APPENDIX 11: GERMANTOWN CULTURAL RESOURCES

Park Planning and Stewardship Division, Department of Parks, 2008

From Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks, provides a blueprint for stewarding cultural resources and making them more visible to the public. The Cultural Resources Stewardship Section of the Park Planning and Stewardship Division uses the Plan as the foundation for its evolving work stewarding upwards of 150 park-based cultural resources.

This section reflects new park planning emphasis on historical and cultural interpretation and outreach. Historic interpretation is an important element of this plan and will be emphasized in the parkland and through the public amenity process. The interpretation of cultural and historic resources will support the vision of a sense of place that reflects Germantown's unique character.

Policy Guidance

From Artifact to Attraction: A Strategic Plan for Cultural Resources in Parks arose from the County Council's interest in understanding stewardship objectives and recommendations concerning Park-owned historical and archaeological sites. The plan was presented to the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Board, and the Planning, Housing, and Economic Development (PHED) Committee of the County Council. The document is not a master plan, but rather a strategic plan.

Plan Objectives

The Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan includes two types of information pertaining to cultural resources in parks: 1) a series of themes relating to Germantown; and 2) archaeological and historical resources on local, public parkland. The objective of this Sector Plan is to highlight opportunities to develop historic interpretation on local parkland, whether that is through future capital improvements by the Department of Parks or by developer amenity. Cultural resources on parkland are all those resources that help tell the story of the County's history, whether they are designated or not. Note that all sites that are designated on the *Master Plan for Historic Preservation* or on the *Locational Atlas and Inventory of Historic Sites* in the Germantown vicinity, regardless of whether they are in public or private ownership, are identified in the section titled "Historic Resources." Therefore, certain sites may be included in both this chapter on Parks as well as in the Historic Resources material within this Plan.

Cultural Resources Interpretive Themes and Opportunities

Five themes are identified for interpretation as follows:

1. **Native American Hunting and Gathering Grounds** (10,000 B.C. – 1607 A.D.). The area around Germantown served as a hunting and gathering grounds for various prehistoric peoples through the centuries.
2. **The Waters Family and Early Agrarian Founders** (18th Century – Early 20th Century). Germantown contains several historic buildings and sites associated with this prominent family who helped shape the agricultural tradition of Germantown. The sites are part of the farming legacy of the county. (Photo of the Waters House-Pleasant Fields previous page.)
3. **Water and Steam Powered Mills** (mid-18th Century - 1920s). Milling operations utilizing natural water resources eventually were converted to steam.

The Germans Behind Germantown (1830s - 1870s). Early German settlers built log structures and ran many mercantile operations. Their community became known as "Log Town."

5. **A Settlement that Followed Transportation** (Pre-1600 – Present). Transportation changes from water routes to foot trails, trails to dirt roads, roads to rail lines, and rail lines to paved roads and highways resulted in the movement of Germantown's core area from one place to the next over the centuries. (Historical photo of Seneca Viaduct below.)

Germantown's history can be conveyed through cultural resources in parks in the following ways:

- Public Art Interpretation in one or more of the urban parks proposed near transit stops.
- Historic and cultural interpretation can be implemented within urban open space nodules via collaboration with local artists in the following ways:

  - The creation of sculptures.
  - The use of "ghosting" of historic images on current building facades.
  - The fixed telescoping of historic views that can be compared with current views, etc.
- A historical marker trail along the Seneca Greenway Corridor that parallels Seneca Creek.
- An improved trailhead at the Waters House Special Park where it accesses the Upcounty Corridor, or North Greenbelt.
- Possible installation of a signed or brochure-guided cultural walk along the proposed Crystal Rock Greenway, culminating at the Black Hill Regional Park Visitors' Center.

The opportunity exists for the Department of Parks, private developers, and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County to create exciting and meaningful works of art that interpret Germantown's history. Within this context, opportunities also should be explored to creatively make use of some of the large local boulders from a dismantled Germantown railroad culvert, since these boulders still exist in storage at Black Hill Regional Park.

Each of the themes in this Plan could be interpreted with signage complete with text and illustrations.

The history of the Waters Family and other early agrarian founders should be told when a new trailhead can be constructed at the rear of the Waters House property. (Photo, opposite page, of the trailhead location at the Waters House Barn at near left.)

The Montgomery County Historical Society and the Heritage Tourism Alliance of Montgomery County have partnered with the Conference and Visitors' Bureau of Montgomery County and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County to study a proposed conversion of the bank barn at the Waters House Special Park into a Heritage and Visitor's Center. This barn, like all the buildings at Waters House Special Park, is owned by the Commission. If successful, the proposed project will create an additional destination point within Waters House Special Park that will offer information on local heritage, the Agricultural Reserve, park and recreational activities, hotels and dining, heritage tours and functions, wineries, local historical societies, etc.

Content of the Interpretive Themes

Boldface in text highlights extant resources which include the following:

1. *Historic sites designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation (identifiable by resource number with /, e.g. 19/13).*
2. *Cultural resources found in county parkland, not designated on the MPHP.*
3. *Archeological resource (identified with MO number, e.g. 18MO461).*

Theme 1: Native American Hunting and Gathering Grounds (10,000 B.C. to 1607 A.D.)

For thousands of years the Germantown region hosted a variety of prehistoric peoples. Although no Paleo-Indian sites (10,000 B.C. to 9000 B.C.) are particular to the area, a few locations along the Potomac River and one in the Sandy Spring region have been associated with these Ice Age hunters who are identified by their fluted Clovis-like points and mega-fauna hunting practices. The Sector Plan area would surely have been traversed and known to these nomads.

After 9000 B.C., a warming and drying trend brought on the beginning of more modern environmental changes associated with the Holocene era. A different prehistoric hunting and gathering tradition, called the Archaic Period, arose in the temperate climate and more modern flora and fauna which now covered the region. These Indians, too, were nomadic and, by the end of the Late Archaic Period, can be definitely placed in Germantown.

These were the Late Archaic broad-blade users who made the Savannah River and Susquehanna Broadspear points found in the **Kavanaugh III** (18MO182) and **Site 6** (18MO472) sites. The new side-notched shapes have been attributed to the introduction of the new atlatl, or spear thrower, which allowed for more force and distance. The Late Archaic Period was the height of the seasonal hunting and foraging pattern that would have focused more particularly on the resources of local creeks and streams. Broad-blade implements are thought to be specialized harpoons for fishing such as would have occurred in Seneca Creek. However, their users would also have gathered the starchy seeds and tubers of the wetlands and hunted the deer and other fauna that came there to feed.

Small mobile bands of between 50 and 100 people would most likely have visited the Sector Plan area in the summer and fall when hunting and gathering would have been at its best. Such Indians would have located their sites to exploit nut harvests, turkeys, and various vegetable foods, in addition to deer. Archaeologists have never discovered what type of structures these Archaic peoples made, but they were probably similar to the small round huts of later periods, usually covered with skins or woven reeds.

Late Archaic semi-permanent macro-band camps (100+ people) would have been located in areas of higher resource potential, mostly along the Fall Line, the geological break between the Coastal Plain (Prince George's County) and Montgomery County's Piedmont uplands. Their seasonal round would have taