markers includes design layouts for individual Site Markers. Each of the individual Site Markers features an approximately one-hundred-word long story about the site, and one or two images that complement the narrative. The color of the banner on the Site Markers corresponds to the primary theme connected with the site while additional themes are indicated with icons inside the color banner.

### Theme Kiosks

The four-paneled Theme Kiosk component includes the design of the panel layout as well as a schematic for construction. One side introduces the rider and driver to the trail and features the Route Map. The other side explains one of the four themes in the national and state context, and provides specific stories related to the relevant community.

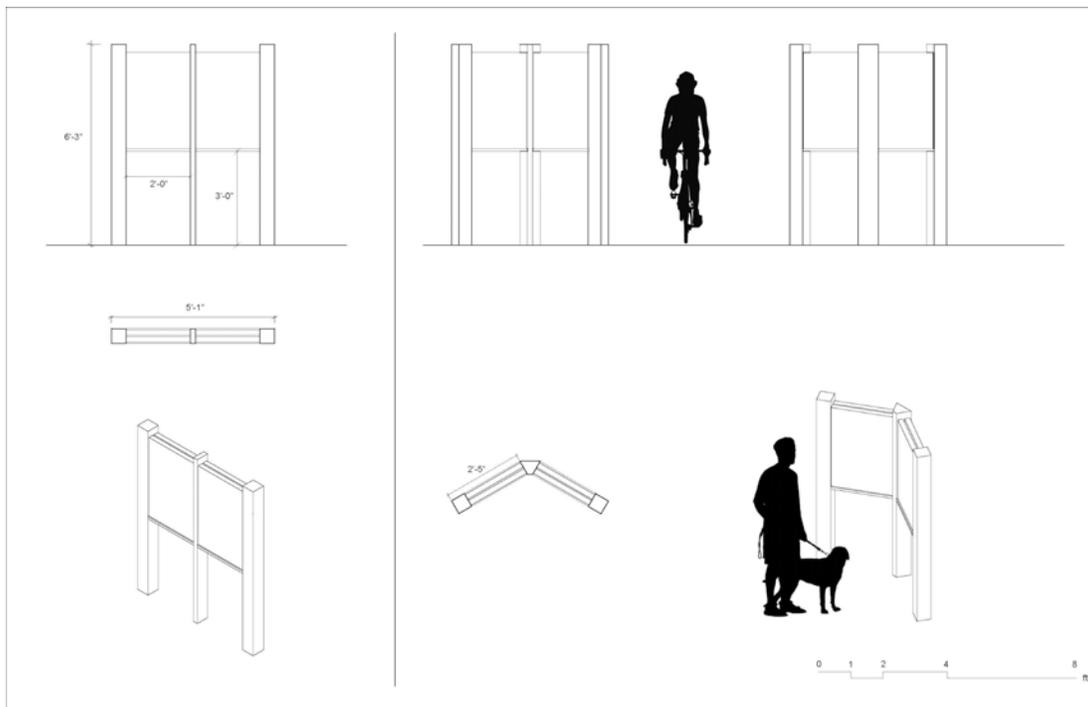


Figure 3: Two schematic views of the Theme Kiosks. Created by Sarah Fuller.

### Audio Tour

The Audio Tour includes a script and a draft recording with music and other sound effects. The audio is designed to be listened to while biking or driving along the tour. The script pulls from the site narratives, the broader history of the area, and national historic themes. The audio team researched additional audio tours and best practices for script writing to gain a better understanding about how to write for a listening audience. Some background sounds were included but kept to a minimum to prevent distractions to riders and drivers. Directions and other transitions were added to guide listeners on their journey and remove the need for bikers or drives to look at their mobile device while traveling.

## Recommendations

The following are brief recommendations concerning how further research, design, or organization of the *Changing Landscape: Farmsteads and Resort Towns* heritage trail could be conducted.

### Trail Markers

- Site Markers and theme kiosks should be placed at each proposed site in a location that is not disruptive to the property owner.
- The trail marker for the Mary C. B. Cochrane House and James A. Cochrane store could be placed in front of the Cochrane Store rather in between as there is a modern house separating the two sites.

### Audio Tour

- Local voices, such as those from oral histories, should be added to the audio to create a personal narrative rather than using quotes.
- A mobile or online app could be developed that allows listeners to download the full audio tour onto their device beforehand, thus removing the need for wi-fi or data usage while they enjoy the tour.
- A mobile or online app could be developed with geo locations for the theme kiosks and individual Site Markers, allowing for the audio to automatically keep up with the biker and/or driver without them having to select.
- Companies, such as [www.travelstorys.com](http://www.travelstorys.com), could be investigated as potential outside contractors to develop a full audio tour for both bikers and automobile listeners.

### Overall

- Additional historically significant sites could be added to the trail as they are identified.
  - One oral history made mention of a potential Underground Railroad stop.
  - The Adams Funeral Home in Aquasco could have a connection to the Adams, Bowens, and Mortons.
  - The racetrack on Neck Road could offer an insight into recent history.
  - More information could be gathered on the dance hall and meeting hall located off Dr. Bowen Road.
  - The baseball field on the east side of Aquasco Road, north of the Woodville Schoolhouse might be a location to tell a story about recent history.
  - The log cabin ruins, community center, and Mayor's office in Eagle Harbor might enrich the Eagle Harbor segment of the tour.
- More research could be conducted on Dr. Harry Morton Bowen, the physician for which Dr. Bowen Road got its name.
- Additional research could be on the history of Eastview, which has been demolished. Several oral histories mentioned that Eastview was the original Wood House. A correlation could be

established between Eastview, also known as Wood's Joy, and the Wood House on Aquasco Road.

- The trail information could be presented to the public by having its own website. The team found that a lot of their research had to be cut or added to a full list of endnotes. The website would also be useful for additions to the trail as they are identified.
- Additional oral histories could be conducted for all three communities to collect personal stories and add a deeper historical connection to the area.
- QR codes could be added to the Site Markers and Theme Kiosks for passers-by to easily connect with the online presence of the trail.
- Acquire image and audio copyrights before using them publicly.

## Conclusion

Over the course of the Fall 2019 semester, students in the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Studio class worked to create a heritage trail linking the communities of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. This course provided an opportunity for the student project team to gain experience working on a real-world preservation issue. The students were provided with a Scope of Work and tasked with completing the requirements of the Scope within a specific time frame. First, the students researched other heritage trails throughout the country to learn effective strategies for creating their own trail. Next, the students researched the history of the area to discover the important stories and located major historic sites through field visits. Students also conducted oral histories to gather personal stories from current and former members of the communities.

Then, the class self-divided into four partnerships to research and produce a Trail Guide, a Route Map, Site Markers and Theme Kiosks, and an Audio Tour. Each of these four components offers something unique, allowing the students to present the stories of the communities in different ways. The project teams utilized their research, design, and organization skills when creating all elements of the project. They learned new software programs to produce professional products. Finally, students presented their research and designs to the PALS program, the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Department, and the community members of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. All research and deliverables were provided to the M-NCPPC.

Overall, this project will benefit the communities of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven by celebrating the local resident's sense of place and attracting visitors to the local economy. The sites chosen by the students are not a complete list of the historic properties within the three communities; however, the twenty-two sites do help highlight the long, diverse history of the area and showcase the important stories of the people who helped build the landscape. This way, the Heritage Trail will serve the residents of the region, and also allow for visitors to deeply connect with those familiar, yet still unique, stories.

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Linda Garoute

Town of Eagle Harbor

Mayor James D. Crudup Sr.

Commissioner Jack B. Martin

Dr. Noah Waters

Greater Baden Aquasco Citizens Association

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[um.researchport.umd.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=456362&site=ehost-live](http://search.ebscohost.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/login.aspx?direct=true&db=nlebk&AN=456362&site=ehost-live).

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# **CHANGING LANDSCAPES**

## **FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS**

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND • STUDIO 2019

## **Appendix A: Trail Guide**

# Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads & Resort Towns



*A Heritage Tour of Aquasco, Cedar Haven, and Eagle Harbor in southern Prince George's County, Maryland*

This project creates a Heritage Trail Plan for the areas of Aquasco-Woodville, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven to create a navigable narrative of life and culture in the area.



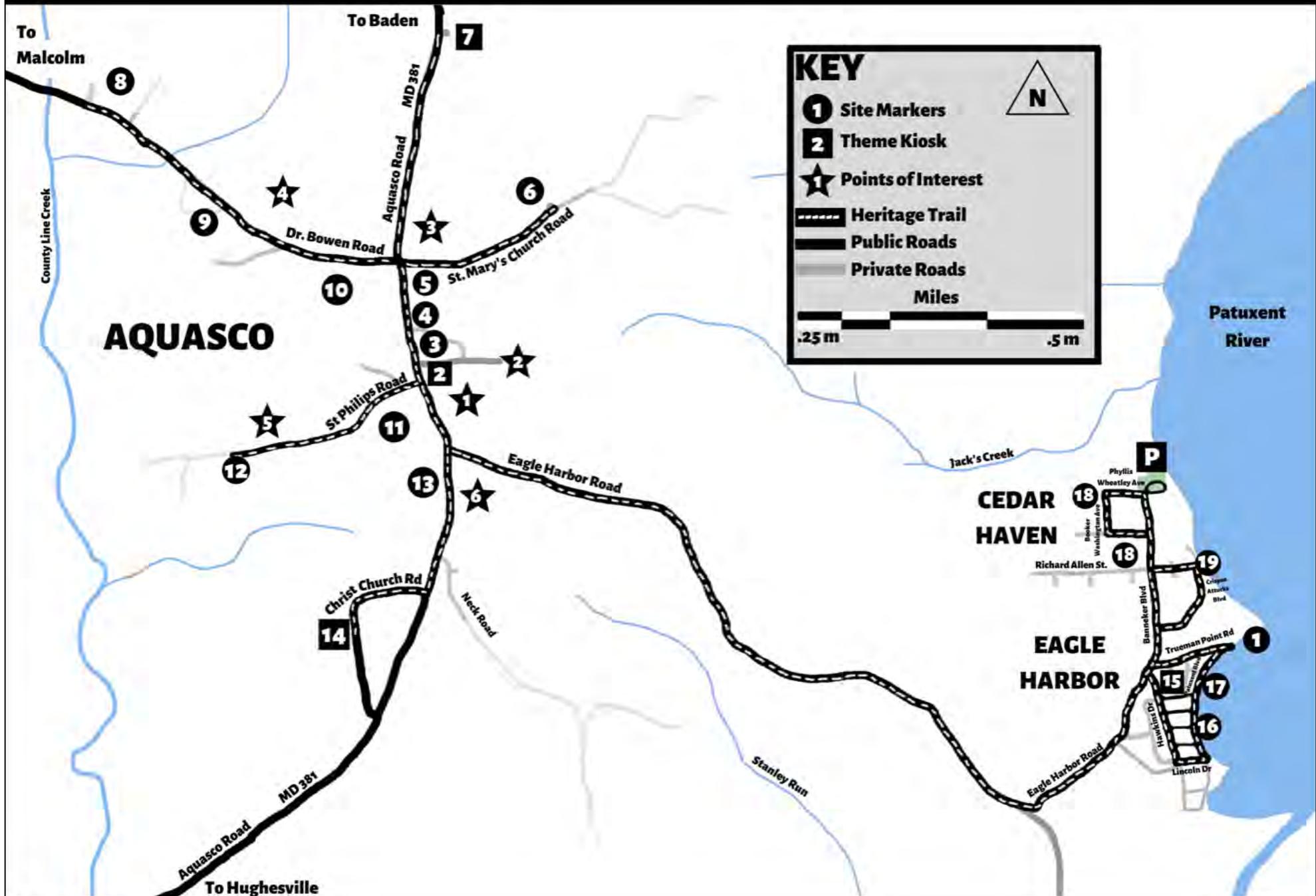
**CHANGING LANDSCAPES**  
**FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS**

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# CHANGING LANDSCAPES: FARMSTEADS AND RESORT TOWNS

Parking for bikers & a year-round porta-potty can be found at the Cedar Haven Fishing Area,  
18400 Phyllis Wheatley Avenue, Eagle Harbor, MD 20608

## Theme Kiosk

1. **Welcome:** Parking Area
2. **Tobacco & Reconstruction:** Stop 2
3. **Education:** Stop 7
4. **Religion:** Stop 14
5. **Resort Towns:** Stop 15

## Locations:

## Points of

## Interest:

1. William R. Barker House, 22600 Aquasco Rd.
2. Villa de Alpacas Farm, 22410 Aquasco Rd.
3. Hardesty's Haven Cafe, 22102 Aquasco Rd.
4. Adams-Bowen House, 16002 Dr. Bowen Rd
5. Scott Farmhouse, 16100 St. Philips Rd.
6. Keech House, 22700 Aquasco Rd.

## Heritage Trail Stops & Markers:

1. **Trueman Point**, 18601 Trueman Point Rd. Historically a wharf, Trueman Point is now a Town of Eagle Harbor park.
2. **Barker-Bowling-Forbes Family**, 22457 Aquasco Rd. These families were prominent planters whose elaborate plantation houses still dot the landscape.
3. **St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church**, 22457 Aquasco Rd. Built in 1832 by John Bowling, this is the first Roman Catholic Church in the area.
4. **Miss Sarah Hall House and Store**, 22300 Aquasco Rd. The Hall family was a wealthy and prominent family in the Aquasco area during the 1800s.
5. **St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Rectory**, 22200 Aquasco Rd. & 16305 St. Mary's Church Rd. This church is an important religious and social landmark.
6. **Aquasco Schoolhouse**, 16606 St. Mary's Church Rd. This c. 1902 building served as the schoolhouse for Aquasco's white children during segregation.
7. **Woodville Schoolhouse**, 21500 Aquasco Rd. This was the third school built for African American children in Aquasco when schools were still segregated.
8. **Aquasco Mill**, 15308 Dr. Bowen Rd. The grist mill ran from c.1789 to the 1920s, and is privately owned.
9. **PA Bowen Farmstead**, 15701 Dr. Bowen Rd. This land, originally granted to the Truman family, now operates as a dairy farm specializing in artisanal cheese.
10. **Sunnyside**, 16005 Dr. Bowen Rd. Built in 1844, this was the home of Dr. Michael Jenifer Stone, a prominent doctor of nineteenth century Aquasco.
11. **St. Philip's Episcopal Chapel Site and Cemetery**, 16100 St. Philips Rd. Founded c. 1880, this is one of the first two episcopal churches in Prince George's County and also has ties to civil rights activist Pauli Murray.
12. **Scott Family Cemetery**, South side of St. Philips Rd. An example of family plots popular in this region, the oldest grave in this cemetery dates to 1865.
13. **Cochrane and Grimes Store and House**, 22609 Aquasco Rd. The now abandoned James A. Cochrane Store on Aquasco Road was first owned by James Cochrane, and then by the Grimes family who owned several nearby properties.
14. **John Wesley Methodist Church and Cemetery**, 22919 Christ Church Rd. Founded in 1866, the Church and Cemetery are notable as one of the earliest religious institutions established in Prince George's County for freedmen.
15. **Businesses in Eagle Harbor**, 18301 Elm Trail. Learn about business enterprises as you enter the Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven communities.
16. **Artesian Well**, E Patuxent Blvd and Elm Trail. This well supplied water to the citizens of Eagle Harbor for over 60 years.
17. **Eagle Harbor Beach**, 23320 Patuxent Blvd. Eagle Harbor became known as "The Paradise on the Patuxent" because of its sandy beach, which is difficult to spot today due to shoreline erosion.
18. **Kit Houses**, Booker Washington Avenue. Some houses in Cedar Haven were inspired by Sears, Roebuck and Company Kit homes.
19. **Cedar Haven Hotel**, Daniel Payne St. The Hotel served the community as a gathering space for weekly events and summer fun.

# Introduction

Within this guide are brief outlines of 22 sites that are historically significant to the communities of Aquasco, Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor. For each site, a historic marker exists to emphasize its role in defining the past, present, and future of these three resilient communities. These stories begin with 18<sup>th</sup> century narratives of wealthy white landowners; their enslaved African American workers living in the area and their descendants who continue to live there; as well as those that sought its shores as a place of recreation.

Tobacco remained a staple crop in the economy of Prince George's County well into the 19th century, and so too did the area's dependence on enslaved labor. The area of Aquasco got its name from a near-by land tract known as "Aquascake."<sup>1</sup>

Before European colonization, the Piscataway Tribe lived in villages along the Patuxent River. During the 17th and early 18th centuries, English settlements spread up the Chesapeake Bay in search of arable land and navigable waterways for tobacco production. Tobacco requires good soil, a great deal of labor, and accessibility to a trade port. While the first few decades of the English colonies used indentured servants as agricultural works, by the 18th century imported, enslaved labor working on large plantations became the cornerstone of the economy.<sup>2</sup>

A small rural community named Woodville was established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. While remaining predominantly agriculture even into the 21st century, Woodville developed additional industries such as productive fisheries, a mill, several small commercial stores, and a trade port along the Patuxent River.

The Civil War caused a massive upheaval in the social structure of Woodville's agrarian society. Prince George's County had the largest enslaved population in the state, especially in

agricultural areas such as Woodville.<sup>3</sup> After emancipation, the African Americans in the area became small land-holders and tenant farmers. During Reconstruction, these communities grew, establishing a school and several churches.



Figure 1. 1937 Woodville School on Aquasco Road. Source: M-NCPPC, 2011.

While the agricultural basis of the economy remained the same, the African American community grew into the 20th century. The areas of Aquasco, Cedar Haven, and Eagle Harbor were established; Aquasco as the inheritor of Woodville's agricultural population, and Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor as new resort communities.<sup>4</sup> Founded in the late 1920s, these African American waterfront neighborhoods provided a beach front escape from summer heat and city life.

Though they have faced many challenges during their history--wars, slavery, racism, economic variability—all have remained resilient and continue to thrive today. Their most recent challenges include the presence of a coal burning power plant located just south of the communities on the Patuxent River, which inevitably carries environmental concerns, as well as the expansion of DC commuter suburban development into the southern reaches of Prince George's County.

# Themes

The Farmsteads & Resort Towns Trail encompasses a diverse range of historic sites, each significant in their own right. From an early trade port with a tobacco economy, to the creation of resort communities servicing the region's African American community, these sites show the breadth of experiences which have been engraved on to the landscape with the passage of centuries.

To better understand these sites, this guide identifies themes which represent important aspects of the community's story.



**Tobacco and Reconstruction** sites date from 1600s to the 1800s; from the wealthy plantation families to the blossoming of the African American community's presence on the landscape.



**Religion** highlights the area's religious institutions, and their significance to religious society.



**Education** includes the schoolhouses that became pillars of the community, valued both as places of education and community gathering.



**Resort Towns** shares the stories of Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven, from their creation to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The reality of racial segregation, which has shaped these historic sites from the days of African labor in tobacco production, to the creation of African American resort communities, weaves throughout this trail. The first site of the trail, Trueman Point, stands out as uniquely encapsulating all of these themes across time.

The themes which emerge from these sites span across time and place to capture some of the complexities of this rural community. Woven together, these sites tell different strands of the community's history. Each theme is represented by a color and symbol on the site markers.

# Trueman Point

Located at the southern tip of Prince George's County along the Patuxent River, Truman Point served as a river port for the local farms from the 18<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It was first used as a tobacco port for the local area in 1747. Although the official tobacco warehouse inspection port moved to another site only a few years later, Trueman Point was still used into the 19<sup>th</sup> century for shipping tobacco and other produces. In 1817, George Weem's acquired the land as part of his steamboat operation. The land transferred hands between steamboat and railroad companies until 1936, when the Baltimore and Virginia Steamboat Co. sold the property to a private owner.<sup>5</sup>

**WEEMS LINE STEAMERS.**  
 Piers 8 and 9 Light street: MASON L. WEEMS, EVERY WEDNESDAY, at 4.30 P. M., for the RAPPANNOCK RIVER as far as Naylor's. RETURNING—Leave Rappahannock at 10 A. M. Thursday. WESTMORELAND and MASON L. WEEMS, TUESDAY and FRIDAY, 4.30 P. M., for Fredericksburg and all Landings on the Rappahannock. RETURNING—Leave Fredericksburg MONDAY and THURSDAY AFTERNOONS. No freight received for outgoing steamers after 3.30 P. M. on sailing days. THEODORE WEEMS, TUESDAY, THURSDAY and SATURDAY, at 7 A. M., for Fair Haven, Plum Point, Governor's Run and Patuxent River as far as Benedict. RETURNING—Leave Benedict at 6.30 A. M. MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY. WESTMORELAND, 9 P. M. SUNDAY, for Patuxent River direct as far as Bristol. RETURNING—Leave Bristol at 12 M. MONDAY, calling at wharves below Benedict for passengers only. Freight received on Saturday for wharves above Benedict only. 82-11 HENRY WILLIAMS, Agt., office 428 Light st.

Figure 2. Source: *The Baltimore Sun*, pg. 3.; Jul 18, 1888

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, when segregation laws kept African Americans from accessing many public beaches, Trueman's Point Landing became a location of recreation for African American communities, especially those trying to escape the summer heat of Washington DC and Baltimore.<sup>6</sup> Trueman's

Point remained in private ownership for the rest of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Parcels extending to the north and south of the wharf were sold in the 1920s to develop the adjacent communities of Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor.<sup>7</sup> The remaining 9 acres of the property continued on undeveloped. The waterfront served as a significant place for religious meetings and baptisms during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>8</sup>

The Town of Eagle Harbor was able to purchase the land in 2013, establishing it as a park for use by the town's residents. Local history says that Trueman Point was once used to deliver enslaved individuals to the large plantations in the area. It is exceptionally significant then, for a community founded for African Americans in an era of segregation to now have control over the land on which their ancestors were once bought and sold.



Figure 3. Historic photograph of the wharf at Trueman Point. Source: *Prince George's County, A Pictorial History* by Alan Virta.

# Barker, Bowling, and Forbes Family

As the community of Woodville came to life during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a successful life of farming drew many planters to the area. Several of these planters intermarried, creating long-lasting relationships. Three such families, the Barkers, the Bowlings, and the Forbes, created one such bond.

William Barker was a prominent member of Woodville society throughout the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. In 1829, he married Charity Gill and promptly purchased property in the county. Along with owning one of the area plantations, Barker also served a term in the Maryland House of Delegates. Family tradition states



Figure 4. William R. Barker House, Photograph by Marina King. Source: Prince George's County HPC.

that in 1832, Barker and his wife hosted the wedding of Colonel John Bowling to Charity's sister, Elizabeth, effectively uniting the Barker and Bowling families.<sup>9</sup> Barker and John shared a close personal relationship throughout their lifetime. In 1853, Bowling nominated Barker as Commissioner of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad Line, a position to which he was subsequently appointed. Since Barker and Gill never had children, upon his death in 1866, he left his entire estate, to Bowling's children. The house remained in the Bowling family until 1918.

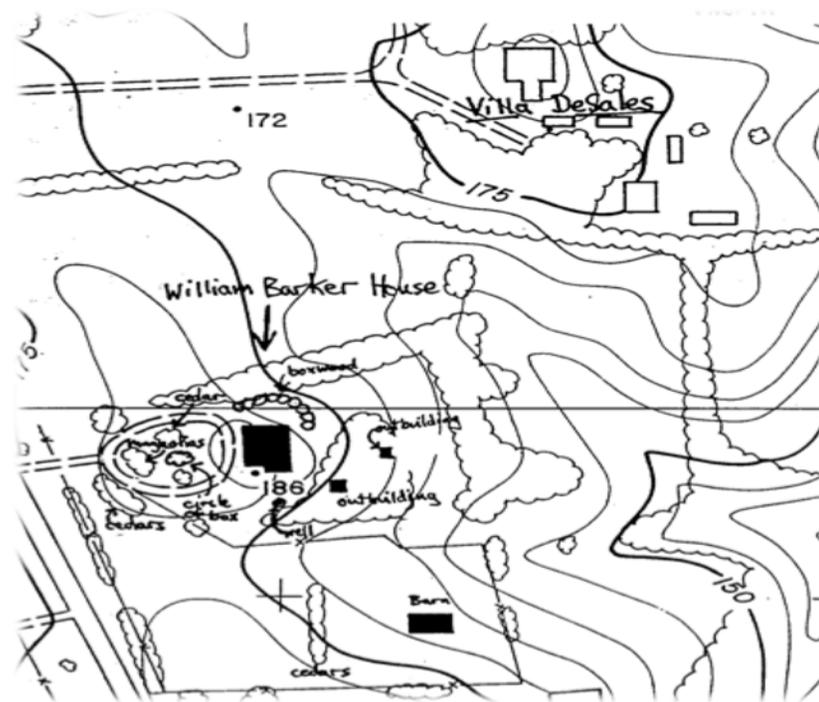


Figure 5. 1989 Site Plan showing the William R. Barker and Villa DeSales properties. Source: Prince George's County HPC

# Barker, Bowling, and Forbes Family

Colonel John Bowling was the influential patriarch of the Bowling family. John and his wife, Elizabeth, had several children who also forged strong relationships with other prominent families in the area. His daughter, Frances, married George Forbes Jr. in 1872, the son of Colonel George Forbes.<sup>10</sup> The Forbes family were another prominent family in the area, having amassed a large amount of land and wealth through planting and slave labor. A few years after their wedding, Fanny and George built their home, Villa DeSales, a High Victorian Gothic Revival style dwelling named after Fanny's high school – Mount DeSales Academy.<sup>11</sup> Additionally, they also constructed the only known High Victorian Gothic Revival style stable in the county.<sup>12</sup>

To this day, their descendants still occupy Villa DeSales. The current owner, Mrs. Angel Forbes Simmons, uses 12 acres of the property to raise high quality alpacas. Unique alpaca fiber clothing and textiles are then sold from the showroom inside the main house.<sup>13</sup> In 2007, the farm was honored by Governor O'Malley for being one of four bicentennial farms remaining in Maryland as it has been continuously farmed by the same family for over 200 years.<sup>14</sup> It has also been recognized as the only self-sustaining bicentennial farm remaining in Maryland that is run entirely by one woman.<sup>15</sup>



Figure 7. Villa DeSales. Source: photograph by M. Dwyer, Prince George's County HPC.



Figure 6. Portrait of George Forbes in Villa DeSales. Source: photograph by Marina King.



Figure 8. The stable at Villa DeSales. Source: photography by Marina King.

# St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church

Colonel John Dominic Bowling, a devoted Catholic, married Elizabeth Gill, an Episcopalian, in 1832.<sup>16</sup> At the time, there were no Catholic churches in Woodville/Aquasco, much to Colonel Bowling's disappointment. Instead, the couple's thirteen children were raised in Elizabeth's faith, and baptized at St. Mary's near their home. Their daughter, Frances Bowling, attended Catholic boarding school and later wrote about converting to her father's faith.<sup>17</sup> Colonel Bowling longed for a Catholic Church within his community, yet none were built during his lifetime.

In 1875, Colonel Bowling passed the task to his son. His will dedicated \$1,000 to John Bowling for the construction of a Roman Catholic Church on a section of his property.<sup>18</sup> Four years later, in May of 1879, John completed his father's request and Woodville had its first Catholic Church.<sup>19</sup> The Archbishop of



Figure 9. Interior of St. Dominic's Church. Source: Vivian and Edward B. Edelen, unknown date

Baltimore City, James Cardinal Gibbons dedicated the church and its nearby cemetery for the Bowling family.<sup>20</sup> At that time, St. Dominic's had a very different appearance. The building featured German siding, wooden shingles, and a rose window on the side facing the road.<sup>21</sup> The arched windows had shutters that could be closed when the church was not in use.<sup>22</sup> It is unclear when St. Dominic's Church got its present-day brick exterior and stain glass windows.

In 1986, Colonel Bowling's great-granddaughter, Mittie Forbes Simmons, donated additional land from Villa de Sales for more parking.<sup>23</sup> St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church, located on Aquasco Road, is still used today for church services and social events. Currently, it's a mission of St. Michael Parish in Baden, Maryland



Figure 10. Main Entrance of St. Dominic's Church. Source: Veronica Martin, 2019

# Miss Sarah Hall House and Hall Store

Miss Sarah Hall House was constructed in 1875 by the Hall family, who were wealthy plantation owners in Aquasco at the time. When William Hall died in 1870, Sarah Hall lived on the property with her widowed mother and her other siblings (Susan, John, Richard and Mary)<sup>24</sup>. Sarah Hall remained unmarried throughout her life and continued to live with her sister, Mary, and her husband, Dr. John C. Thomas, on the property into the early 1900s<sup>25</sup>. During Sarah Hall's residency on the property, the house underwent its first enlargement and alteration.



Figure 11. Miss Sarah Hall House. Soucre: Maryland Historic Trust

The Hall store located north of the house was constructed in 1850. This structure was built by members of the Hall family. The store was an important commercial outlet for the rural community. Issac Childs, a Union veteran of the Civil War and a member of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR)<sup>26</sup>, bought the store in 1885. Like the Miss Sarah Hall house, the store has gone through many alterations during its history. Both properties owned by the Hall family showcases the wealth and influence these prominent plantation and mining families had in the Aquasco area during the 1800s.



Figure 12. Hall Store in 2008. Source: Maryland Historic Trust

# St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Rectory

St. Mary's Episcopal Church is an important social and religious landmark in Aquasco area. The mission chapel serves the southernmost congregants of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baden. The first church, built in 1848, was of wood frame construction and covered with stucco.<sup>27</sup> The original church did not have the distinctive corner tower seen today, but instead a small belfry. During the Civil War, the Union rode their horses through Aquasco. Stopping at St. Mary's Church and fed their horses from the baptismal font to show their contempt for Confederate sympathizers.

It is unclear why the church was rebuilt in 1920, but the present-day Tudor inspired church and the corner tower is the result of that rebuilding project. In 1849, the parish built the rectory just east of the chapel.<sup>28</sup>



Figure 13. Watercolor painting of St. Mary's Episcopal Church by Betty Taussig. Source: *Windfall of Inherited Treasure*.

The parish intended to build the rectory closer to the main church, St. Paul's in Baden. However, George Morton, a

wealthy vestry and plantation owner, donated a plot of land in Aquasco, thus the rectory was built near St. Mary's, the mission chapel instead<sup>29</sup>. Today the church is part of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, since this was a stop for the British troops on their march towards Washington during the War of 1812. St. Mary's Rectory is now a private residence.

Located in the heart of Aquasco, this religious structure was also the center of social events in the area. Prominent plantation owners of Aquasco like W.R. Barker, George Morton and John L. Turner were members of the church. Thus, it was the venue of many high profiled weddings and many prominent families were also buried in the church cemetery as well. Even in 1921, W.T. Davis of Washington, a popular contralto soloist, held a performance in the church<sup>30</sup>

In the nineteenth century, St. Mary's Church was originally integrated with African Americans like St. Paul's Church. However, after the Civil War, the congregation at St. Mary's became segregated. A separate church, St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, was erected west of Aquasco for the black Episcopalians in the area<sup>31</sup>.



Figure 14. St. Mary's Rectory in 2019. Source: Veronica Martin

# Aquasco Schoolhouse

This schoolhouse dates to the early twentieth century,<sup>32</sup> although historic maps indicate that other schools were in this location as well.<sup>33</sup> The white children of Aquasco attended this school until the 1940s when it was converted into a local health clinic.<sup>34</sup> In 1984, it was converted into a church and still operates as the Scripture Way Church. Although the interior has been highly altered, the building itself is still a recognized feature of Aquasco's history.<sup>35</sup>



Figure 15. This photograph appeared in an "Identify-Faces & Places?" segment of the *Chesapeake Country Life* magazine. The original caption of this photograph is, "Aquasco School in Prince George's County. 8 grades in one room. Teacher, Mrs. Mollie Ireland, May 1902." One recollection, however, is that the school was referred to as "Woodville Elementary School" and that the photo was taken in 1906. Another recollection is that Mrs. Ireland taught here in the 1880s. The chalkboard sign in the middle reads, "School #1, District 8, May" The year is obscured by a wayward knee. (Source: *Chesapeake Country Life*, September 1981).



Figure 16. East elevation facing west. This photo was taken before some windows were replaced and others were covered in vinyl siding. Source: Mowyer, June 1974.



Figure 17. West elevation facing east. This elevation is visible when driving east on St. Mary's Church Road. Source: Rebecca Ballo, M-NCPPC, 2004.

# Woodville Schoolhouse

This building was the third and final schoolhouse built for African American students in Aquasco. According to oral tradition, the first was built on the grounds of the John Wesley Methodist Church in 1868 by the Freedmen's Bureau. The three trustees for the school also served as trustees for the church. In 1877, the second African American elementary school was built on the west side of Aquasco Road, about 100 yards south of this school. This was a one room frame building that accommodated a coal stove, black boards, and 33-desks.<sup>36</sup>



Figure 18. From 1877-1934, this building served as the schoolhouse for the African American children of Aquasco. It was located at 21601 Aquasco Road and was demolished in 2011. Source: *African-American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland* – M-NCPPC.

The 1877 school remained in use until a larger schoolhouse was needed. The Board of Education purchased a 2-1/2-acre lot on the east side of Aquasco Road. The Board purchased building materials, and the construction was performed by Emergency Relief Administration labor. Construction was

complete on this schoolhouse in 1934. The end result is the building you see here: a three-classroom rural school, the largest built for African Americans at that time in Prince George's County. It was designed by Upman & Adams,<sup>37</sup> architects based out of Washington, D.C.<sup>38</sup>

The school closed in 1955 and was purchased by the St. John's Commandery #373. This African American Catholic group uses the former schoolhouse as a meeting space and social hall.<sup>39</sup> After the school closed, African American students had to travel north to Orme Elementary, near where the William Schmidt Outdoor Education Center is today, until Prince George's County schools were officially desegregated in 1965.<sup>40</sup>



Figure 19. The Woodville Schoolhouse in 2019. Source: Grace Davenport, 2019.

# Aquasco Mill

The Aquasco Mill is located on the eastern side of Swanson's Creek. The mill measures about 28 by 28 feet and historically had a 4-foot broad wheel powering two mill stones. It served as a grist mill for the local area from its construction ca. 1789 until the 1920s. Today only three stone walls of the mill remain standing. While filled in with soil, the mill run is still visible running parallel to the creek.

Historically known as "Aquasco Mill Farm," the property on which the mill is located passed through ownership of several well-known families in the area. The land was originally part of a tract of land known as "Purchase" sold to Thomas Truman in 1665.<sup>41</sup> A 1789 Maryland Gazette publication advertised the sale of 300 acres of land from "Purchase" and the adjoining farm "Buttington." The property included "a new valuable grist mill, with other improvements."<sup>42</sup>



Figure 20. 1798, Survey map by Dennis Griffith. The star next to "Johnsons" indicated the location of a mill. Accessed 2019. Source: Library of Congress.

Rinaldo Johnson, a prominent landowner in Aquasco, owned the mill during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>43</sup> After his death in 1811 his second wife, Ann Johnson, daughter of George Mason and a wealthy landowner herself, continued to live on the property. In August 1814, during the War of 1812, British troops ransacked her property on their way to the capital. Prior to this invasion, then Secretary of State James Monroe made a stop at "Aquasco Mill" to observe British troop movement and report is back to Washington D.C.<sup>44</sup>

St. Mary's county, January 19, 1790.  
**C**OMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro man who calls himself TOM, he is about five feet five or six inches high, has on a new fear-nought jacket, white country cloth breeches, country made shoes and stockings, and a new osnabrig shirt; he appears to be about twenty-five or thirty years of age, and says he belongs to Mr. Rinaldo Johnson, of Prince-George's county. His owner is desired to take him away and pay charges, or he will be sold, in one month from this date, for his prison fees.  
 P. FORD, Sheriff.

Figure 21. Fugitive Slave advertisement, January 19, 1790. Source: Maryland Gazette, pg.4.

Historic maps show that the mill remained in service under the next two owners of the property, George A. M. Turner and P. A. Bowen. An 1880 Manufacturing Schedule of the Federal Census lists the mill as producing 100 bbl of flour, 135 tons of meal, and 8.5 tons of feed.<sup>45</sup> The mill serviced the local community for over 200 years before falling into disuse.

# PA Bowen Farmstead

Historically connected with the Aquasco Mill, the PA Bowen Farmstead land dates back to the original land grants of Aquasco. By the middle of the nineteenth century, George Allen Morton Turner owned the property, with several functioning outbuildings including the Aquasco Mill. At this time, the property was known as Aquasco Mill Farm. Like many other planters in the area, George was the owner of many slaves.<sup>46</sup> Turner died in 1861 and left four young orphaned children. Philander Adams Bowen, along with his wife and children, was the next family to fill this house.<sup>47</sup> Some sources indicate that he tore down the Turner dwelling in order to build his own house,<sup>48</sup> and others indicate that he merely added an addition to the east.<sup>49</sup>

Philander was a well-respected teacher and principal in Georgetown but moved his family to Prince George's County so that his wife, Rachel Ann Etheldra Morton Bowen, could be closer to her family.<sup>50</sup> Although Philander became a farmer, he remained dedicated to community service.



Figure 22. Philander A. Bowen (1826-1919) and his wife Rachel Ann Etheldra Morton Bowen (1837-1924) on their wedding day. Rachel is wearing mourning clothing in honor of her father's death. Source: Richard Kirkpatrick and Sally Fallon Morell.

In 1902, he was appointed as a trustee for the Woodville public school.<sup>51</sup> Bowen's children were equally as active in the community. One child played on the Woodville baseball team,<sup>52</sup> another was married at St. Paul's with a reception held at the Bowen Mansion,<sup>53</sup> and another child became a doctor that served the Aquasco community.<sup>54</sup>

The house remained in the Bowen family until 1927. It changed hands a few more times after that. In 2009, the current owners purchased the property. It now operates as a dairy farm that offers tours and a gift shop with Maryland-created crafts and artisan cheese.



Figure 23. The house, as it appeared in the 1989 HABS survey. Source: HABS

# Sunnyside

Dr. Michael Jenifer Stone was a very prominent and respected member of the Woodville community thanks to his family connections. Dr. Stone's father served in the Maryland House of Delegates, was a member of the state's Constitutional Convention in 1788, and was then elected to the first United States Congress in 1789.<sup>55</sup> His uncle, Thomas Stone, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence.<sup>56</sup> However, Dr. Stone was also respected by his community for his own work. He practiced medicine out of his home and served as the first Prince George's County Examiner.<sup>57</sup> An examiner reported to the board of County School Commissioners about the physical condition of school buildings and the level of teaching in the classroom. Dr. Stone served from 1868 until his death in 1877.<sup>58</sup>



Figure 24. Dr. Stone Susan A. Somervell<sup>59</sup>

In 1844, Dr. Stone built Sunnyside for his family.<sup>60</sup> The property originally featured the house, a corncrib, and a summer kitchen with slave quarter located above. At some point, the house and summer kitchen were connected by a passageway. According to family lore, the house was expanded when the Stone family grew too large for the original house footprint as Dr. Stone and his wife, Susan A. Somervell had six children.<sup>61</sup> According to slave inventories from the census, he owned eight slaves in 1850 and seven in 1860.<sup>62</sup> During the Civil War, Dr. Stone lost some of his estate.<sup>63</sup>

Out of the six Stone children, only the eldest daughter, Mary, married.<sup>64</sup> She had two daughters, and after her death in 1881, they were raised at Sunnyside. The house and property remained in the family until 1980.<sup>65</sup> Currently, the property is a private residence.



Figure 25. Sunnyside Watercolor by Betty Taussig<sup>66</sup>

# St. Phillips Episcopal Church and Cemetery

Located at the beginning of St. Phillips Road, the St. Phillips church was the first of two African American Episcopal churches in Prince George's County founded c.1880. The church building was a white gable roof frame structure, four bays across with the main entrance through the vestibule. The church bell was cast by McShane and Co. in 1884. The building was renovated in 1932, and a low apse was added to the South end. In 1976 the church burned down. The bell-cote and the 1884 bell are all that survive of the church and sit to the west of where the church once stood.<sup>67</sup> The bell-cote collapsed at some point in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century according to local accounts and was rebuilt by St. Mary's County Amish.<sup>68</sup> According to church records, a community hall once stood a mile from the church.<sup>69</sup>

A notable figure associated with the church is Civil Rights activist and first African American woman to be an ordained Episcopal priest, Pauli Murray. Her uncle had served as vicar of the church in the 1920s, and she often attended the church as a child when spending summers with her aunt and uncle.



Figure 26. St. Phillips Chapel, unknown date. Source: St. Phillips Church, Baden Parish.

She completed her parish field work at the site from 1975 until it burned down in 1976. She was serving there when the church burnt down. She described the site as follows: "Its white wooden structure held scarcely more than a hundred people, but for me it rivaled the quality of a great cathedral."<sup>70</sup>

The church burned down in November 1976 due to a furnace explosion.<sup>71</sup> There was some tension in Aquasco while the congregation tried to find a new meeting spot. There was pressure from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington for St. Mary's, the all-white Episcopal church, to be given to the congregation, which both congregations rejected strongly, with St. Phillips congregation wanting a new church to be built on the site of the old one.<sup>72</sup> This tension was likely compounded by the fact that St. Mary's at the time was segregated with black and whites sitting on opposite sides of the church.<sup>73</sup> According to local accounts The congregation eventually bought a church in Baden, MD where it operates out of today.



Figure 27. A woman receiving communion, St. Phillips Church, ca. 1975-76. Source: Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.

# Scott Family Cemetery

The Scott cemetery belongs to the Scott family and is a reserved space for family burials only; the Scotts and the Fenwicks. The Scott family was a wealthy white family who owned tobacco farms and had 20 slaves at one point in time.<sup>74</sup> This is a small family burial plot that sits next to St. Phillip's Road and is enclosed by a chain-link fence. Apparently, it is still used for burials as some of the stones are quite recent. Most of the older markers are for the Scott family, who farmed here in the mid and late 1800's. The cemetery represents the importance of family burial plots and is one example among several such cemeteries in the area.

The cemetery is located at the corner of a Tobacco barn. The Fenwicks have been living on the same street too as the Scotts. Douglas Fenwick is even known to have resided at Michael C. Scott's previous residence.<sup>75</sup>



Figure 28. Looking south at the Scott Cemetery Source: Picture taken on a site visit by Hassan Tariq

Among those who are buried in this cemetery, include; The Fenwicks; William B. from 1873 to 1948 and Rhoda M. from 1875 to 1963, and, Douglas C. Fenwick from 1908 to 1973; and, The Scotts; Lloyd M. Scott (died in 1865 at 56 years of age), Albert and Elizabeth Scott from 1802-91 and 1815-51 respectively. Albert was Lloyd's sibling. Michael C. Scott's (1849 to 1895) son, Andrew Hawkins Scott, is also buried here (PFC US Army, World War 1) who lived from 1890 to 1975. Scott family connects to Andrew Grimes because Andrew bought 6 acres of the Scott Farmhouse in 1902<sup>76</sup>

William and Rhoda Fenwicks were the parents of Douglas Fenwick according to US Federal census of 1930.<sup>77</sup> Douglas Fenwick had been a World War 2 veteran from 1940-47.<sup>78</sup> On the other hand, Andrew Scott, with occupation as a farmer, also served as a veteran in the World War 1, is also known to be living with Fenwicks during the 1930s.



Figure 29. Looking at the oldest grave at the Scott Cemetery, which dates back to 1865 Source: Picture taken on a site visit by Hassan Tariq.

# James A Cochrane Store

J. Selby built the James A. Cochrane Store c. 1850.<sup>79</sup> James A. Cochrane ran a merchant and blacksmith shop with his wife Mary Cochrane. They lived in the nearby Mary C. B. Cochrane house. On June 1, 1888 there was a fire at the store. The Cochranes insurance covered the \$3,500 of property damages.<sup>80</sup>

The Grimes family owned the store through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century operating an embalming and general goods store from the building. Andrew Grimes and his wife Margaret Ann Grimes had eight children and lived in the nearby Scott farmhouse on St. Philips Road, which the Grimes family owned from 1902 until 1996.<sup>81</sup> They also owned the Mary C. B. Cochrane House next door to the shop.

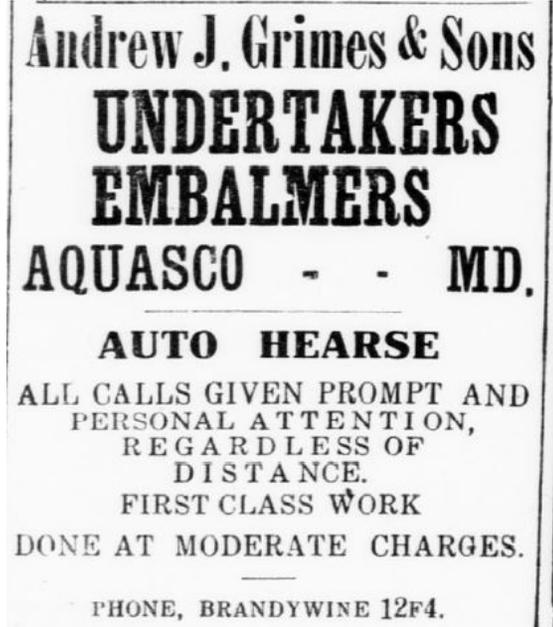


Figure 30 Advertisement for Andrew J. Grimes & Sons. Source: *The Prince Georges's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser*, April 29, 1921.

Members of the Grimes family continued to be business owners in Aquasco. The IGA store located at St. Philips and Aquasco Road, also known as the Grimes Market, was owned by Eugene C. Grimes Jr. from its opening in 1982 until his death in 2012. This 20<sup>th</sup> C. one story brick commercial building includes gas pumps.<sup>82</sup>

Currently the Cochrane Store sits abandoned. Its prominent location along the road makes it a curiosity for those interested in ruins. The site can be found in Pinterest and Flickr albums and was featured in an online article entitled "6 Eerily Beautiful Abandoned Funeral Homes and Morgues."<sup>83</sup>



Figure 31. James Cochrane store as seen from Aquasco Road. Source: Hassan Tariq

# Mary C B Cochrane House

Mary C. B. Cochrane purchased 3.72 acres of the tracts known as “part of Dove’s Rest”, and “Dove’s Perch” from Andrew Martine in 1873 and constructed a house in c.1875. Mary C. B. Cochrane seemed to have owned this property from 1873 to 1910. The house belonged to the Cochranes who originally owned the Cochrane store. James A. Cochrane, Mary’s husband, operated a general store to the north near the intersection of Eagle Harbor and the Aquasco road. The property consists of a few outbuildings as well including a garage, two barns, three sheds and a playhouse. Among all these, the playhouse does not date back to the Cochrane family’s lifetime. Mary C.B. Cochrane, her husband James A Cochrane, her three children, and her step-son resided in Aquasco. After her death in 1910, Mary Cochrane’s heirs J. Mitchell Cochrane and Ellen E. (Cochrane) Stanforth sold the property to Andrew Grimes.<sup>84</sup> Greg D. and Wendy J. Walston, who sold it the current owner Laura L. Johnson in 2006.<sup>85</sup>

Constructed c. 1875, the Mary C.B. Cochrane House is an example of the many vernacular farmhouses built in Prince George’s County in the late 19th century. Two and a half story high, 5 bay 2 part wooden frame house with vinyl siding with federally styled 4 over 4 double hung vinyl sash windows, has a half hipped roof-porch wrapping around East and North sides which screens off the first story windows from the sun. It has a cross gable roofing structure at the north end. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles with a central semicircular-top dormer windows located above the 2<sup>nd</sup> story at the gable ends. The roof has overhanging eaves and raked cornice. Roof has a total of 3 interior end chimneys- one centrally aligned chimney is at the southern end of the main block whereas, two more On May 31<sup>st</sup> 1995, the deed of 6.86 parcel was transferred to Greg

interior chimneys spaced equidistant from the center along north side. Porch is supported by Tuscan wood posts with wooden brackets. North side of porch has been screened in. There have been multiple additions to the house on west and south elevations which are not visible from the road. The whole house rests on a concrete foundation.



Figure 32. Looking southwest to the Cochrane house from Aquasco Road. Source: Photo by Hassan Tariq

# John Wesley Methodist Church

The John Wesley Methodist Church, or Christ United Methodist Church as it is called today, sits on Church Road. James Gray purchased the lot in 1866 from George Morton to erect a Methodist Episcopal Church for the freedman community. The first church was built in 1873. The Church was rebuilt in 1906, the original church was an unadorned wood-frame meeting-house structure, measuring 20' x 40' with a belfry. Nothing of the first two structures remains. The original bell remains to the west of the church. The fellowship hall was rebuilt in 1955 and the chapel was rebuilt in 1961. The site includes a cemetery with graves dating from 1915 to 2005. Burials no longer occur here. In 1973, John Wesley and St. Thomas Methodist churches merged to become Christ United Methodist Church.<sup>86</sup>



Figure 33 North elevation of Christ United Methodist Church. Source: Hassan Tariq

The site was the location of Aquasco's first Freedman's school. Erected in 1867, James Gray and two other Freedmen, Walter Thomas and Richard Thomas served as trustees of the school, and the Freedman's Bureau assigned a teacher in 1868. The school was known as the John Wesley School and operated until the Woodville School opened further north on Aquasco Road in 1934.<sup>87</sup>

The church is one of the earliest established freedman churches in Prince Georges County after the Civil War.<sup>88</sup>



Figure 34 Christ United Methodist's Bell, cast in 1892 by McShane and Co, Baltimore MD. Source: Tamara Schlossberg

# Resort Towns

In the early 1900s a beach trip to escape the city heat was not a simple outing for city dwelling African Americans, because most beaches welcomed 'whites-only.' In response, black beaches were sporadically carved out of those once 'white-only' shores but were established with unclear dividing lines. An explicit example of this ambiguity occurred in the summer of 1919 when a young black man, Eugene Williams of Chicago, swam into water that was recognized as the 'white section.'<sup>89</sup> His mistake led to his untimely death.

African Americans were often forced to face hostility by white beachgoers or be forced to go to undesirable waterfronts. In Washington, D.C., African Americans were sent to Buzzard Point beach; a former dumping ground full of pollutants and festering with health concerns.<sup>90</sup>

Of course, there were other less convenient options like boarding a Jim Crow Trolley to cross into Virginia to Anolstan Island, another undesirable location with a dry mud beach and water that was also infested with urban and industrial pollution.<sup>91</sup>

Having had enough of such repugnant options, John Stewart, a black funeral home director, collaborated with Walter Bean (DC Accountant) and Lansdale Sasscer (a white real estate developer and later U.S. congressman), to purchase land along the Patuxent River at the southern corner of Prince George's County for Eagle Harbor a summer resort town for blacks only in 1925.<sup>92</sup>



Figure 36. Newspaper added. Source: Washington Tribune



Figure 35. Eagle Harbor pier. Source: M-NCPPC



Figure 37. Eagle Harbor Logo. Source: Eagle Harbor, Inc.

# Resort Towns

With the help of E.S. Hine, the land was plotted into 1,000 lots measuring 25' x 100' and in mere months after its founding over half of those lots were sold to.<sup>93</sup> Primarily the lots were sold to the teachers and federal workers who flocked to the area. Inaugural residents pitched tents on their sites but overtime wooden and brick cottages lined the streets.<sup>94</sup> After a troublesome experience with a tax assessment, the community decided to incorporate raising it to the status of a town.



Figure 38. Cedar Haven "Picturesque Cedar Haven." Source: Hornbake Library at UMD



Figure 39. Newspaper Ad. Source: Washington Evening Star

The success of the Eagle Harbor getaway did not go unnoticed by other real estate investors in Washington D.C., and soon, those investors purchased land north of Eagle Harbor creating Cedar Haven. Today, these two communities have several year-long residents, but continue to welcome their seasonal neighbors who use their lots during the summer months to escape the bustling city and suburbs. Both communities seek sustainability and encourage visitors to events held throughout the year like Eagle Harbor's Town Day every August.



Figure 40. Source: courtesy of Sara Baum

# Resort Town Businesses

Historically, Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven have attempted to keep commercial enterprises out of their purposely remote towns, and frankly have been successful at doing so. There is very little built evidence of any businesses including places to shop or places to stay like a hotel or motel. However, although there is little to no built evidence does not mean they did not exist, it just means those ventures were less traditional and quaint so they would fit into the quietness of the towns.

Similarly to the Cedar Haven Hotel, Eagle Harbor hosted events from the Patuxent Hotel (built by the same constructors who constructed the African American High School in Fairmount Heights. The hotels were known for hosting events for those coming from DC primarily, but Eagle Harbor also had Mrs. Fields' Marie Villa which was well known for hosting families coming from out of town.<sup>95</sup> Like Mrs. Fields, Ernest Daniel, founder of Cedar Haven and owner of Carry Ice Cream in D.C., kept business within the community by providing ice cream to visiting schools.



Figure 42. Carry's Ice Cream Truck. Source: National Photo Co. Collection.

To further promote the modest and harmonious nature of the communities in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the towns continued to block the development of liquor stores or bars and poolrooms to avoid ruckus or commotion and maintain the peacefulness they were known for.<sup>96</sup> Instead of such activities guests were encouraged to partake in games and beach relaxation.

One existing business structure is The Wanderer Inn general store stands at the fork before entering either of the towns. It is currently owned by a local Aquasco farmer but has not been used as a store for some time. Employees of the store included those from the community and even Mayor Crudup worked there in 1963 for one weekend as a young adult.<sup>97</sup> Small, locally owned stores were important. They ensured residents could avoid hostility while shopping as well as on the beach.



Figure 41. General Store. Source: Sara Baum.

# Artesian Well

In the 1920's, the founders of Eagle Harbor laid out lots on the shore of the Patuxent River to be developed as resort town for African Americans. Lots in the town were advertised to communities around DC and Baltimore as an escape from city life and a chance to enjoy beach front recreation. In an area of segregation, Eagle Harbor became the first incorporated African American town in Maryland.<sup>98</sup>



Figure 43. Eagle Harbor Advertisement. Source: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The first generation of homes built in Eagle Harbor were used as summer cottages. Many residents did not initially put in wells on their property; instead the community had communal access to a well located near the center of town at the water's edge. The town installed the Artesian Well in the 1920s as the town

grew into a resort community. By the 1960s, the number of full-time residents in the town required wells be drilled for individual properties. But the Artesian Well continued to supply of water for many years, and only stopped running in 2014.<sup>99</sup>

In 2016, the Town of Eagle Harbor marked their Artesian Well as a historic site for the important service it provided the town for most of its history. Like the town itself, the Artesian Well is under threat from the effects of climate change due to erosion of the shoreline. The town has received grant funding to preserve their Artesian Well for future generations and addresses environmental concerns annually.



Figure 44. View of the Artesian Well in present-day. Source: Kathleen Jockel and Josette Graham, September 2019.

# Kit Houses

Established in 1927 as a waterfront community, Cedar Haven became the second summer recreation community for African-Americans. A new community meant new housing. Early construction in Cedar Haven comprised of small bungalows and cottages with porches and large setbacks.

Residents were encouraged to order homes from Sears, Roebuck and Company Kit Homes or model homes after their patterns. Kit houses offered reduced time for construction requiring only assembly-on-site. Developers encouraged owners to build models such as Magnolia, Belhaven or Whitehall, as they were small, and economical bungalows.



Figure 45. Top Left: The "Bellana." Beautiful recreation home of Miss Anna. E. Bell, (a photograph from the 1930s). Source: Cedar Haven on the Patuxent, *The Playground of nation's capital*, 'UMD Hornbake Library Archival Collection'.

Bottom Left: Cedar Villa located in Cedar Haven. Source: [lib.umd.edu/broadside](http://lib.umd.edu/broadside) advertising Cedar Haven 1930s.

Top Right: White Cedars' located on the Charles Young Avenue. Source: Source: Hassan Tariq, 2019.

Bottom Right: Looking West towards The Booker House from Phyllis Wheatley Avenue merging into Booker Washington Avenue. Source: Hassan Tariq, 2019.

Some of the earliest houses in the area include Sojourn, White Cedars, Cedar Villa and Bellana. Most of the houses have small sheds, garages or other outbuildings on the lot as well. Only the 'Bellana,' made as a recreation home for and named after its owner, Anna E. Bell, stands today in its nearly original form with its front-gabled facade on a raised pier foundation and an open flat-roofed porch<sup>100</sup>.



# Kit Houses

The Bellana is known to be a Kit house based on a 'Magnolia' model by Sears. 'White Cedars' is seemingly modelled after the Kit house design as well, which is a ten-room, two-apartment bungalow. One more obvious example is located at 22801 Booker Washington Avenue. It closely matches the Ocean Park Design shown in advertising material in the Cedar Haven' archival collection.<sup>101</sup> 'Cedar Villa' was yet another example of a bungalow/kit house located at the corner of Douglas Avenue and Allen Street<sup>102</sup> and resembled, both the Belhaven and the Westly<sup>103</sup> designs by Sears.

Whether or not these kit houses were largely adopted by the community, the large corporations such as Sears did set a few base models, from which, most of the Cedar Haven residents took huge inspiration.

**THE BELHAVEN—Plenty of Style—\$744** And We Pay The Freight

There is beauty in style in the Belhaven home—style of low cost. It combines a fine exterior with the best plan for convenience and compactness that can be possessed. Little things well planned add more beauty, such as well proportioned hood over front entrance, double over front windows, ornamental shutters, efficient sink in kitchen, screen light front door. These are all items that add much to the value of your home at very little cost. Plan is provided with an inside cellar stairway. If you wish to purchase one of the other Belhaven plans and desire a basement or cellar beneath the home, we suggest that you purchase our Cellar Stairway addition as described and priced on page 51. It provides a practical and convenient means of reaching back the cellar and the kitchen from the outside. The Belhaven home can be built with terraced front, lawn or screen, or set upon a better foundation. With the Belhaven home you receive 6' x 6' built-up center girders, 2" x 4" floor joists on 16 inch centers and 2" x 4" rafters on 24 inch centers. Ceiling height 8 feet. The roof has a one-quarter pitch. The hood over front entrance and ornamental shutters as shown are included in the price quoted for the home. See page 7 for complete specifications.

**THE OCEAN PARK—A Story and a Half Home—\$489** And We Pay The Freight

The Ocean Park is a story and a half home, something out of the ordinary in modern cottage architecture. Some fine features are incorporated in the five Ocean Park plans arranged in the utmost compact all around layout. The main roof extends over a summer home. The main roof extends over the porch in other versions. Plan No. 1 is a one bedroom cottage, and is priced as such. The other four plans, and rooms of all, contain three bedrooms and rooms of ample proportions. The Plan No. 1 arrangement contains the most convenient and arranged, one having a large living room and dining room, the other having three bedrooms. The sills are 4" x 6" built-up. The floor joists are 2" x 4" on 24-inch centers. The rafters are 2" x 4" on 24-inch centers. The roof is one-quarter pitch with exposed eaves. See specifications on page 54.

The Ocean Park, Plan No. 1	\$489
Plan No. 2	\$528
Plan No. 3	\$528
Plan No. 4	\$528
Plan No. 5	\$542

See Specifications, Page 54.

**THE MAGNOLIA—A Story and a Half Home—\$843** And We Pay The Freight

The Magnolia is the popular story and a half type of home. Three different first floor plans are arranged in the same general arrangement. The second floor plan is the same for all three plans. Some of our customers who prefer first floor plans with two bedrooms and bath rooms, the bath room for a dining room, or want the bath room entirely, adding a bathroom to the kitchen. The Magnolia plan C provides for a living room, kitchen, and bathroom on the first floor, no dining room being included. Many of our customers wish to have the kitchen for a dining room and the bathroom for a bedroom. We then place the entrance door close to the rear wall of the bedroom and provide a closet arch in place of the door between the living room and new dining room, including an extra window for the rear wall of the dining room, all at no charge. If you wish us to make this change for you, it is not necessary that you mention it when ordering. The \$87.50 change is applied accordingly for your convenience. It can be purchased as well as you wish. The second entrance of the porch can be furnished as entered shown in the second floor of plan C, making the first porch unnecessary. With the Magnolia home you receive 6" x 6" built-up girders, 2" x 4" floor and second floor joists on 16 inch centers, and 2" x 4" rafters on 24 inch centers. Ceiling height 8 feet first floor. See specifications on page 54.

The Magnolia, Freight Paid Prices	\$843
Plan A	\$843
Plan B	\$843
Plan C	\$843
50 sq. ft. Porch	\$122
Walls, Flooring, Wall Shading, and Building Paper	\$42
Wood, Lath, Cement	\$12

Figure 46. Left: Advertisement showing 'Belhaven' style of Catalog homes by Sears and Roebuck. Source: Advertisement showing 'Belhaven' style of Catalog homes by Sears and Roebuck.

Top Right: Advertisement showing Ocean Park style of Catalog homes by Sears and Roebuck. Source: Cedar Haven on the Patuxent, The Playground of nation's capital, 'UMD Hornbake Library Archival Collection'.

Bottom Right: Advertisement showing 'Magnolia' style of Catalog homes by Sears and Roebuck. Source: Cedar Haven on the Patuxent, The Playground of nation's capital, 'UMD Hornbake Library Archival Collection'

# Cedar Haven Hotel

The community of Cedar Haven opened on July 4, 1926 as a new summer resort town along the Patuxent River.<sup>104</sup> Just three years later, the Cedar Haven Hotel was hosting conferences, events, and parties. The hotel was a large bungalow equipped with gas, electricity, a garage, and a dance hall, and quickly became well known for its chicken dinners.<sup>105</sup> In 1929, the Cedar Haven Hotel hosted the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society.<sup>106</sup> The program included breakfast at the Hotel along with hiking, a baseball game, water sports, tennis and more!<sup>107</sup> The Hotel was home to the Clark Smith's School of Secretarial Service in 1930.<sup>108</sup> Tuition was only \$10 dollars, but for an additional \$5, students could stay at the Cedar Haven Hotel.<sup>109</sup>

Cedar Haven also had a bathhouse near the beach. The building offered lockers and dressing rooms for men and women. You could even rent a bathing suit!

The Cedar Haven Hotel is gone, lost in the changing landscape; however, newspaper articles provide us a look into the past. The Hotel served visitors and early residents, and showcases the bustling life of Cedar Haven during the community's early years. The physical may be gone, but the story of the Hotel and its impact still linger today.



Figure 47. Cedar Haven Hotel, date unknown Source: Hornbake Library

## Cedar Haven Hotel

Cedar Haven, Maryland  
ADJACENT TO EAGLE HARBOR, MD.

Figure 48. Advertisement for Cedar Haven Hotel. Source: Afro-American, 1930

**SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY**  
**NO RACIAL DISCRIMINATION**  
**Clark Smith's School of**  
**Secretarial Service**  
**(Incorporated)**

Figure 49. Advertisement for Clark Smith's School. Source: Afro-American 1930

# Eagle Harbor Beach

As “The Paradise on the Patuxent,” Eagle Harbor Beach is a vital resource to the waterfront community of Eagle Harbor. As a segregated beach for middle class African Americans from Washington D.C. during the Jim Crow era, African Americans could swim freely without discrimination here.<sup>110</sup> The beach was used for swimming, boating, bathing, hunting and crabbing. Many of the residents still recall their summer trips down to Eagle Harbor with their family.

One of the many environmental concerns for the community is the one inch of annual shoreline erosion,<sup>111</sup> which is making the historic beach unrecognizable as the popular vacation destination it was in the past. Along with substantial yearly shoreline erosion, the water quality of the beach has declined due to the operations of the nearby Chalk Point Generating Station. This level of environmental degradation is not only threatening the historic beach, but also many waterfront properties in Eagle Harbor.



Figure 50. Beach and Shoreline Erosion Source: Town of Eagle Harbor.

Climate change has elevated these environmental concerns, prompting the Eagle Harbor community to be more proactive about their vision of the future. The community’s efforts were recognized in August 2018, when Eagle Harbor became a Certified Sustainable Maryland Community<sup>112</sup>. As a part of their Sustainability Plan, Eagle Harbor is planning to improve and increase current infrastructure as well as implement a living shoreline system along the entire length of the Eagle Harbor coast. This effort not only serves to protect the tangible history of the Eagle Harbor community, but also revitalize the resort town into an attractive recreational and heritage tourism destination all year-round. Eagle Harbor Beach is not just a historic beach to the community, but a life source for the growth and continuation of this small, quaint waterfront town.

To learn more about how Eagle Harbor plans to “Cherish the past and plan for the future,” visit their website, [www.townofeagleharborincmd.org](http://www.townofeagleharborincmd.org), and visit Eagle Harbor on the first Saturday in August for “Town Day” to experience the rich waterfront history.



Figure 51. Waterfront structures at risk of flooding. Source: Town of Eagle Harbor

<sup>1</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *African-American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland*, February 2012, 191.

<sup>2</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *Illustrated Inventory of Historic Sites, Prince George's County, Maryland*, July, 2006, 7.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, 191.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid, 196.

<sup>5</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, "Historic Site Summary Sheet; Trueman Point (Landing)," accessed September 2019.

<sup>6</sup> Town of Eagle Harbor, Inc. "Historic 90<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary," 2014.

<sup>7</sup> Crudup, James D., Sr., Personal Communication, October 2019.

<sup>8</sup> "Personals." *The Baltimore Afro-American*, Aug 25, 1934; accessed via ProQuest Historical Newspapers, November 2019.

<sup>9</sup> King, Marina. "William R. Barker House." Prince George's County Historic Site Summary Sheet. Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Upper Marlboro, June 1990, 10.

<sup>10</sup> King, Marina. "Villa DeSales." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, Upper Marlboro, December 1987, 12.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, 13.

<sup>13</sup> Villa de Alpacas Farm. "Our Farm – Maryland's Last Self-Sustaining Bicentennial Farm." Marylandalpacafarm.com.

<sup>14</sup> Villa de Alpacas Farm. "History – One Farm, One Family, Five Generations." Marylandalpacafarm.com.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> Vivian and Edward B. Edelen. "St. Dominic's Catholic Church." Alpaca Fiber Products & Gifts | Villa de Alpacas Farm. August 29, 2019.

<sup>19</sup> Deed of Sale from John Bowling and Christina J. Bowling to Reverend James Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore City, May 30, 1879, Prince George's County, Maryland Land Records, Liber ATB- No. 1 Folio 272. Accessed on MDlandrec.net. Owen B. Corrigan. "A Model Country Parish and Its Records." Records of the American Catholic Historical Society of Philadelphia 35, no. 3 (1924): 197-241..

<sup>20</sup> Edelen, "St. Dominic's Catholic Church."

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Maria Dayton and Paul Weishar, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: Miss Sarah Hall House and Hall Store, (Washington D.C., EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2009).

<sup>25</sup> Maria Dayton and Paul Weishar, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: Miss Sarah Hall House and Hall Store, (Washington D.C., EHT Tracerics, Inc., 2009).

<sup>26</sup> Maryland Historical Trust, "Hall's Store," *Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form*, P.G.87B-9

<sup>27</sup> Maryland Historical Trust, "St. Mary's Episcopal Church," (1992), *Maryland Historical Trust State Historical Sites Survey Form*, P.G.87B-36-8b

<sup>28</sup> Maryland Historical Trust, "St. Mary's Episcopal Church," (1992), *Maryland Historical Trust State Historical Sites Survey Form*, P.G.87B-36-8b

<sup>29</sup> National Park Service, "St. Mary's Rectory," (1981), *National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form*, PG.87B-8a

<sup>30</sup> Maryland Historical Trust, "St. Mary's Episcopal Church," (1992), *Maryland Historical Trust State Historical Sites Survey Form*, P.G.87B-36-8b

<sup>31</sup> Susan G. Pearl, Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: St. Mary's Episcopal Church PG#87B-36-8b. Upper Marlboro, Maryland, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission, 2004.

<sup>32</sup> Rebecca Ballo, *Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: Woodville Schoolhouse No. 1*, October 8, 2004, <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/PrinceGeorges/PG;87B-4.pdf>.

<sup>33</sup> Simon Martenet, *Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland*, (Baltimore, 1861), <https://www.loc.gov/item/2002624036/>.

<sup>34</sup> *Greenbelt cooperator*. (Greenbelt, Md.), 16 Jan. 1942. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.

<sup>35</sup> Ballo, *Woodville Schoolhouse No. 1*, 2004.

<sup>36</sup> Susan Pearl, *Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form: Woodville "Colored" School*, May 1983, <https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/PrinceGeorges/PG;87B-34.pdf>.

<sup>37</sup> Upman & Adams contributed to the development of Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Percy Crowley Adams and Frank Upman worked in partnership from 1924-1945 but had a history of collaboration prior to 1924. Their most prominent commission was that of the Chevy Chase Theater (re-named the Avalon Theater). They had a lot of experience designed school buildings, most of which were located in Arlington, Virginia. *DC Architects Directory*.

<sup>38</sup> The Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *African-American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland*, February 2012.

<sup>39</sup> Pearl, *Woodville "Colored" School*, 1983.

<sup>40</sup> DeSales Farmer, interviewed by Grace Davenport. Phone.

<sup>41</sup> Prince George's County, "Historic Site Summary Sheet; P. A. Bowen Farmstead," accessed 2019.

- <sup>42</sup> "Prince George's County September 28, 1789," *Maryland Gazette*, October 15, 1789.
- <sup>43</sup> Pearl, Susan. PGCHS News and Views Message Board," December 2, 2006: Accessed October 2019.
- <sup>44</sup> Vogal, Steve, *Through the Perilous Fight: Six Weeks That Saved the Nation*, 85, 2013.
- <sup>45</sup> Pearl, Susan. "PGCHS News and Views Message Board."
- <sup>46</sup> The 1850 slave schedule for George A. M. Turner shows that he owned 37 slaves, ranging in age from 1 year old to 60 years old. The 1860 slave schedule shows that he owned 29 slaves, ages ranging from 6 months to 80 years old and that the property had 5 "slave houses."
- <sup>47</sup> Philander Adams Bowen was one of the administrators of Turner's estate as well as the husband of George's second cousin, Rachel Morton Bowen. Philander petitioned the County Court of Equity to sell the property to pay off Turner's debts so that his personal estate be saved for Turner's children. PA Bowen himself purchased the property in 1862, but the deed was not executed until 1869. Richard Kirkpatrick, Interviewed by Grace Davenport. Phone. And: Susan Pearl, *P. A. Bowen Farm*, 1984.
- <sup>48</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>49</sup> Joseph Rowe, *Aquasco Used to Be Woodville*, Orange, Virginia: 2005.
- <sup>50</sup> Catherine Lavoie, *P.A. Bowen House: Photographs and Written Historical and Descriptive Data*, Historic American Buildings Survey: 1989
- <sup>51</sup> *The Prince George's enquirer and southern Maryland advertiser*. (Upper Marlborough, Md.), 13 June 1902. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
- <sup>52</sup> C. Bowen bruised his hand very badly as a catcher in a game against the Port Tobacco team. The Woodville team lost 4 to 32. *Port Tobacco times, and Charles County advertiser*. (Port Tobacco, Md.), 13 June 1884. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
- <sup>53</sup> The wedding was described as "Brilliant" and that the bride was "most becomingly attired in white brocade silk, with satin facings, made *en train*." *Saint Mary's beacon*. [volume] (Leonard Town, Md.), 04 Dec. 1879. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers*. Lib. of Congress.
- <sup>54</sup> Dr. Harry M. Bowen, son of Philander A. Bowen, studied medicine at Georgetown and John's Hopkins Universities. He built the Adams-Bowen House on the North side of Dr. Bowen Road, and it is for him the road is named. He practiced out of his house and his office was in the southeast parlor of his house. Marina King, *Maryland Historic Trust/National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Adams-Bowen House*, Historic Preservation Commission: August, 1989.

- <sup>55</sup> Marina King, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Sunnyside, Aquasco, Maryland*, (Upper Marlboro, MD: Historic Preservation Commission, County Planning Division, 1986) 9.
- <sup>56</sup> Ibid.
- <sup>57</sup> Ibid., 10.
- <sup>58</sup> Eleanor T. Fay and A. Mild. Hoyle, *A Brief History of Early Times and an Account of the Educational Progress in Prince Georges County, Maryland* (Adelphi, MD: Community Projects Section, National Institute of Mental Health, 1965) 28.
- <sup>59</sup> Betty Carney Taussig, 17.
- <sup>60</sup> Marina King, 9.
- <sup>61</sup> Ibid., 6.
- <sup>62</sup> 1850 United States Census: Slave Schedules, Prince George's, Maryland, digital image s.v. "Michal J Stone," p. M432, 1,009 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration, and, 1860 United States Census: Slave Schedules, Prince George's, Maryland, digital image s.v. "M J Stone," p. M653, 1,438 rolls; National Archives and Records Administration.
- <sup>63</sup> Marina King, 10.
- <sup>64</sup> Taussig, Betty Carney. *Windfall of Inherited Treasures*. Annapolis, MD: Windfall Pub. Co., 1983, 64.
- <sup>65</sup> Marina King, 10.
- <sup>66</sup> Ibid., 7.
- <sup>67</sup> Maryland Historical Trust, "St. Phillip's Chapel," *Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form*, (1974).
- <sup>68</sup> Leo Hofmann (Aquasco resident) in conversation with the author, October 30, 2019.
- <sup>69</sup> Vivian Rich, email message to author, November 4, 2019.
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- <sup>72</sup> Eugene L. Meyer, "Black, White Congregations Angry Over P.G. Episcopal Church Shifts," *The Washington Post*, February 10, 1977.
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- <sup>76</sup> Maryland Historic Trust, "Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: Scott Farmhouse," No. 8, pg.1, accessed October 2019.
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- <sup>79</sup> Maryland Historical Trust (2008), "James A. Cochrane Store," *Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form*, P.G.:87B-036-17.
- <sup>80</sup> "Maryland Affairs" *The Democratic Advocate*, June 2, 1888.
- <sup>81</sup> Howard S. Berger, "Evaluation for Historic Site Designation: Findings, Conclusion and Recommendation, Scott Farmhouse," *Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission*, November 13, 2018.
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- <sup>83</sup> Maisel, David, "6 Eerily Beautiful Abandoned Funeral Homes and Morgues," August 5, 2014, usurnsonline.com, accessed: 13 October 2019.
- <sup>84</sup> Maryland Historic Trust, "Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form: Mary C.B. Cochrane House," No. 8, pg. 1, accessed October 2019.
- <sup>85</sup> *Ibid.*, No. 7, pg. 3.
- <sup>86</sup> Maryland Historical Trust, "John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church," (1983), *The Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory Form*, P.G. 87B-33.
- <sup>87</sup> The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, "87B-33, John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church site and Cemetery," *African-American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland* (2012), pg. 193.
- <sup>88</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>89</sup> History.com Editors. "The Red Summer of 1919." History. A&E Television Networks, December 2, 2009. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/chicago-race-riot-of-1919>.
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- <sup>91</sup> *ibid*
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- <sup>94</sup> Eastman, Michael. "Eagle Harbor: A Tranquil Riverside Refuge." *The Washington Post*. June 26, 1980.
- <sup>95</sup> "Mrs. Fields Entertains at Eagle Harbor Cottage." *The Baltimore Afro-American*, September 11, 1937.
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<sup>97</sup> Mayor James Crudup, interview by University of Maryland Studio Class, October 1, 2019, Eagle Harbor Community Center, Aquasco, MD.

<sup>98</sup> Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, *African-American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland*, February 2012.

<sup>99</sup> Crudup, James D., Sr., Personal Communication, October 2019.

<sup>100</sup> <https://issuu.com/mncppc/docs/aapgc>

<sup>101</sup> Cedar Haven on the Patuxent, The Playground of nation's capital, 'UMD Hornbake Library Archival Collection'

<sup>102</sup> Cedar Haven Ad from MD digital libraries, Broadside advertising Cedar Haven, MD, 1930s

<sup>103</sup> <https://www.oldhouseonline.com/house-tours/story-sears-houses>

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<sup>105</sup> 87B-039 Cedar Haven Community Description. Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

<sup>106</sup> "Dentists Plan Outing" *Evening star*. [volume] (Washington, D.C.), June 22, 1928.

<sup>107</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>108</sup> "Display Ad 65 -- no Title." *Afro-American (1893-1988)*, Jun 28, 1930.

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<sup>110</sup> Crudups, James D. Interviewed by Sara Baum, Grace Davenport, Amy Duan, Josette Graham, Kathleen Jockel, Veronica Martin, Paula Nasta, Tamara Scholossenberg, Hassan Tariq. Group Interview. 23308 Hawkins Drive, Aquasco, MD 20608-0028, October 1, 2019.

<sup>111</sup> Crudups, James D. Interviewed by Sara Baum, Grace Davenport, Amy Duan, Josette Graham, Kathleen Jockel, Veronica Martin, Paula Nasta, Tamara Scholossenberg, Hassan Tariq. Group Interview. 23308 Hawkins Drive, Aquasco, MD 20608-0028, October 1, 2019.

<sup>112</sup> Eagle Harbor Board of Commissioners. Historic 90<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary. Aquasco: Town of Eagle Harbor, 2019.

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**CHANGING LANDSCAPES**  
**FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS**

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*live more, play more*



# **CHANGING LANDSCAPES**

## **FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS**

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## **Appendix B: Route Map**



# CHANGING LANDSCAPES: FARMSTEADS AND RESORT TOWNS

Parking for bikers & a year-round porta-potty can be found at the Cedar Haven Fishing Area,  
18400 Phyllis Wheatley Avenue, Eagle Harbor, MD 20608

## Theme Kiosk

1. **Welcome: Parking Area**
2. **Tobacco & Reconstruction: Stop 2**
3. **Education: Stop 7**
4. **Religion: Stop 14**
5. **Resort Towns: Stop 15**

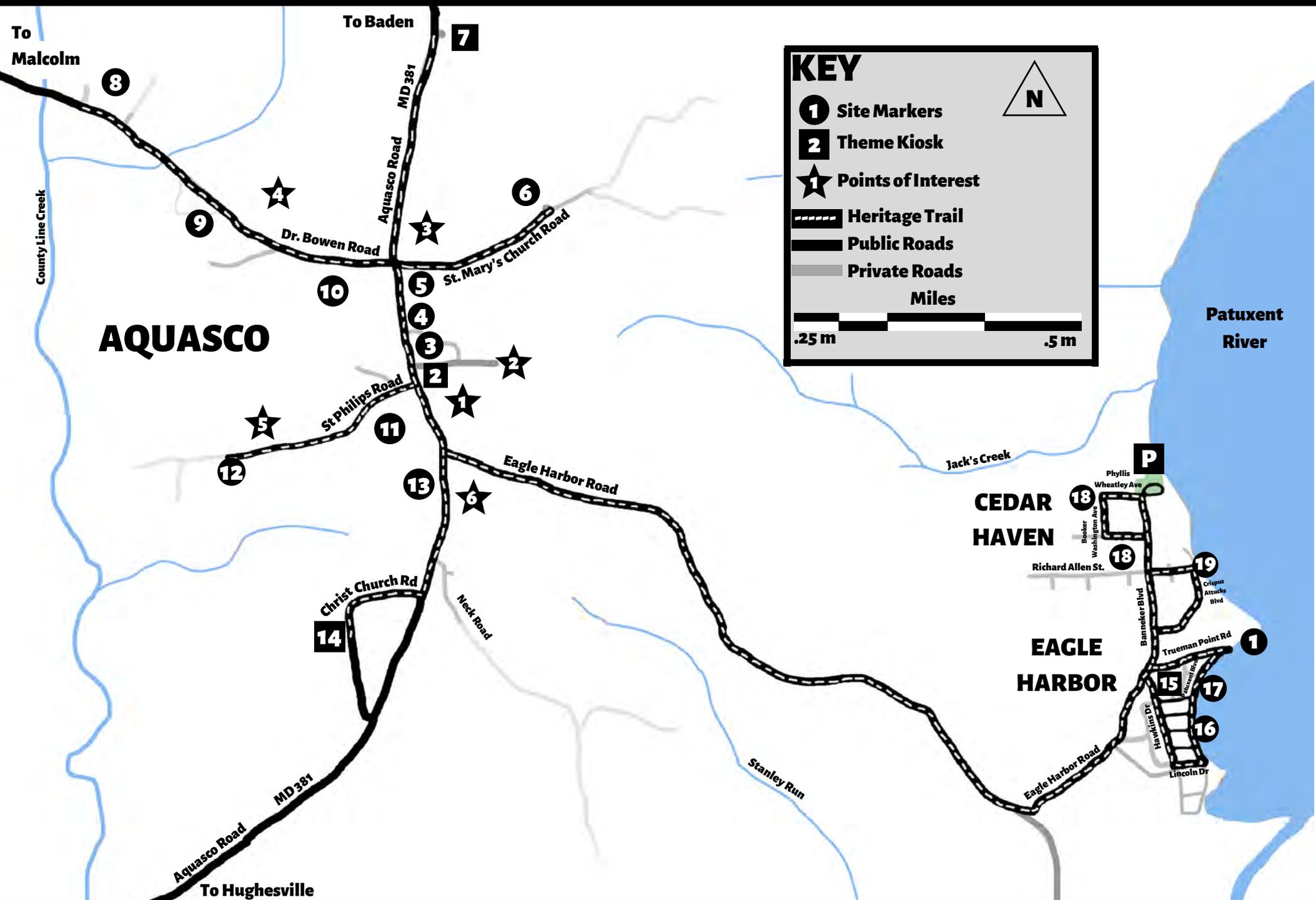
## Locations:

## Points of Interest:

1. William R. Barker House, 22600 Aquasco Rd.
2. Villa de Alpacas Farm, 22410 Aquasco Rd.
3. Hardesty's Haven Cafe, 22102 Aquasco Rd.
4. Adams-Bowen House, 16002 Dr. Bowen Rd
5. Scott Farmhouse, 16100 St. Philips Rd.
6. Keech House, 22700 Aquasco Rd.

## Heritage Trail Stops & Markers:

1. **Trueman Point**, 18601 Trueman Point Rd. Historically a wharf, Trueman Point is now a Town of Eagle Harbor park.
2. **Barker-Bowling-Forbes Family**, 22457 Aquasco Rd. These families were prominent planters whose elaborate plantation houses still dot the landscape.
3. **St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church**, 22457 Aquasco Rd. Built in 1832 by John Bowling, this is the first Roman Catholic Church in the area.
4. **Miss Sarah Hall House and Store**, 22300 Aquasco Rd. The Hall family was a wealthy and prominent family in the Aquasco area during the 1800s.
5. **St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Rectory**, 22200 Aquasco Rd. & 16305 St. Mary's Church Rd. This church is an important religious and social landmark.
6. **Aquasco Schoolhouse**, 16606 St. Mary's Church Rd. This c. 1902 building served as the schoolhouse for Aquasco's white children during segregation.
7. **Woodville Schoolhouse**, 21500 Aquasco Rd. This was the third school built for African American children in Aquasco when schools were still segregated.
8. **Aquasco Mill**, 15308 Dr. Bowen Rd. The grist mill ran from c.1789 to the 1920s, and is privately owned.
9. **PA Bowen Farmstead**, 15701 Dr. Bowen Rd. This land, originally granted to the Truman family, now operates as a dairy farm specializing in artisanal cheese.
10. **Sunnyside**, 16005 Dr. Bowen Rd. Built in 1844, this was the home of Dr. Michael Jenifer Stone, a prominent doctor of nineteenth century Aquasco.
11. **St. Philip's Episcopal Chapel Site and Cemetery**, 16100 St. Philips Rd. Founded c. 1880, this is one of the first two episcopal churches in Prince George's County and also has ties to civil rights activist Pauli Murray.
12. **Scott Family Cemetery**, South side of St. Philips Rd. An example of family plots popular in this region, the oldest grave in this cemetery dates to 1865.
13. **Cochrane and Grimes Store and House**, 22609 Aquasco Rd. The now abandoned James A. Cochrane Store on Aquasco Road was first owned by James Cochrane, and then by the Grimes family who owned several nearby properties.
14. **John Wesley Methodist Church and Cemetery**, 22919 Christ Church Rd. Founded in 1866, the Church and Cemetery are notable as one of the earliest religious institutions established in Prince George's County for freedmen.
15. **Businesses in Eagle Harbor**, 18301 Elm Trail. Learn about business enterprises as you enter the Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven communities.
16. **Artesian Well**, E Patuxent Blvd and Elm Trail. This well supplied water to the citizens of Eagle Harbor for over 60 years.
17. **Eagle Harbor Beach**, 23320 Patuxent Blvd. Eagle Harbor became known as "The Paradise on the Patuxent" because of its sandy beach, which is difficult to spot today due to shoreline erosion.
18. **Kit Houses**, Booker Washington Avenue. Some houses in Cedar Haven were inspired by Sears, Roebuck and Company Kit homes.
19. **Cedar Haven Hotel**, Daniel Payne St. The Hotel served the community as a gathering space for weekly events and summer fun.



**KEY**

- 1** Site Markers
- 2** Theme Kiosk
- ★** Points of Interest
- Heritage Trail
- Public Roads
- Private Roads

Miles

.25 m                      .5 m

N

# AQUASCO

# CEDAR HAVEN

# EAGLE HARBOR

Patuxent River

To Malcolm

To Baden

To Hughesville

County Line Creek

Jack's Creek

Stanley Run

Aquasco Road MD 381

Dr. Bowen Road

St. Mary's Church Road

St. Philips Road

Eagle Harbor Road

Christ Church Rd

Neck Road

Aquasco Road MD 381

Phyllis Wheatley Ave

Booker Washington Ave

Richard Allen St.

Bannaker Blvd

Trueman Point Rd

Hawkins Dr

Lincoln Dr

18

18

19

1

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7

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# **CHANGING LANDSCAPES**

## FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS

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## **Appendix C: Site Markers**

# 1 Truman Point



## Truman Point

Located at the southern tip of Prince George's County along the Patuxent River, Truman Point served as a river port for local farms from the 18th through the 20th century tobacco port for the local area in 1747. Although

was soon after moved to another site, Truman Point was used into the 19th century for shipping tobacco and other products. In 1817, George Weem's acquired the land for of his steamboat operation. The land transferred hands between various railroad and steamboat companies until 1932, when the wharf ceased use and the property switched to private ownership.

Trueman Point remained in private ownership for the rest of the 20th century. Parcels extending to the north and south of the wharf were sold in the 1920s to develop the adjacent communities of Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor. The current property encompasses the historic location of the wharf. During the 20th century, when segregation laws kept African Americans from accessing many public beaches, Truman Point Landing became a location of recreation for African American communities, especially those trying to escape the summer heat of Washington DC and Baltimore. The waterfront was served

baptisms during the 20th century.



Martenet's Map of Prince George's County, Maryland, 1861. Source: Library of Congress



Advertisement for Geoerge Weem's Steamboat company Source: The Baltimore Sun, pg. 3.; Jul 18, 1888

## A Local Tale

In 2013, the Town of Eagle Harbor purchased Truman Point and established it as a park for use by the town's residents. Local history says that Truman Point was once used to deliver enslaved individuals to the large plantations in the area. It is exceptionally significant then, for a community founded for African Americans in an era of segregation to now have control over the land on which their ancestors were once bought and sold.



Swimmers at Truman Point, facing south towards the power plant, July 26, 1917. Source: "Tiny Town on the Patuxent Fears Silt Threatens Future" By Ivan G. Goldman,



# 2 Barker, Bowling, and Forbes Family



## William Barker House and Villa DeSales

As the community of Woodville came to life during the 19th century, the draw for farming drew many planters to the area. Several intermarried and created long-lasting relationships. families, the Barkers, the Bowlings, and the Forbes, created one such bond.

William Barker was a prominent member of Woodville society. In 1829, he married Charity Gill and promptly began property ownership in the county. Family tradition states that the couple hosted the wedding of Colonel John Bowling to her sister, Elizabeth, uniting the two families. William left his estate to John's children upon his death in 1866 as he and Charity had no heirs.

Colonel Bowling was the patriarch of the Bowling family. His daughter, Frances,, married George Forbes Jr. in 1872, the son of Colonel George Forbes. The Forbes were another prominent Woodville family. Shortly after their wedding, Fanny and George built their home, Villa De Sales, which has been continuously farmed by the family for over 200 years.



Villa DeSales, Photograph by Marina King. Source: Prince George's County HPC.



William R. Barker House, Photograph by Marina King. Source: Prince George's County HPC.



# 3 St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church



St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church and its nearby cemetery were dedicated by the Archbishop of Baltimore City, James Cardinal Gibbons, for the Bowling family in 1879. The land and church came with the stipulation that only members of the Bowling family, their descendants, and their spouses would be buried on the land. This stipulation has continued to present day. Colonel Bowling, Elizabeth Gill, and their son, Erasmus Gill Bowling, were buried on the land. Their names can be found on the tall obelisk tombstone.



St. Dominic's Church. Source: Veronica Martin



Interior of St. Dominic's Church. Source: Vivian and Edward B. Edelen, unknown date



Cornerstone St. Dominic's Church. Source: Veronica Martin



# 4 Miss Sarah Hall House and Store



Miss Sarah Hall House was constructed in 1875 by the Hall family, whom were wealthy, prominent plantation owners in Aquasco. The house is a two-story, three bay vernacular I-form structure. It has a large, two-story addition located on the east elevation. The original wood frame build has been re-cladded in vinyl siding. A side-gable roof with front-gables pediment is covered with asphalt shingles caps the building. Two interior end chimneys with corbeled caps pierce the ridgeline.

The Hall store, located noth of the house, was constructed in 1850 by another branch of relatives within the Hall family. The store was an important commercial outlet for the rural community in the mid nineteenth century. This store is two and one-half story, two bays wides and has a front gable. The interior has an L-shaped plan. A one-story wrap around porch is located on the west elevation. Many additions have been added since its original construction.



Miss Sarah Hall House. Source: Maryland Historic Trust



Miss Sarah Hall House. Source: Maryland Historic Trust



# 5 St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Rectory

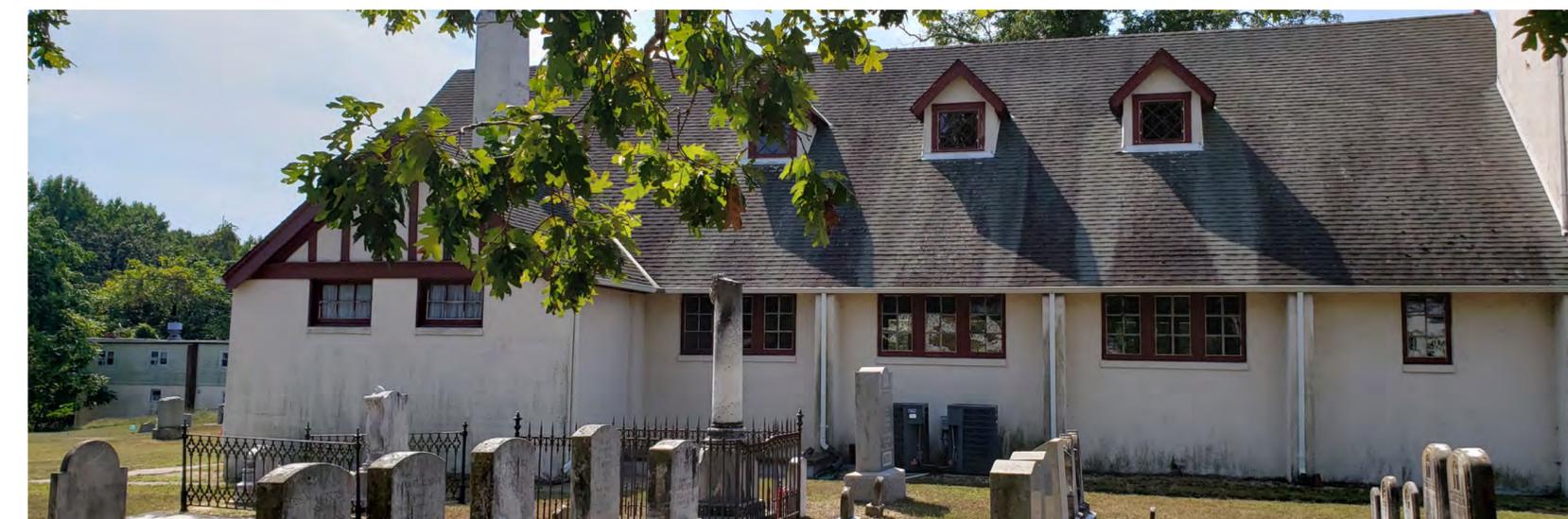


Built in 1848, St. Mary's Episcopal Church was an important social and religious landmark of Aquasco. The original church did not have the distinctive corner tower, but instead a small belfry. St. Mary's Rectory, built in 1849, was supposed to be in Baden near St. Paul's Episcopal church, the main parish church. However, George Morton, a wealthy vestry and plantation owner, donated a plot of land in Aquasco, thus the rectory was built near St. Mary's, the mission chapel instead.

During the American Civil War, the Union soldiers rode their horses through Aquasco. Stopping at St. Mary's Church to feed their horses from the church's baptismal font show their contempt of the Confederate sympathizers.



Watercolor of St. Mary's. Source: Betty Taussig



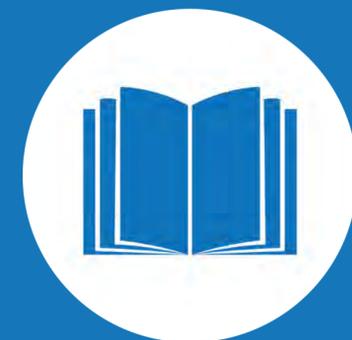
St. Mary's Church. Source: Veronica Martin



St. Mary's Rectory. Source: Veronica Martin



# 6 Aquasco Schoolhouse



This schoolhouse dates to the early twentieth century, although historic maps indicate that other schools were in this location as well. The school was used for the white children of Aquasco until the 1940s when it was used occasionally as a local health clinic. In 1984, it was converted into a church and still operates as the scripture Way Church. Although the interior has been highly altered, the building itself is still a recognized feature of Aquasco's history.



Aquasco Schoolhouse Source: Rebecca Ballo, M-NCPPC, 2004.



"Aquasco School in Prince George's County. 8 grades in one room. Teacher, Mrs. Mollie Ireland, May 1902." Source: Chesapeake Country Life magazine.



Aquasco Schoolhouse Source: Mowyer.



# 7 Woodville Schoolhouse



This was the third schoolhouse built for African American Students in Aquasco. It was built by the Wesleyan Methodist Church in 1868 by the Freedmen's Bureau. In 1877, the second African American school was built on the west side of Aquasco Road. This remained in use until a larger schoolhouse was needed. In 1934, construction was complete, and it opened for students. At three classrooms, this was the largest schoolhouse built for African Americans at that time in Prince George's County. Although the school bears a resemblance to a Rosenwald Fund school, it was actually designed by Upman & Adams, architects from DC. The school closed in 1955 and was purchased by the St. John's Commandery #373.



This building served as the schoolhouse for the African American children of Aquasco from 1877-1934, but was demolished in 2011. Source: African-American Historic and Cultural Resources in Prince George's County, Maryland – M-NCPPC.



Woodville Schoolhouse as seen today Source: Grace Davenport



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# 8 Aquasco Mill



The Aquasco Mill is located on the eastern side of Swanson's Creek. The mill measures about 28 by 28 feet and historically had a 4-foot broad wheel powering two mill stones. It served as a grist mill for the local area from its construction ca. 1789 until the 1920s. Today only three stone walls of the mill remain standing. While

Historically known as "Aquasco Mill Farm," the property on which the mill is located went through ownership of several well-known families in the area. The land was originally part of a tract of land known as "Purchase" sold to Thomas Truman in 1665 (PA Bowen). A 1789 Maryland Gazette publication advertised the sale of 300 acres of land from "Purchase" and the adjoining farm "Buttington." The property included "a new valuable grist mill, with other improvements."



1798, Survey map by Dennis Griffith. The star next to "Johnsons" indicated the location of a mill. Accessed 2019. Source: Library of Congress.

St. Mary's county, January 19, 1790.  
**C**OMMITTED to my custody as a runaway, a negro man who calls himself TOM, he is about five feet five or six inches high, has on a new fear-nought jacket, white country cloth breeches, country made shoes and stockings, and a new ofnabrig shirt; he appears to be about twenty-five or thirty years of age, and says he belongs to Mr. Rinaldo Johnson, of Prince-George's county. His owner is desired to take him away and pay charges, or he will be sold, in one month from this date, for his prison fees.  
P. FORD, Sheriff.

Fugitive Slave advertisement, January 19, 1790. Source: Maryland Gazette, pg.4.



# 9 PA Bowen Farmstead



The PA Bowen Farmstead land dates back to the original 1665 Aquasco land grants. By 1850, George Allen Morton Turner owned the property, at that time known as Aquasco Mill Farm. Turner died in 1861. Philander Adams Bowen was one of the administrators of Turner's estate and began to purchase the property in 1862. Like the Barker, Bowling, and Forbes families, the Morton, Adams, and Bowen families were heavily interconnected. The house was in the Bowen family until 1927. In 2009, the current owners purchased the property. It now operates as a dairy farm that offers tours and a gift shop with Maryland-created crafts. Like many plantation houses in Aquasco, this house is highly decorative for its location.



Philander A. Bowen (1826-1919). Source: Richard Kirkpatrick and Sally Fallon Morell.



Rachel Ann Ethedra Morton Bowen (1837-1924). Source: Richard Kirkpatrick and Sally Fallon Morell.



The house, as it appeared in the 1989 HABS survey. Source: HABS



# 10 Sunnyside



Dr. Michael Jenifer Stone built Sunnyside in 1844. Originally, the property included the house, a summer kitchen with slave quarters above, and a corncrib. According to slave inventories, Dr. Stone owed eight slaves in 1850 and seven in 1860, including Lucy Glascoe and her six adult children. Dr. Stone practiced medicine in Prince Georges County School Examiner. An examiner reported to the board of County School Commissioners about the physical condition of school buildings and the level of teaching in the classroom. Dr. Stone served from 1868 until his death in 1877.



Susan A. Somervell.  
Source: Windfall of Inherited Treasures



Sunnyside Watercolor. Source: Betty Taussig



Dr. Stone. Source: Windfall of Inherited Treasures



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# 11 St. Philip's Episcopal Chapel Site and Cemetery



## Pauli Murray

African American

Episcopal churches in Prince George's County, built in c.1880.

Pauli Murray, an attorney

African

American women to be an ordained priest in the Episcopal Church served as seminarian at St. Phillip's Church from 1975 until the church burned down in November 1976. In her autobiography Pauli Murray said of the church:

"Its white wooden structure held scarcely more than a hundred people, but for me it rivaled the quality of a great cathedral."



St. Phillips Chapel. Source: St. Phillips Church, Baden Parish.



Interior of St. Phillips Chapel. Source: Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.



Pauli Murray. Source: Schlesinger Library, Radcliffe Institute, Harvard University.



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# 12 Scott Family Cemetery



The Scott cemetery belongs to the Scott family and is a reserved for family burials only; the Scotts and the Fenwicks. The Scott family was a wealthy family who owned tobacco farms and had 20 slaves at one point in time. This small plot sits next to St. Phillip's Road and is enclosed by a chain-link fence. Most of the older markers are for the Scott family, who farmed here in the mid and late 1800's; the oldest one dating back to 1865 belongs to Lloyd M. Scott

The last person who was buried here was Andrew Hawkin's Scott (PFC US Army, World War 1) who lived from 1890 to 1975, who is believed to be the last of the Scott family. Scott family connects to Andrew Grimes because Andrew bought 6 acres of the Scott Farmhouse in 1902.



Oldest grave at the Scott Cemetery, which dates back to 1865.  
Source: Hassan Tariq.



Scott Cemetery Source: Hassan Tariq



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# 13 Cochrane and Grimes Store and House



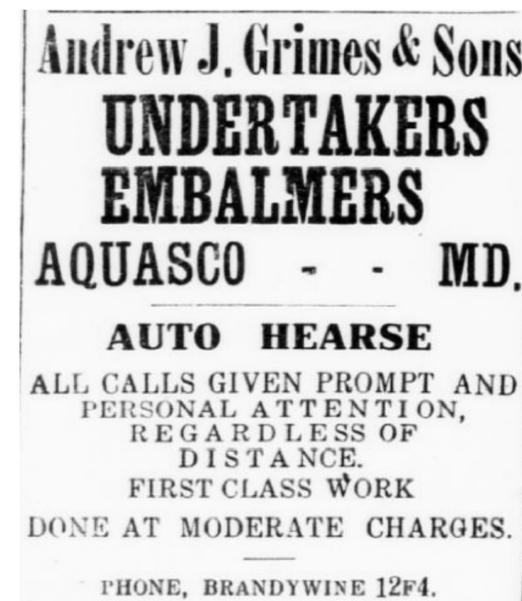
## Mary C.B. Cochrane House and James A Cochrane Store

The Mary C.B Cochrane House and James A. Cochrane store are on the same tract of land that used to and were both owned by both the Cochranes and the Grimes. The James A. Cochrane store was built c.1850 by Jesse Selby, though the 1861 Martinet map shows the store on the opposite side of Aquasco road. The James A. Cochrane store and the land that Mary C. B. Cochrane house was built on were bought by Mary C. B. Cochrane in 1873 and the Mary C. B. Cochrane house was built in 1875.



Cochrane house. Source: Hassan Tariq

The Store and house were sold to Andrew J. Grimes in 1910. Andrew Grimes ran an embalmers and general store out of the James A. Cochrane store. The Grimes family owned the Cochrane house and store, along with the Grimes/Selby House on the same tract of land and the Scott Farmhouse on Philips Roads throughout most of the 20th century. The Grimes family continued to be prominent business owners into the current century. Eugene C. Grimes Jr. owned the IGA Store further north on Aquasco Road.



Advertisement for Andrew J. Grimes & Sons. Source: The Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser.



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# 14 John Wesley Methodist Church and Cemetery



The John Wesley Methodist Church was established in Prince George's County and the site of the freedmen's school in Aquasco. The tract for the church was

church was built on the property in 1873. John Wesley Methodist Church was rebuilt in 1906. Nothing remains of either the 1873 or the 1906 structures, though the original bell remains. The current church was built in 1961 and the fellowship hall in 1955.

The freedman's school was erected in 1867 and operated until 1934 when the Woodville School was established further north on Aquasco Road.

In 1973 the John Wesley and St. Thomas Methodist churches merged and became the Christ United Methodist Church. The church continues to be active, though the cemetery on the site has been inactive since 2005.



Christ United Methodist Church. Source: Hassan Tariq



Christ United Methodist's Bell. Source: Tamara Schlossenberg



# 15 Businesses in Eagle Harbor



## Resort Town General Store

Historically, Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven have kept major commercial enterprises out of their purposely remote towns. However, the building at the fork before entering either of the towns

sandwiches and a Coke and was run by community members. Even Mayor Crudup worked there in 1963 for a weekend as a young adult. Other businesses included the 28-room Patuxent Hotel and the Cedar Haven Hotel that hosted events, and a mobile ice cream truck owned by the Cedar Haven founder.



Wander Inn. Source: Sara Baum.



Carry's Ice Cream Truck. Source: National Photo Co. Collection.



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# 16 Artesian Well



's history were only summer homes. Many residents did not initially put in wells on their property; instead the community had communal access to a well located near the center of town at the water's edge. The Artesian Well was installed in the 1920s as the town grew into a resort community. By the 1960s, the number of full-time residents in the town required wells be drilled for individual properties. But the Artesian Well continued to supply of water for many years, and only stopped running in 2014.



Artesian Well in present-day (2019). Source: Kathleen Jockel and Josette Graham.

In 2016, the Town of Eagle Harbor marked their Artesian Well as a historic site for the important service it provided the town for most of its history. Like the town itself, the Artesian Well is under threat from the effects of climate change due to erosion of the shoreline. The town received grant funding to preserve their Artesian Well for future generations and addresses environmental concerns.



Eagle Harbor Advertisement.  
Source: Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.



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# 17 Eagle Harbor Beach



As “The Paradise on the Patuxent,” Eagle Harbor beach is a vital resource to the waterfront community of Eagle Harbor. As a segregated beach for middle class African Americans from Washington D.C. during the Jim Crow era, African Americans could swim freely without discrimination here. The beach was used for swimming, boating, hunting and sports. Many residents in Eagle Harbor today still recall their summer trips down to Eagle Harbor with their families. However, climate change has damaged the quality of the historic beach making it unrecognizable as the popular vacation destination it was in the past. Threats such as one inch of shoreline erosion annually and the degradation of water quality due to the operations of the neighboring Chalk Point Generating Station are threatening more than just the historic beach, but also many waterfront properties in Eagle Harbor.



Beach and Shoreline Erosion Source: Town of Eagle Harbor



Waterfront structures at risk of flooding. Source: Town of Eagle Harbor



# 18 Kit Houses



The early homes of Cedar Haven followed the design of popular Kit houses by the Sears, Roebuck and company kit homes, as builders in the 1920s were encouraged to use models such as the Magnolia, Belhaven or Whitehall to model their small, inexpensive bungalows after. Most of the houses have small shed, garages or other out buildings on the lot as well. These homes were used as models for new homes in the community.

Residents were encouraged to order homes from Sears or model homes after their patterns. One of the prominent and typical Kit houses was the Cedar Villa located at the corner of Douglas Avenue and Allen Street. Another typical example, is located at 22801 Booker Washington Avenue, Cedar Haven, which closely matches the Ocean Park Design from the Sears design catalog. 'Bellana', made as a recreation home for Miss Anna E. Bell, is regarded as a Kit home of that time.



White Cedars' located on the Charles Young Avenue. Source: Hassan Tariq, 2019.



The Booker House. Source: Hassan Tariq



The "Bellana." Source: Cedar Haven on the Patuxent, The Playground of nation's capital, 'UMD Hornbake Library Archival Collection'.



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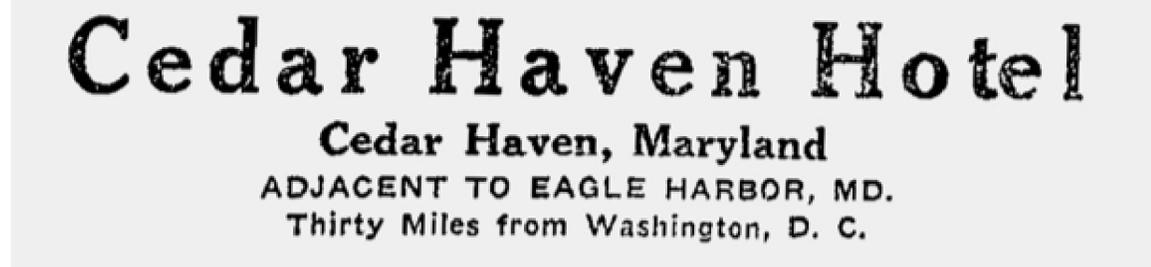
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# 19 Cedar Haven Hotel



Three years after Cedar Haven opened to the public in 1926, the Cedar Haven Hotel started hosting conferences, events, and parties. The Hotel was a large bungalow with a full porch equipped with gas, electricity, a garage, and a dance hall. It became well known for its chicken dinners. In 1930, the Hotel was home to the Clark Smith's School of Secretarial Service. Cedar Haven also had a bathhouse. The building offered lockers and dressing rooms for men and women. Sadly, the Cedar Haven Hotel and bathhouse have been lost to the changing landscape and are no longer standing.



Advertisement for Cedar Haven Hotel. Source: Afro-American, 1930.



Cedar Haven Hotel Source: Hornbake Library.



Advertisement for Clark Smith's School. Source: Afro-American 1930.



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# **CHANGING LANDSCAPES**

## **FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS**

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## **Appendix D: Theme Kiosks**



# Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Towns



In the Fall of 2019, UMD's Historic Preservation Graduate Studio partnered with MNCPPC and PALS to create a Heritage Trail Plan for the areas of Aquasco-Woodville, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. The goal was to provide visitors with a navigable narrative of life and culture in the area through the production of a trail guide, map, and markers which would be accompanied with an audio tour for cyclists and motorists. After months of research and deliberation the students are happy to present their trail, "Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Towns."

*Welcome!*

The Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads & Resort Towns Trail encompasses a diverse range of

their own right. From an early trade port and a tobacco economy, to the creation of resort communities servicing the region's African American community, these sites show the breadth of experiences which have been engraved on to the landscape with the passage of centuries.



The Stable at Villa DeSales. Source: Marina King



Watercolor of Sunnyside. Source: Betty Taussig



Watercolor of St. Mary's. Source: Betty Taussig

Woven together, these sites tell different strands of the community's history. The themes which emerge from these sites span across time and place to capture some of the complexities of this rural community. Each theme is represented by a color and symbol on the trail map. Each site marker will have the corresponding color and symbol.



# Following The Trail

Each site on this trail includes a marker that offers additional information about that particular location. To better understand these sites in the larger narrative, they have been divided according to the theme that they most represent. Each theme is depicted by a color band and symbol that you'll see on the marker.



Tobacco and Reconstruction



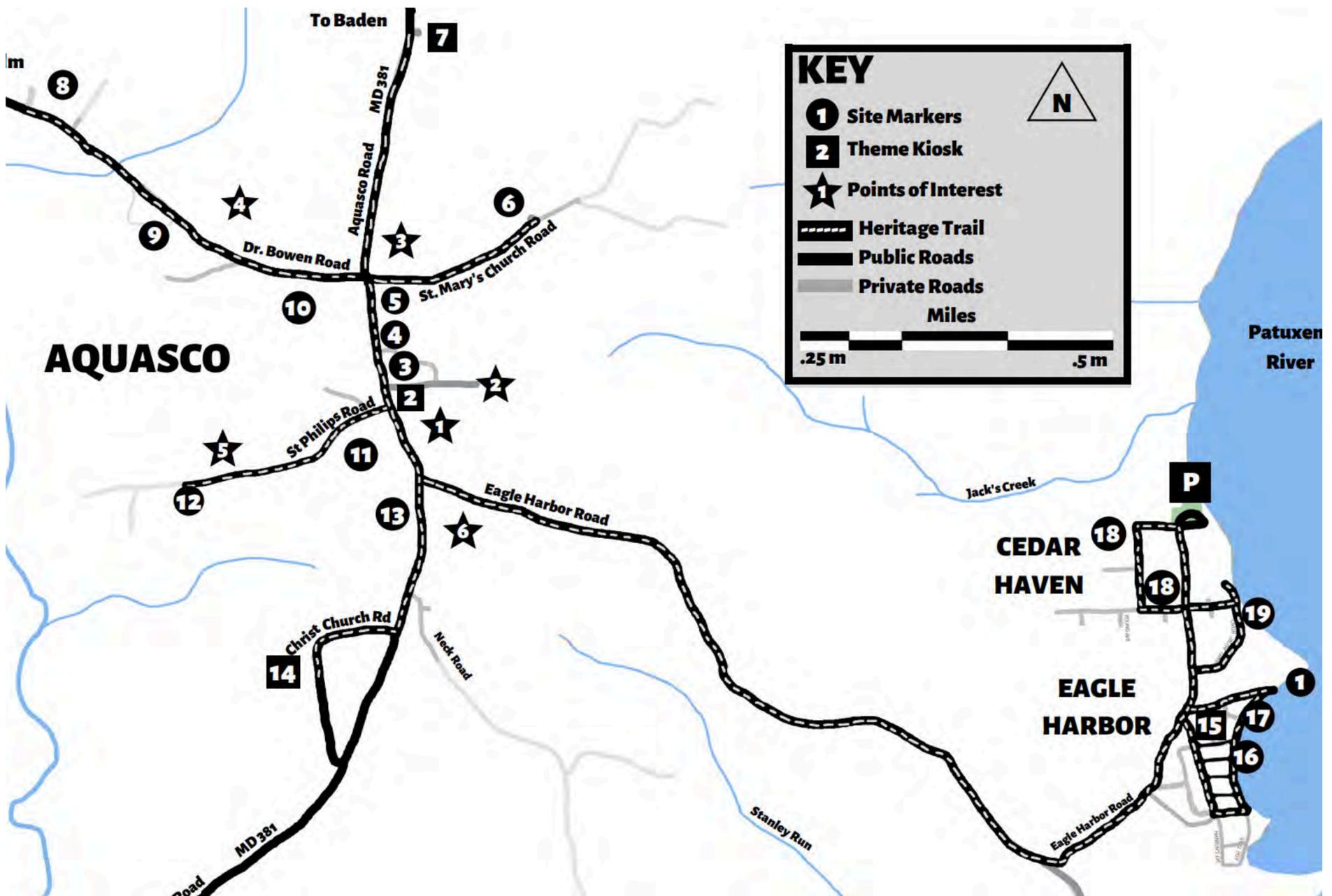
Religion



Education



Resort Towns



1. Trueman Point
2. Barker-Bowling-Forbes Family
3. St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church
4. Miss Sarah Hall House and Store
5. St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Rectory
6. Aquasco Schoolhouse
7. Woodville Schoolhouse
8. Aquasco Mill
9. PA Bowen Farmstead
10. Sunnyside
11. St. Philip's Episcopal Chapel Site and Cemetery
12. Scott Family Cemetery
13. Cochran and Grimes Store and House
14. John Wesley Methodist Church and Cemetery
15. Businesses in Eagle Harbor
16. Artesian Well
17. Eagle Harbor Beach
18. Kit Houses
19. Cedar Haven Hotel

## Theme Kiosk Locations

1. Welcome: Parking Area
2. Tobacco & Reconstruction: Stop 2
3. Education: Stop 7
4. Religion: Stop 14
5. Resort Towns: Stop 15

## Points of Interests

1. William R. Barker House
2. Villa de Alpacas Farm.
3. Hardesty's Haven Cafe
4. Adams-Bowen House
5. Scott Farmhouse



# Tobacco and Reconstruction

Remnants of Aquasco's past reliance on tobacco continue to dot the present landscape through historic tobacco barns, old plantation houses, and an early tobacco shipping port. Situated between the Patuxent River and Swanson's Creek, the area boasts a fertile environment which tobacco planters, took advantage of well into the 19th century through the Civil War and to the Reconstruction period. Many families in the area amassed large amounts of wealth as a result of tobacco production and dependence on enslaved labor erecting architecturally exquisite houses representative of their wealth and status in Aquasco society. Several of these sites can be seen today along this Farmsteads & Resort Towns Heritage Trail.



The Stable at Villa DeSales. Source: Marina King

## The Stable at Villa DeSales

The Villa DeSales house and its associated property were listed to the National Register of Historic Places in 1988 due to the architectural significance of the house and associated complex of outbuildings which showcase the 19th century lifestyle of wealthy planters in the area. The farm features an exquisite, one-of-a-kind stable constructed in the same High Victorian Gothic Revival architectural style as the house and is recognized as the only one of its type in Prince George's County.



Villa DeSales, one of two surviving High Victorian Gothic Revival dwellings remaining in Prince George's County. Source: Marina King



The William R. Barker House is a large 19th century planter's dwelling, originally constructed for William Barker, a prominent member of Woodville society. Source: Marina King, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission



One of two outbuildings on the Sunnyside property, the 19th century corn crib likely dates to the original construction of the house. Source: Marina King, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission



Sunnyside was originally constructed for Dr. Michael J. Stone, a physician and the first Prince George's County Examiner. Source: Marina King, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission



The P.A. Bowen house, a fine example of colonial Italianate architecture Source: Marina King, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

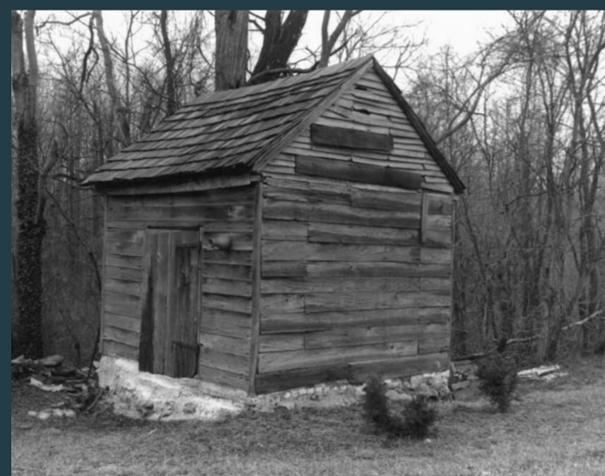


William R. Barker house outbuilding originally served as a smokehouse until the 1940's when it was transformed into a caretaker's house.. Source: Marina King, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

Many of the area's prominent families continued to thrive during the Reconstruction period, relying on tobacco as a staple crop while forging relationships with each other that strengthened their status in society. The Reconstruction era in Aquasco saw the emergence of a growing African-American community. Several former slaves stayed on in the area and worked as tenant farmers and small landholders. This growing African American community would eventually construct schools and churches, which can also be visited today along this Heritage Trail.



William Barker Outbuilding. Source: Marina King



The meat house at Sunnyside, used for smoking and curing meat. Source: Marina King

The age of tobacco reliance in the Aquasco area might be over, however this agricultural economy's

the people still persists. Follow this Farmsteads & Resort Towns Heritage Trail and visit the Farm Store at the P.A. Bowen Farmstead or stop by Villa De Alpacas at the historic Villa DeSales to discover a

textiles produced at this self-sustaining farm.



Villa DeSales. Source: Marina King, Prince George's County Historic Preservation Commission

## 19th Century Outbuildings

Several of the sites feature series of outbuildings which often date to the initial construction of the main house or shortly afterwards. Due to the heavy agricultural focus in the area, most of these outbuildings function as meat houses, dairies, corn cribs, and animal shelters. These extant structures, such as the ones seen at the William Barker and John E. Turner houses, are excellent representations of well-preserved outbuildings from the 19th century Aquasco farm life.



## Segregation in Woodville

Woodville was very much a segregated community. In 1915, Robert Gardiner, a white man living on Trueman Point Road in Aquasco, attempted to send his first born and Mulatto son, Joseph Gardiner, to the white school. 9-year-old Joseph was admitted to the white school until its trustees ordered that the teacher, Miss Helen Briscoe, decline to admit him. Robert petitioned the County School Commissioners, who, after a court case, excluded Joseph from all white schools in the county on account of his blood being "tainted."

## Education in Aquasco

After the Civil War, the African American children of Aquasco were able to attend school. The Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands, also known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was established by Congress in 1865. Their goal was to help former slaves in the South during Reconstruction. This was intended as a temporary government agency to last through one year after the war. After a few attempts to lengthen the program, it was ultimately ended. However, during their time, the Freedmen's Bureau built thousands of schools for former slaves. schools for African Americans in Aquasco was built by this organization on the grounds of

the John Wesley Church. Two more African American schools would be built for the community, in 1877 and 1934.

Aquasco also had a White school, located on the north side of St. Mary's Church Road. While the African American schools were in different locations, the White school remained in the same place. The White school received new books, desks, and other equipment, while the African American school generally received hand-me-downs. Both schools were continually in need of repairs and on a few occasions, the School Board was petitioned to appropriate funds for additions due to overcrowding.

### A Tainted Blood Puzzle

The Board of School Commissioners of this county are considering a knotty problem and somewhat novel proposition which has arisen in connection with the refusal of the trustees of the Aquasco district school to admit to the classes Joseph Jerome Gardiner, son of Robert Gardiner, of Aquasco, upon the ground that the young man's blood is tainted.

Acting upon the orders of the trustees of the school, Miss Helen Briscoe, the teacher, declined to admit young Gardiner, who is 9 years old, and his father petitioned the County School Commissioners to pass an order rescinding the trustees' edict. The petition was filed January 18 of this year, and Tuesday of last week the School Commissioners heard several witnesses for and against the granting of the petition. It was in evidence that the Gardiner boy had been admitted to the white school at Woodville, and that no question of his eligibility on account of color had been raised. The testimony covered 75 typewritten pages, and as soon as the Commissioners can read and digest the material a decision will be rendered.





**Woodville Junior Home Making Club.**

The Woodville Canning Club met at Woodville school on 11th of July. Miss Davis our agent and Miss Kellar the State Agent were present.

The name of the Club was changed from Woodville Canning Club to Junior Home Making Club.

Emma Grimes and Henrietta Brady canned peaches, Anna Lee Craycroft and Virginia DeMarr, string beans, and Elenor Brady, apples. The girls fixed hot lunch for the agents.

They talked about the lawn fete and decided to have it on July 24, at 3.30 o'clock. Miss Kellar gave us a dollar towards it. Anna Lee Craycroft read a very interesting piece on "How I can-Beets." Hennieta Brady read one on "Why I selected gardening as one of Project."

Miss Kellar gave us a very interesting talk telling us about the four H's and about adding the fifth one for Habit.

The Dues were collected making seventy cents in all.

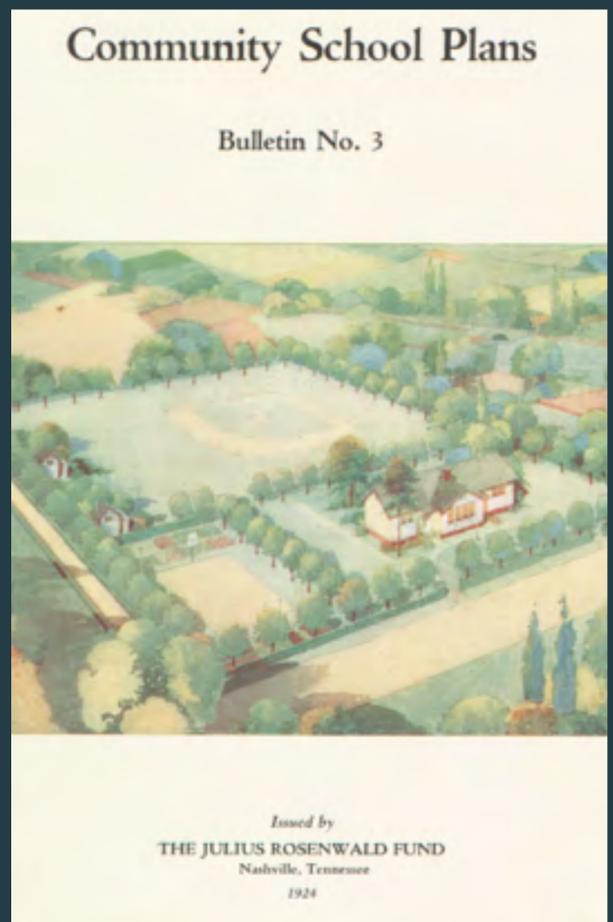
Those present were: Emma Grimes, Rachel Morton Parran, Eleanor Brady, Alien Gardiner, Anna Lee Craycroft, Virginia DeMarr, and Henrietta Brady. The meeting adjourned to July 25.

Source: The Prince George's enquirer and southern Maryland advertiser, 18 July 1919

The schools of Aquasco often held events at their respective locations or at the local meeting hall. The meeting hall, sometimes referred to as the dance hall or town hall, was off Dr. Bowen Road, where the Baden Volunteer Fire Department water tank is today. These events included meetings of the "Woodville Junior Home-making Club," the "Woodville Demonstration Club," celebrations of George Washington's birthday, and plays and dances. There was a short period of time when one of the schools was closed due to a measles outbreak.



c. 1902, shows the white children in Aquasco. Source: Chesapeake Country Life, September 1981



Cover page of a Rosenwald school design booklet. Source: Community School Plans

## The Julius Rosenwald Fund

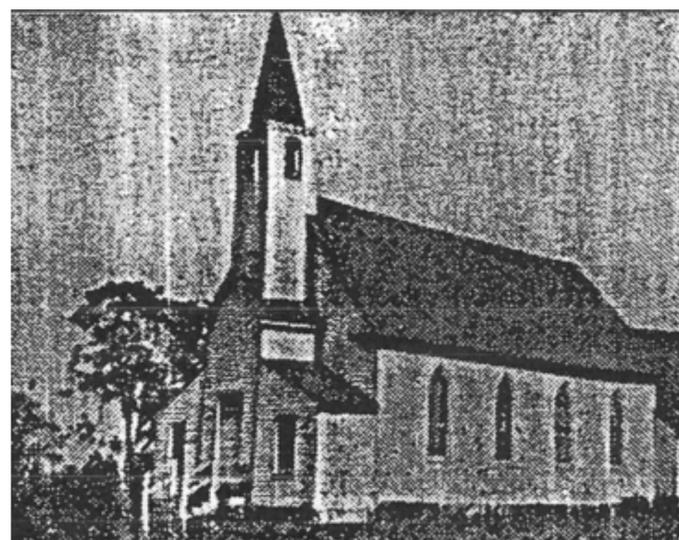
Julius Rosenwald, President of Sears, Roebuck and Company and founder of the Rosenwald Fund, stepped down as President in 1924. The program offered standard designs for rural African American community school buildings. This program was started after Aquasco built their second schoolhouse but ended ten years before they built their third schoolhouse, meaning that Aquasco never had a Rosenwald Fund schoolhouse. The third built and last remaining African American Woodville Schoolhouse bears resemblance to a Rosenwald school.

The white school closed in the 1940s and became a local health clinic before being converted into a church. The Woodville Schoolhouse ceased operations in 1955 and was purchased by a private religious organization. Both the African American and the White children continued to attend school separately for several years until desegregation, but both had to travel north to Baden to attend school.



## Religious Life

The area has a rich religious history. The oldest church in Aquasco, St. Mary's Episcopal Church and Rectory, was founded in 1848. The church was built as a branch of St. Paul's Church in Baden to serve the southern most members of the congregation.



St. Philip's 1879. Source: St. Philip's Church, Baden Parish

Col. John Dominic Bowling, when he moved to Aquasco, was disappointed that there was no Catholic church in the town. Upon his death he left money for the construction of a Roman Catholic Church. The Catholic church that was erected by John Bowling's son was St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church in 1879.



St. Philip's Church Service 1975. Source: Schlesinger Library

Aquasco is home to some of Prince George's County's earliest African American Churches. The John Wesley Methodist Church, now know as Christ United Methodist Church, was

church being erected on the property in 1873. The St. Philips Episcopal Church was founded in African

American Episcopal church in Prince George's County. Sadly, the church burned down in 1976, though the cemetery remains in use.



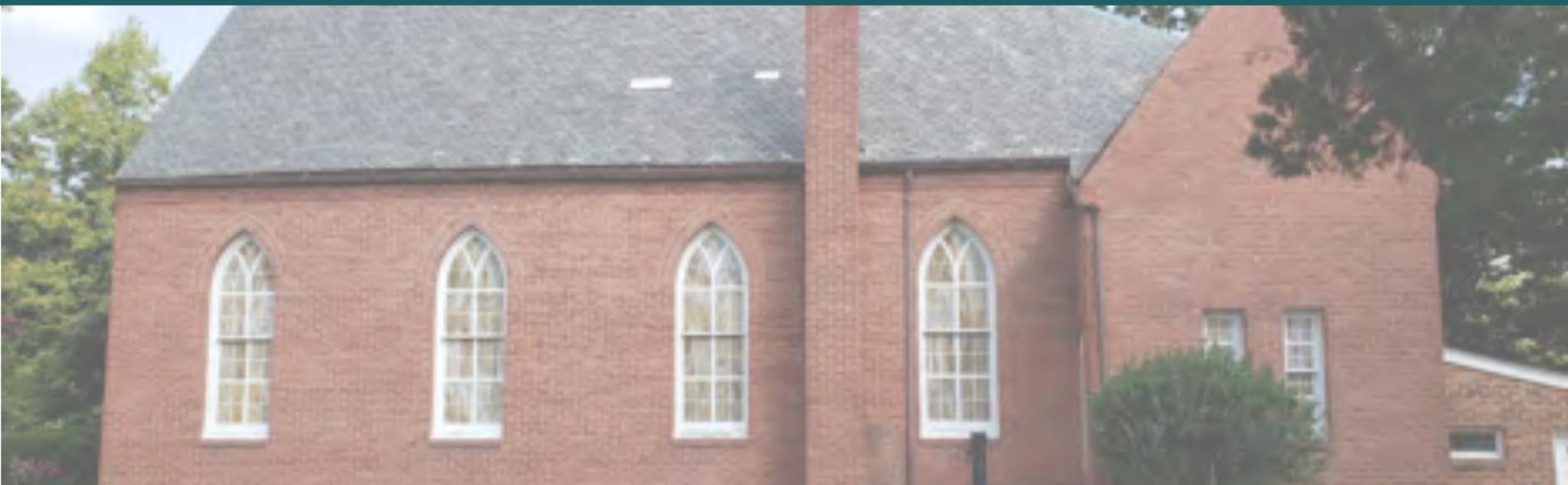
John Wesley Bell. Source: Prince George's County



Mighty Wonders of Aquasco Record "Old Time Religion". Source: Baylor University

## The Mighty Wonders of Aquasco

In the late 1960s and early 1970s a local gospel group known as the Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, Maryland, recorded at least two records, "Old Ship of Zion"/ "How Far am I from Canaan?" and "Old Time Religion"/"I Shall Not be Moved." The group included the Aquasco native John Stewart Jr., and Alfred Johnson who alternated singing lead, Tom Contee, and Ernest Johnson. The group would perform at churches in the Baltimore area almost every Sunday of the year. Their recording of "Old Ship of Zion" is noted for being a unique rendition including lyrics that don't appear in other versions of the hymn. Both records have been digitized and can be listened to online free through the Baylor University Black Gospel Music Restoration Project.



St. Dominic's. Source: Vivian and Edward B. Edelen



Watercolor of St. Mary's. Source: Betty Taussig

The relations between white and black congregants of Aquasco area churches was not always good. St. Mary's church became segregated after the Civil War, which led to the African-American congregants founding St. Phillips Church. There was some tension between the two congregations after their St. Philip's Church burned as the St. Phillip's congregation shared space with St. Mary's. The Washington D.C. Archdiocese suggested that St. Mary's Church be given to the St. Philip's congregation, a proposition that both congregations strongly opposed.

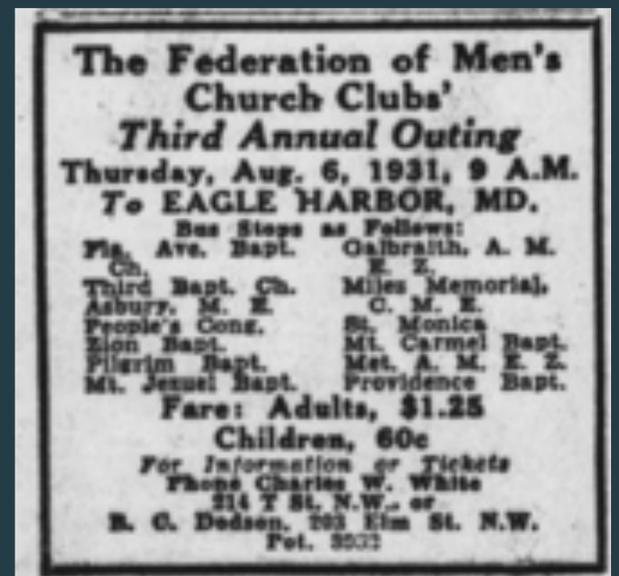


John Wesley (Christ United). Source: Prince George's County

Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven also had active religious activity. One of the founders of Eagle Harbor was pastor of Vermont Avenue church at the time, Reverend C.T. Murray, and it was a popular vacation spot for DC area pastors. The two resort towns were also popular spots for church outings and picnics, and baptisms. Since the founding of Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven, baptisms have been held in the Patuxent river.

## What a Day for a Picnic

Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven were popular spots for church outings and picnics in the 1920s and 1930s, with the outings being advertised in DC newspapers including The Evening Star, The Washington Tribune, and Afro-American. During the peak time in 1927, the Washington Tribune noted that there was 36 picnics scheduled over a five-week period in Cedar Haven. Churches from the DC area known to have had outings at Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven include the Vermont Avenue Church of DC, The Holiness Church, Trinity Baptist Church, and Miles Memorial C.M.E. Church.



Ad for church outing. Source: The Evening Star, 13 July 1940



## An Unexpected Tax

Unfortunately, building a remote community didn't keep discrimination away. As Eagle Harbor became well established, the county felt the need to reassess tax rates on the lots. To no surprise, the white tax assessor raised the rates sky high! E.S. Hine knew exactly what this was about; the white assessor was opposed to black ownership. By making prices outrageous, families could no longer afford to live there. Hine helped to fight this clearly unfair assessment by proving that the prices assigned to Eagle Harbor did not match nearby white neighborhoods who had larger lots and lower prices. This occurrence motivated the town's decision to incorporate

# Resort Towns in Southern Maryland

In the early 1900s a beach trip to escape the city heat was not a simple outing for city dwelling African Americans, because most beaches welcomed 'whites-only.' They were often forced to face hostility by white beachgoers or be forced to go to undesirable waterfronts. In Washington, D.C., African Americans were sent to beaches like Buzzard Point, a former dumping ground full of pollutants and festering with health concerns.



Source: Washington Tribune

Having had enough of such repugnant options, Walter Bean purchased land along the Patuxent to establish Eagle Harbor; a summer resort town for the black community in 1925.



Eagle Harbor Welcome sign. Source: Paula Nasta

## PROTEST TAX RAISE IN PRINCE GEORGES

High Rate On Colored Development Is Laid To Race Prejudice

### APPEAL TO COURT

Assessment Said To Be Above Actual Price Paid

Source: The Baltimore Afro-American, 11 February 1928

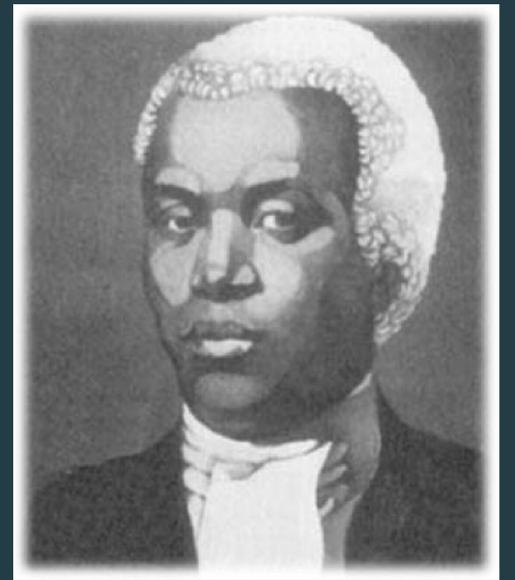


Trueman Point Rd. Wander Inn. Source: Sara Baum



Cedar Haven Hotel. Source: Hornbake Special Collections

With the help of E.S. Hine, the land was plotted into 1,000 lots measuring 25' X 100' and in mere months after its founding over half of those lots were sold. Eagle Harbor's success did not go unnoticed by other black real estate investors in Washington D.C., and soon, those investors purchased land just north of Eagle Harbor to found Cedar Haven



Benjamin Banneker. Source: Western Illinois University



Source: The Evening Star, 2 July 1926

## Distinguished Streets

Cedar Haven was officially opened on July 4, 1926, exactly 150 years after America gained their independence, and cleverly, planners of the community named the streets after distinguished black figures who aided in the freedom for African Americans. Some names you will see along the trail include Frederick Douglass, a well-known abolitionist, and Benjamin Banneker, a free African American who was largely self-taught in mathematics and astronomy.

Today, these two communities have several year-long residents, but continue to welcome their seasonal neighbors who use their lots during the summer months to escape the bustling city and suburbs. Both communities seek sustainability and encourage visitors to events held throughout the year like Eagle Harbor's Town Day every August.



Cedar Haven House Source: Hornbake Special Collections

**JULY FOURTH**

All Boulevards, Avenues and Streets in Cedar Haven are named in commemoration of distinguished Colored American Patriots.

THE formal opening of CEDAR HAVEN has been reserved until July 4th to meet the convenience of the many prospective buyers who are desirous of obtaining LARGE DEEP LOTS and BEAUTIFUL VILLA SITES for their Summer Homes in an Ideal Summer Subdivision on the Salt Water Patuxent, adjoining Eagle Harbor.

Source: The Evening Star, 2 July 1926



# **CHANGING LANDSCAPES**

## FARMSTEADS & RESORT TOWNS

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UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND • STUDIO 2019

## **Appendix E: Audio Tour Script**

Welcome to the Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Town Audio Tour. We're excited to guide you today as you bike or drive through the communities of Cedar Haven, Eagle Harbor, and Aquasco. This audio lasts for about two hours; however, you will be invited to stop at several sites with large kiosks along the way to discover additional information and to explore the landscape.

As you travel, you'll encounter stories of wealthy planters and how they influenced their community. You'll learn about some of the churches in the area and the ways in which they've served their communities. We'll highlight the schoolhouses that remain, as well as some that are no longer standing, as you learn about the early education system. Finally, we'll bring you back to the shoreline to learn about the creation of resort towns and the fun that was had in the sun by those who visited.

Each site on this trail includes a marker that offers additional information about that particular location. To better understand these sites in the larger narrative, they have been divided according to the theme that they most represent. Each theme is depicted by a color band and symbol that you'll see on the marker.

Look for green with tobacco leaves for sites relating to Tobacco and Reconstruction.

Purple with a church bell represents sites connected to Religion.

A blue book marks the sites about Education.

And finally, the orange sun with birds guides you to sites associated with the Creation of Resort Towns.

Please note that this audio tour does not narrative the sites in order as you pass them on the road. We will point out the location, but won't stop at every one. We invite you to manually pause this audio recording to read more about sites individually as you go. Please remember to ride safely, and obey all traffic laws. We highly suggest that you ride with only one earbud or headphone as required under Maryland State Law.

Let's get started.

[Directions FROM Cedar Haven Fishing Area TO Trueman Point]

Travel Time: About 4:48 Minutes, .8 miles

Here are directions from the Cedar Haven Fishing Area to Trueman's Point  
Turn left as you come out of the Cedar Haven Fishing Area Parking Lot. Follow Phyllis Wheatley Avenue until you reach Banneker Boulevard, then turn right. Keep riding along Banneker Boulevard for half a mile until you reach Trueman Point Road. Turn left at this intersection. This area is now closed, and can only be accessed by members of the local community; however, you will see the tour sign on the outside of the fence.

That concludes the directions

Before European colonization, the Piscataway Tribe who called this area "Aquascake" lived in villages along the Patuxent River. Different variations of this name were also used for this region over the years. During the 17th and early 18th centuries, English settlements spread up the Chesapeake Bay in search of suitable land and navigable waterways for tobacco. Tobacco production requires good soil, a great deal of labor, and accessibility to a trade port. The Woodville/Aquasco area had just that and drew many planters to the region. While the first few decades of the English colonies used indentured servants as agricultural workers, by the 18th century imported, African, enslaved labor worked on large plantations. They quickly became the cornerstone of the economy.

Located at the southern tip of Prince George's County along the Patuxent River, Trueman's Point served as the trade port for local farms. It was first used as a tobacco port in 1747. Although the official tobacco warehouse inspection port was soon moved to another site, Trueman's Point was still used into the 19th century for shipping tobacco and other products from the Woodville area. In 1817, George Weem's acquired the land as part of his steamboat operation. The land transferred ownership between different railroad and steamboat companies until 1932 when the wharf ceased use and the property switched to private ownership.

[Directions FROM Trueman's Point TO St. Dominic's/Villa DeSales: Kiosk #2]

Travel Time: 19 minutes, 3.2 miles

Here are directions from the Trueman's Point to St. Dominic's/Villa DeSales  
Turn around at Trueman's Point and head back West, away from the water. Ride along Trueman Point Road until you reach Eagle Harbor Road. Turn right and continue on Eagle Harbor Road for about 12 minutes. When the road ends, turn right on MD-381 North.  
That concludes the directions.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

Soon after planters settled in Woodville, they started building houses, having families and creating a large interconnected community. Three influential families, the Barkers, the Bowlings, and the Forbes, intermarried and created long-lasting relationships. Other families, such as the Scotts, Stones, Bowens, Halls, Grimes and Scotts were planters, doctors, and business owners who helped the Woodville community grow and thrive during its first few centuries.

William R. Barker was a prominent member of Woodville society throughout the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. He married Charity Gill in 1829, and became the owner of one of Woodville's plantations. Not only was Barker a planter, he was also a politician. He served a one year term in the Maryland House of Delegates in 1842. According to family tradition, Barker and his wife

hosted the wedding of Colonel John Bowling to Elizabeth Gill, Charity's sister, at their home in 1832. This marriage united the Barkers and the Bowling families together. Barker and Bowling shared a close personal relationship throughout their lifetime. In 1853, Bowling nominated Barker as Commissioner of the Baltimore & Potomac Railroad Line, a position which Barker was then appointed.

Barker and Charity never had any children. Instead, upon Barker's death in 1866, he left his entire estate to Bowling's children. The house remained in the Bowling family into the 20th century. The William R. Barker's plantation house still stands today, and you'll pass it as you travel along MD-381 North. MD-381 was completed between 1740 and 1762. Back then, people on horseback or in carriages traveled South from Baden, Maryland to Benedict in Charles County. Back then you would have been able to see the William Barker as you traveled. Unfortunately, the landscape has changed and now, due to trees and other plants, you will be unable to see the house as you ride.

However, not far from William R. Barker's house, the story of Colonel John Dominic Bowling and his wife continues. Colonel Bowling was a devoted Catholic while Elizabeth Gill was an Episcopalian. At the time, there were no Catholic churches in Woodville, much to Colonel Bowling's disappointment. Instead, the couple's thirteen children were raised in Elizabeth's faith, and all baptized at St. Mary's near their home. Their daughter, Frances Bowling, attended a Catholic boarding school and later wrote about converting to her father's faith. Colonel Bowling longed for a Catholic Church within his community, yet none were built during his lifetime.

In 1875, Colonel Bowling passed the task down his son. His will gave \$1,000 to John Bowling for the construction of a Roman Catholic Church on a section of his property. Three years later, in 1879, John completed his father's request and Woodville had its first Catholic Church, St. Dominic's. The Archbishop of Baltimore City, James Cardinal Gibbons dedicated the church and its nearby cemetery for the Bowling family and their descendants. At that time, St. Dominic's had a very different appearance than what you'll see today. The building featured German siding, wooden shingles, and a rose window on the side facing the road. The arched windows had shutters that could be closed when the church was not in use. Now, the building is covered with bricks and features stained glass windows.

Frances Bowling went on to forge a strong relationship with another prominent family. She married George Forbes Jr., the son of Colonel George Forbes, in 1872. The Forbes family were well known in the area as they had gained a large amount of land and wealth through planting and slave labor.

According to Angel Forbes Simmons, the great-great-granddaughter of Bowling and Forbes, the two wealthy men were both heavy gamblers. One night while the two of them were gambling at the Barabbas Hotel in Baltimore, Bowling lost a large amount of acreage to Forbes. The land he lost included acreage that was originally destined to go to Fanny Bowling. In order to get the land back, Fanny married George Forbes' son, George Forbes Jr. Now, whether or not there was ever love between the two no one knows for sure, but they stayed married and ended up having four children together.

A few years after their wedding, Fanny and George built their home, Villa DeSales near St. Dominic's Church. The dwelling is a High Victorian Gothic Revival style named after Fanny's

Catholic boarding school – Mount DeSales Academy. They also constructed the only known High Victorian Gothic Revival style stable in the county. Such a style is known for its use of multi-color decoration (polychrome), varying texture, and Gothic details.

To this day, the Forbes descendants still occupy Villa DeSales. The current owner, Mrs. Angel Forbes Simmons, uses 12 acres of the property to raise high quality alpacas. Unique alpaca fiber clothing and textiles are then sold from the showroom inside the main house. In 2007, the farm was honored by Governor O'Malley for being one of four bicentennial farms remaining in Maryland. It has been continuously farmed by the same family for over 200 years. It has also been recognized as the only self-sustaining bicentennial farm remaining in Maryland that is run entirely by one woman.

Another very prominent and respected member of the Woodville community was Dr. Michael Jenifer Stone. He was well known thanks to his family's decorated legacy. Dr. Stone's father served in the Maryland House of Delegates, was a member of the state's Constitutional Convention in 1788, and was elected to the first United States Congress in 1789. His uncle, Thomas Stone, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. However, Dr. Stone was also respected by his neighbors for his own work. He practiced medicine out of his home, Sunnyside, and served as the first Prince George's County School Examiner. An examiner reported to the board of County School Commissioners about the physical condition of school buildings and the level of teaching in the classroom. Dr. Stone served for nine years. From 1868 until his death in 1877.

In 1844, Dr. Stone built Sunnyside for his family. The house is located on Dr. Bowen Road and originally included the house, a summer kitchen with slave quarters above, and a corncrib. Like many other wealthy planters in the area, Dr. Stone owned eight slaves and held quite a large estate before the Civil War. Afterwards, due to the war and his slave ownership, Dr. Stone lost a large portion of his estate, though he did gain much of it back by the time he died. Dr. Stone and his wife, Susan A. Somercell, had six children. Only the eldest daughter, Mary, married. She had two daughters, and after her death in 1881, they were raised at Sunnyside. The house and property remained in the family until 1980.

History is full of what ifs, and the Stone family has been asking themselves quite a big 'what if' question for over 150 years. On April 15, 1865, just days after the end of the Civil War, John Wilkes Booth shot and killed Abraham Lincoln at Ford Theatre in Washington D.C. Booth quickly fled the city, first stopping in Surrattsville before continuing further south on his way to Virginia. Along his journey, Booth's injury from jumping off the theatre balcony became extremely painful and it was clear that Booth needed to see a doctor soon rather than later. According to Stone family lore, Booth and David Harold, another man involved in the plot, stopped at Horsehead Tavern. They asked for a doctor and were told that Dr. Mudd was four miles on the right fork while Dr. Stone was six miles on the left fork.

Those two miles would make all the difference in the course of the Stone family history. Booth choose Dr. Mudd and his injury was treated in the doctor's home before he continued South. This story of Booth's flight, and just how close it came to the Stones' home, has been passed down through the family. What if Booth had chosen Dr. Stone instead? The family now joke about just how close their family came to being involved in Booth's flight.

Further down on Dr. Bowen Road sites the PA Bowen Farmstead. This area dates back to the original land grants of Aquasco. The land was patented by Thomas Truman in 1665, when the land was originally part of Calvert County. Prince George's County was not created until 1696. Rinaldo Johnson purchased tracts of adjoining land known as "Purchase" and "Buttington" about 1789. These tracts would later become part of the PA Bowen Farmstead. Johnson held several properties in the area, but was heavily in debt to the State of Maryland. At the time of his marriage to his second wife, Ann Eilbeck Mason, daughter of George Mason, he signed a marriage contract keeping him from having claim to any of Ann's property. This included her slaves, her land holdings, and even personal items such as her pillows. Rinaldo and Ann lived at their Aquasco property and had several children together. Ann continued to live on the property even after Rinaldo Johnson died in 1811.

In 1814, during the War of 1812, British troops ransacked the property on their way up from Benedict in Charles County to Washington D.C. In an 1828 court filing, Ann Johnson's heirs requested compensation for the damages sustained during the war. They were denied compensation for their father's tobacco, which has been destroyed by the British while in storage at Magruders Ferry tobacco warehouse. They were, however, awarded compensation for their mother's loss of a silver plate and three enslaved men which were taken by the British. These men, Bill, Barnett, and Charles likely went with the British for the promise of their freedom if they took up arms against American forces

We're coming up on St. Dominic's Catholic Church, just past Villa DeSales, on the right hand side of the road. This is the site of the second kiosk. We suggest you pause this recording and take the opportunity to read the additional information offered at the site. You will also get a chance to take a closer look at St. Dominic's Church. If you want to see more of Villa DeSales, which sits farther away from the road, we recommend you check [marylandalpaca.com](http://marylandalpaca.com) for more information on the hours of operation at the Alpaca Farm.

[Silent Pause for 5 to 7 seconds. To give people time to decide to stop or keep going]

[Directions FROM St. Dominic's/Villa DeSales TO Woodville School: Kiosk #3]

Travel Time: About 10:48 minutes, 1.8 miles

Here are directions from St. Dominic's to Woodville School

Head North, traveling with St. Dominic's Roman Catholic Church on your right. You'll travel for about 2 minutes until you reach St. Mary's Church Road. Turn right. Keep traveling straight for 3 minutes. Turn around at the Aquasco School House and head back along St. Mary's Church Road until you reach MD-381 North. Turn right and travel for another 4 minutes until you reach Woodville School.

That concludes the directions.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

In the mid-nineteenth century, George A. M. Turner became the owner of the PA Bowen Farmstead property. Turner built several functioning outbuildings, which is still located across the Dr. Bowen Road today. During that time, the property became known as Aquasco Mill Farm due to the fact that the land came with a grist mill. Constructed around 1789, this mill ground grain into flour until the 1920s. The mill was only 784 square feet, yet An 1880 Manufacturing Schedule of the Federal Census lists the mill as producing 100 bbl of flour, 135 tons of meal,

and 8.5 tons of feed. Today, only three stone walls of the mill remain standing. The mill run, the water that would turn the water wheel can sometimes still be visible parallel to the creek when the water is high enough. Sadly, in 1861, Turner died, leaving behind four young orphaned children.

Philander Adams Bowen, the second cousin of Turner, was one of the administrators of the estate. He petitioned the County Court of Equity to sell the property to pay off Turner's debts so that his personal estate be saved for the Turner children. PA Bowen himself purchased the property in 1862, but the deed was not executed until 1869. Some sources claim he tore down the Turner dwelling to build his own house, but others disagree and say he merely added an addition to the original building on the eastern side.

Philander was a well-respected teacher and principal in Georgetown but moved his family to Prince George's County so his wife, Rachel Ann Etheldra Morton Bowen, could be closer to her family. Philander became an active member of the local Aquasco community. In 1902, he was appointed as a trustee for the Woodville public school. Bowen's children were also involved in the community. One child was on the Woodville baseball team. Another was married at St. Paul's with a reception held at the Bowen Mansion. Another child, Dr. Harry Morton Bowen, became a doctor that served the Aquasco community.

This house was in the Bowen family until 1927. It changed hands a few times until 2009 when the current owners purchased the property. They now operate a dairy farm where they offer tours and have a gift shop with Maryland-created crafts.

In 1889, Bowen's son, Dr. Harry M. Bowen, started living in a house near his father's farm. Dr. Bowen, for which the road is named for, studied medicine at Georgetown and John Hopkins University before returning to Aquasco. He served as a physician for over 40 years, from 1900 until 1943, and his office was located in his Adams-Bowen residence. He also served 14 years as the Prince George's County Commissioner before passing away in 1954. His son, Dr. Henry Lee Bowen, a historian, assumed ownership of the site until the present day owners bought it in 1964.

In 1850, the well known Hall family constructed the Hall Store along this road just past St. Dominic's. The store served as a commercial outlet for the rural community. By this time, Woodville was made up of approximately 50 buildings, including farms, churches, the grist mill, a tavern, and several stores.

In 1875, a branch of the Hall Family constructed a house just south of the store. There, Sarah Hall lived with her widowed mother and siblings, Susan, John, Richard and Mary. Unlike other members of the community who created strong relationships through marriage, Sarah Hall herself remained unmarried throughout her life. She continued to live in the house with her sister, Mary, and her husband, Dr. John C. Thomas, until the early 1900s.

The Hall Store was passed down through the family from one descendant to another. In 1879, Ann Hall, a widow, passed the store to Laura shortly after she married William W. Hall, a Maryland miner working in Prince George's County. However, in 1885, Laura passed the store down to her sons from her previous marriage. The Wissman Brothers then sold the store outside the family to Issac Childs of Washington D.C. the same year.

Another store in the area was the Cochrane Store. Currently, the store sits abandoned along MD-381. Ruin enthusiasts find this site a curiosity. It probably was constructed around 1850 and was once owned by James A. Cochrane, a local merchant. His wife, Mary C.B. Cochrane owned the house nearby where they lived from 1875 to 1910. In 1888, there was a fire at the store that caused \$3,500 in property damage. Thankfully, the rebuilding of the store was funded by an insurance company. In 2018, that would equaled about \$92,513.

In 1910, the house and store were sold to Andrew Grimes. The Grimes family retained ownership of the buildings through most of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They used the store to run an undertaker and embalmers, feed store, and also offered general goods. Depending on the time of year, you may be able to see the old advertisement painted on the exterior of the store. It reads 'Andrew J. Grimes & Sons. General Merchandise, Undertakers, Funeral Directors and Embalming. Aquasco, Maryland.'

Grimes and his wife Margaret Ann had eight children and despite owning the house next to their store, they lived in the Scott farmhouse on St. Phillips Road from 1902 until 1996. Members of the Grimes family continued to be business owners in Aquasco. The local IGA store, also known as the Grimes Market, was owned by Eugene C. Grimes Jr. from the time it opened in 1982 until his death in 2012. Debbie Grimes closed the store last year.

On St. Philip's road sits a small family cemetery enclosed by a chain-link fence. This cemetery belongs to the Scott and Fenwick family, and is reserved for family members only. It is still used today. Most of the older markers are for the Scott family, who lived in the farmhouse nearby. The house was probably built by Albert H. Scott in the mid-nineteenth century. This cemetery reminds us of the importance of family and heritage to the local community and is one of many such examples in the region. Please, remember to be respectful if you stop at the Scott Cemetery site. Do not attempt to enter the cemetery. And do not disturb any of the gravestones. Thank you.

In 1878, Scott sold the property to his son, Richard M. Scott for \$20.00. In 2018, that would be about \$500. If only you could get a house that cheap today! At that time, the property was referred to as the "Dove's Nest." The property was sold to the Grimes family in 1902, and this is where they lived while they operated their store. Most of the outbuildings at the Scott Farmhouse property were constructed by the Grimes family. The house remained with the Grimes family for almost, but not quite, 100 years.

You will soon arrive at Woodville School, the site of the third kiosk. Again, we suggest you pause this recording and take the opportunity to read the additional information offered at the site. You can also explore the Woodville School site.

[Silent Pause for 5 to 7 seconds. To give people time to decide to stop or keep going]

[Directions FROM Woodville School TO Aquasco Mill]

Travel Time: About 10 minutes, 1.7 Miles

Here are directions from Woodville School to the Aquasco Mill.

We suggest you pull into the Woodville School Parking area in order to turn around. You want to travel back South on MD-381 for about five minutes until you reach Doctor Bowen Road. You

will see St. Mary's Church on your left. Turn right down Doctor Bowen Road and continue for two and a half minutes until you reach Sunnyside. Please, remember to be respectful if you stop at the St. Mary's cemetery site. Do not attempt to enter the cemetery. And do not disturb any of the gravestones. Thank you.

That concludes the directions.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

Religion plays an important role in the Aquasco community. Churches are one of the important landmarks in the area. These churches are often centers of social gatherings and tell us more about the changing landscape before and after the American Civil War.

As you turn back onto MD-381, you'll see St. Mary's Episcopal Church on your right. Located at the intersection of Dr. Bowen road and Aquasco road, this church continues to sit at the heart of the Aquasco community.

The first church on this site was built in 1848, and was made of wood covered with stucco. It's unclear why the church was rebuilt, but in 1920, the present day Tudor inspired church with the corner tower was constructed. This original church did not have the distinctive, medieval style tower you see today. St. Mary's has played an important social and religious role in the location community since 1838.

A short distance down St. Mary's Church Road sits the St. Mary's Rectory. A rectory is the home of a member of the clergy who is in charge of a parish. Originally, the rectory was to be built in Baden near St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the main parish church. However, George Morton, a wealthy vestry and plantation owner, donated a plot of land in Aquasco. Thus the rectory was built near St. Mary's, the mission chapel instead. The rectory now belongs to private owners and is not open for visitors.

Located in the heart of Aquasco, St. Mary's was the center of social events in the area, especially for the local prominent plantation owners. It was the venue of many high profiled weddings and many prominent families, like the Turners, were also buried in the church cemetery. In 1921, W.T. Davis of Washington, a popular contralto soloist, even held a performance in the church.

In the nineteenth century, St. Mary's Church was integrated with African Americans much like St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Baden during that time. However, after the Civil War, the congregation at St. Mary's became segregated.

A separate church, St. Philip's Episcopal Church, was erected west of Aquasco for the black Episcopalians in the area. The church was the first of two African American Episcopal churches in Prince George's County. Founded around 1880, the church was a white frame structure. A nearby bell-cote, a small structure used to shelter bells, is now the only remaining structure. It sits just west of where the church once stood on St. Philips Road. According to local accounts,

the bell-cote collapsed in the late 20th century. Thankfully, it was rebuilt by St. Mary's County Amish. Today, it still holds the same bell, cast by McChane and Company in 1884, that it sheltered when the church was still standing.

St. Philip's Church was home to the first African American woman to be ordained as a Episcopal priest, Pauli Murray. Murray was a Civil Rights activist and lawyer, but in her later years she decided to become a preacher. Murray's uncle had served as vicar of the St. Philip's Church in the 1920s, and Murray would often attend church as a child when spending summers with her aunt and uncle. She completed her parish field work at St. Philips from 1975 until the church was lost in 1976. Murray described the church in her autobiography: "Its white wooden structure held scarcely more than a hundred people, but for me it rivaled the quality of a great cathedral."

Sadly, St. Philips burned down in 1976 due to a furnace explosion. There was some tension in Aquasco while the congregation tried to find a new worshipping space. There was pressure from the Episcopal Diocese of Washington for St. Mary's, the all-white Episcopal church, to be given to the African American congregation. Both congregations strongly rejected the idea. The St. Philip's congregation wanted a new church to be built on the site of the old one. The congregation eventually bought a church in Baden, Maryland in 1980. They still worship at the Baden church today.

Music has also played a big role in the Aquasco religious community. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Mighty Wonders of Aquasco, a local acapella gospel group, was extremely popular locally. They recorded two double sided 45 rpm records. One called "Old Ship of Zion" with "How Far am I from Canaan?" on the b side and another recording "Old Time Religion & I Shall Not be Moved." When active, the group performed at churches in the Baltimore area almost every Sunday of the year. Their recording of "Old Ship of Zion" has a unique rendition that includes lyrics not found in the original hymn.

[insert 30 - 45 second recording of a song by the Mighty Wonders of Aquasco]

[Directions FROM Aquasco Mill TO St. Philip's Church]

Travel Time: About 11 minutes, 1.9 Miles

Here are the directions from Sunnyside to St. Philip's Church.

Turn around in front of Sunnyside, but do not use the driveway, and head back up Doctor Bowen Road until you reach MD-381. Turn right and continue for two minutes until you reach St. Philip's Road. Turn right and continue along the road for another two minutes until you reach the site of St. Philip's Church. The church site is currently surrounded by a chain link fence. Please, remember to be respectful if you stop at the St. Philip's cemetery site. The cemetery is still actively used. Do not attempt to enter the cemetery. And do not disturb any of the gravestones. Thank you.

That concludes the directions.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

When the American Civil War ended in 1865, the millions of freed slaves faced significant challenges from the less than welcoming communities around them. Established in 1865 by Congress, the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, better known as the Freedmen's Bureau, was created to help former black slaves during Reconstruction. The program, though short lasting and of limited success, the Bureau created a number of schools for African Americans.

The process of rebuilding the South, also referred as the Reconstruction period, extended from 1865 to 1877. During this time, many southern states found ways to limit the freedom of these newly freed slaves. Systematic racial segregation of blacks and whites was one of the methods. These state and local laws enforcing racial segregation are referred to as Jim Crow Laws. This limited what African Americans can do from marriage to education to religion to transportation. "Colored-only" and "whites-only" divided every aspect of daily life.

John Wesley Methodist Church, now known as Christ United Methodist, is one of the earliest churches established by freedman in Prince George's County after the Civil War. The building has changed several times over the course of its history. The land was purchased by James Gray, a freedman, in 1866 in order to erect a Methodist Episcopal Church for the freedman community in the area. In 1873, a chapel was built on the site. However, in 1906, for an unknown reason, a new chapel replaced the original building. Sadly, nothing from the original 1873 chapel remains today.

Around 1955, a church hall was built and a new chapel soon followed in 1961. That's a total of three chapels on this one site alone. In 1973, John Wesley merged with St. Thomas Methodist to become Christ United Methodist and the congregation is still active today. Near the church is a cemetery with graves dating back to 1915. The most recent date is from 2005, but the cemetery is no longer in use.

The site was also the location of Aquasco's first Freedman's school. The schoolhouse was erected in 1867. James Gray and two other Freedmen, Walter Thomas and Richard Thomas, served as trustees for the school. A teacher was assigned by the Freedmen's Bureau in 1868. The school was known as the John Wesley School and operated until the Woodville School down the road was built in 1934.

Woodville schoolhouse was the third and final schoolhouse built for African American Students in this community.

In 1868, the Freedmen's Bureau built the first schoolhouse on the grounds of the John Wesley Methodist Church. The three original school trustees also served as trustees for the church.

In 1877, the second African American elementary school was built on the west side of Aquasco Road, about 100 yards south of the Woodville school that stands today. The 1877 structure

served as a school until a larger schoolhouse was needed and this became a private residence. This building was torn down in the early 21st century.

The Board of Education purchased a 2-1/2-acre lot on the east side of Aquasco Road for the Woodville School in the early 1930s. The Board purchased building materials, and the construction was performed by Emergency Relief Administration labor. The end result is the building you see here today: a three-classroom rural school, the largest built for African Americans at that time.

The school closed in 1955 and was purchased by the St. John's Commandery #373. This African American Catholic group continues to use the former schoolhouse for meetings and as a social hall.

As a part of segregation, schools were also built to serve only white children. Constructed around 1906, the Aquasco Schoolhouse is an example of a white only schoolhouse that still stands in Aquasco today. You passed this schoolhouse on St. Mary's Church Road earlier in the tour.

[Directions FROM St. Philip's Church TO John Wesley Church]

Travel Time: About 7:12, 1.2 Miles

Here are the directions from St. Philips Church to John Wesley Methodist Church. Turn around at the St. Philip's Church site and head back down St. Philip's Road to MD-381. Turn right and travel for four minutes until you reach Christ Church Road, then turn right and travel for another two minutes until you reach John Wesley Methodist Church, the site of the first Freedman church and African American schoolhouse in Aquasco.

That concludes the directions.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

*Note From the Writers:*

*This section of the audio tour was purposely left blank to provide space for future information. Currently, the audio tour does not last a full two hours, leaving space for any additional information to be inserted at a later time.*

You will soon arrive at John Wesley Methodist Church, the site of the third kiosk. Again, we suggest you pause this recording and take the opportunity to read the additional information offered at the site.

[Silent Pause for 5 to 7 seconds. To give people time to decide to stop or keep going]

[Directions FROM John Wesley Church TO Resort Towns Kiosk]

Travel Time: About 18 minutes, 3 miles

Here are the directions from John Wesley Methodist Church to the Resort Towns Kiosk.

Use the area in front of John Wesley's Church to turn around and return to MD-381. Then turn left and travel for two and a half minutes. When you reach Eagle Harbor Road, turn right and continue for 2 miles. At the fork in the road, go left onto Trueman's Point Road. Travel for two minutes until you reach Elms Trail. Turn right at the intersection.

That concludes the directions.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

Segregation has impacted the way African Americans gather for recreation as well. Many popular beaches in Maryland like Sandy Point and Bay Ridge were exclusively white beaches. As a result, African Americans had to create their own resort destinations like Highland Beach and Carr's beach in Annapolis. In these beaches, African Americans are able to swim freely without discrimination.

In 1925, developer Walter L. Bean purchased several parcels of land along the banks of the Patuxent to the south of Trueman Point from two Aquasco farming families, the Thomas Keech and Samuel Stamp families. The modest polychrome Thomas Keech house stands at the southeast corner of MD-381 and Eagle Harbor Road as you head towards Trueman Point. Bean purchased their lands, with the idea of creating a resort community for African-Americans from the Washington area.

Bean's land was surveyed and platted into small lots which were then heavily advertised in the African-American newspapers of Washington, DC. The sales manager for Eagle Harbor was M. Jones, who during the years of 1925 and 1926 released tons of advertisements for the new resort. Advertisements in the Washington Tribune in the mid 1920s boast "500 Plots at 1 Cent, Payable 20% down and balance in 40 equal Weekly Payments". Another said the new \$50,000 Hotel will "Double Values at Eagle Harbor within the next thirty days!" and yet one more "Come to Eagle Harbor Plenty of accommodations for Vacationists and Week-End Parties Fine Beach, Bathing, Boating, Fishing, Merry-go-round, Cafes, Tea Rooms, Boarding Houses, Sugar Bowl Bath House, Large Excursion Boat. And Ideal Place for Sunday School and Private Picnics. Fishing Parties and Week-end Visitors!"

The resort was only 30 miles from Washington over fine roads, and the community would be "a high class summer colony for the better people." Lots were offered for \$50 or less, and prospective buyers could for \$1.00 round-trip bus fare visit the resort to inspect the area beforehand. The sales office was located in the Shaw section of Washington. The busy location of theaters, offices and businesses of successful black businessmen and professionals. This was a period when Highland Beach, was a popular resort community, and Eagle Harbor began to attract a good number of middle class African-American residents of Washington, who were often teachers, pastors and business owners. People began building small cottages for their summertime use, and by 1928, the Eagle Harbor Citizens Association was already exploring the idea of incorporation.

Unfortunately, building a remote community didn't keep discrimination away. In 1928, as Eagle Harbor was becoming well established, the county felt the need to reassess tax rates on the lots. The white tax assessor raised the rates sky high! By making prices outrageous, families could no longer afford to live there. E.S. Hine helped to fight this clearly unfair assessment by proving that the prices assigned to Eagle Harbor did not match nearby white neighborhoods who had larger lots and lower prices. This event spurred the town's decision to become incorporated, and in 1929, with the sponsorship of state representative, Landsdale Sasscer and financial support from African American businessmen and Eagle Harbor resident, John T. Stewart, the town of Eagle Harbor officially incorporated as a municipality in Prince George County.

As the community grew, businesses began to pop up to serve the community's needs. This growth in businesses began as early as 1927. In 1934, the Patuxent Hotel in Eagle Harbor, a 28-room hotel was built by the Morrison Brothers. Sadly, the Patuxent Hotel no longer exists. However, these brothers then went on to build the future Fairmont Heights High School, an African American only high school, which opened in northern Prince George's county in 1950. Some other notable businesses include the Marie Villa in Eagle Harbor and the Harrison's Cafe in Cedar Haven. Harrison was a restaurateur in Washington DC, who served Fried Chicken Dinners to visitors of Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor during the fall season.

One existing historic business structure is *The Wanderer* general store at the fork in the road at Trueman Point Road and Daniel Payne Blvd, just before you enter either Eagle Harbor or Cedar Haven. It is currently privately owned and has not been used as a store for some time. Mr. Crudup, the mayor of Eagle Harbor, worked there in 1963 for one weekend as a young man. He mentioned the importance of these small, locally owned stores to the small waterfront community. It provided a safe shopping option for the African American community during a time of high racial tensions.

One of Eagle Harbor's treasured sites is the Artesian Well. The Artesian Well is a remnant of Eagle Harbor's resort town history. When the town was made up of summer homes, residents did not need to install wells on each property. Instead, the community created the Artesian Well as a public well for the community to use. By the 1960s, more permanent residents started populating the town and most people began drilling wells on their individual properties. The Artesian Well still continued supplying water until 2014 when it stopped working. It is still unclear why the well stopped functioning. Due to the well's location along the water's edge, the well is threatened by rising waters and shoreline erosion. The town has actively applied and received grant funding to preserve the well for the future.

As "The Paradise on the Patuxent," Eagle Harbor beach is the most important feature of the waterfront community. The beach was the main reason why African Americans formed a resort community here. People would enjoy swimming, fishing and boating in the water. However, this historic beach is unrecognizable as the popular vacation destination it was in the past. Much like the Artesian Well, the historic beach faces many environmental challenges today. One of the

many environmental concerns is shoreline erosion. Eagle Harbor Beach has been losing about one inch of shoreline every year. This is impacting several structures along the waterfront. Since its initial service in 1964, the neighboring Chalk Point Generating Plant has deteriorated the water quality. The water is currently not safe to swim in due to the pollution.

These environmental challenges have made the Eagle Harbor community stronger and more proactive about sustainability. In August of 2018, Eagle Harbor became a Certified Sustainable Maryland Community. This effort not only serves to protect the tangible history of the Eagle Harbor community, but also to revitalize the resort town into an attractive recreational and heritage tourism destination all year-round. Eagle Harbor Beach is not just a historic beach to the community. It is a life source for the growth and continuation of this small and charming waterfront town.

Established in 1926, just a year after Eagle Harbor, Cedar Haven was designed as another summer refuge for African-Americans. The founders of Cedar Haven hoped it would rival the adjacent resort town of Eagle Harbor. The steamboat company went bankrupt not long after Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor were established, leaving the wharf open for use by the new resorts for African-Americans.

Early advertisements for the community spoke of an “exclusive” community of hills, beaches, woodlands, and meadows with fishing and crabbing, sports, hotels, dinners and dancing. The promotional literature claimed that a “60 foot boulevard sweeps across the stately crescent shaped beach, lined stately cedars from end to end.” All the streets and avenues were unusually fifty foot wide and every lot faced a street, avenue, or boulevard. Advertisers claimed that Cedar Haven was a safe place for children, where they could escape the dangers of city streets and learn the names of the country’s greatest African-American leaders from the street names.

All the streets in Cedar Haven used to be named after significant figures in African-American history, such as poet Paul Dunbar, Richard Allen, the founder of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Blanche K. Bruce, the first African-American to preside over the senate. One street honors Benjamin Banneker, who was born in Ellicott City to an ex-slave and a freed African American woman. Self-taught, Banneker wrote nearly twenty almanacs from 1792 until 1797. These almanacs were published in seven cities including Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Richmond. Another street honored Mary McLeod Bethune. She was a civil rights activist best known for starting a private school for African-American students in Daytona Beach, Florida. She also co-founded the United Negro College Fund in 1944 with William Trent and Frederick D. Patterson. Sadly, most of the street names have been changed, though Banneker still remains.

The streets in Cedar Haven were laid out in a grid pattern, with the north/south thoroughfare, Banneker Boulevard anchoring a number of smaller streets. Richard Allen Street is the main road running east and west, though it is quite narrow and without curbs

or lighting. Most of the other streets are small, and many do not run far off the main road. Although many maps show the streets laid out in a grid pattern, most of the streets were never fully extended or paved. If you look closely, you can see the street signs that identify the platted but unfinished streets.

Residents in Cedar Haven could swim at the natural beaches or enjoy the playground. Visitors could enjoy the summer activities by the water and stay for the fall foliage. Early construction in Cedar Haven comprised of small bungalows and cottages with porches and large setbacks. Many trees were cleared to make room for new houses, but trees were also planted along the roads to provide shade.

Three years after Cedar Haven was established, the Cedar Haven Hotel was built as the community's social center. Those without houses could stay at the Cedar Haven Hotel. The hotel was a large bungalow equipped with gas, electricity, a garage, and a dance hall, and quickly became well known for its chicken dinners. The Hotel served visitors and early residents, and showcased the bustling life of Cedar Haven during the community's early years. In 1929, the Cedar Haven Hotel hosted the Robert T. Freeman Dental Society. The program included breakfast at the Hotel along with hiking, a baseball game, water sports, tennis and more! Then in 1930, the Hotel was home to the Clark Smith's School of Secretarial Service. Tuition was only \$10 dollars, but for an additional \$5, students could stay at the Cedar Haven Hotel.

Cedar Haven also had a bathhouse near the beach. For summer visitors, the bath house on Crispus Atticus Boulevard was equipped with 80 locker dressing rooms, separated for men and women, as well as trained attendants. A lounging porch faced the water. Members of the community often gathered at the waters' edge to watch ships go up and down the Patuxent River. According to oral sources, you could rent a bathing suit at the bathhouse to use for swimming in the Patuxent River.

The bustling and lively Cedar Haven Hotel and bathhouse are gone, lost in the changing landscape; however, while physical structure may be gone, but the story of these buildings and their impact still lingers in many resident's memories today.

You will soon arrive at the fork road, the site of the final kiosk. Again, we suggest you pause this recording and take the opportunity to read the additional information offered at the site. You can also explore The Wanderer General Store at the site.

[Silent Pause for 5 to 7 seconds. To give people time to decide to stop or keep going]

[Directions FROM Resort Town Kiosk BACK TO Cedar Haven Fishing Area]

Travel Time: About 6 minutes, 1.2 miles

Here are the directions from Resort Towns Kiosk to the Cedar Haven Fishing Area. Head east on Elm Trail, towards the water, until you reach Patuxent Boulevard. Turn left at the intersection. Continue on Patuxent until Trueman Point Road. Turn left, then turn right after a few

hundred feet onto Cypress Trail. Continue straight on this road. This road will turn into Bethune Avenue then Daniel Payne Street. When you reach Richard Allen Street, turn left. Travel a few hundred feet, then turn right on Paul Dunbar Avenue. Travel for about a minute before turning left on Phyllis Wheatley Avenue. Keep traveling straight until you see the entrance for the Cedar Haven Fishing Area.

That concludes the directions.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

When Cedar Haven was established, residents were encouraged to order homes from the Sears, Roebuck and Company Catalog Homes. If the residents did not order from the catalog, they were strongly encouraged to build their homes like the models from the catalog instead. The Magnolia, Bellhaven and Whitehall house form were mainly used as the models for new homes in the community. These prefabricated catalog homes are often referred to as Sears Kit houses. Sears Kit houses were extremely popular in the 1900s because they eliminated a lot of time usually spent on traditional construction. These kit homes can be quickly assembled on-site.

There are a few Sears kit homes still standing today. One of these kit hoses is the Cedar Villa, located at the corner of Douglas Avenue and Allen Street. Another kit house can be seen on Booker T. Washington Avenue. This kit home, painted blue, matches the Ocean Park design from the Sears, Roebuck and Company Catalog Home. The “Bellana,” named after owner Anna E. Bell still stands as well. It is a front-gable house on a raised pier foundation with an open flat-roofed porch. The “Bellana” was built in the style of the Sear, Roebuck, and Company “Magnolia” model. It is unknown if the home was actually purchased as a kit from Sears or simply based on the Sears design. These early houses served as models for several houses later built throughout Cedar Haven.

[Triangle Sound - To signal the end of the directions]

This concludes the Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Town Audio Tour. Thank you for joining us today. We hope you’ve enjoyed learning about the communities of Aquasco, Eagle Harbor, and Cedar Haven. You’ve heard the stories of wealthy planters and how they’ve impacted the landscape. You’ve learned about the churches in the area, the ways in which they’ve served their communities in the past, and how they continued to serve. We’ve shown you schoolhouses that are sadly no longer used for education, yet can tell us so much about the past. Lastly, you visited the resort towns of Eagle Harbor and Cedar Haven, and learned about how they were created and where they’re headed in the future.

For more information, check out the Changing Landscapes: Farmsteads and Resort Town guide book, where you can learn more about each site. Have fun exploring Aquasco, Cedar Haven and Eagle Harbor and enjoy the rest of your day!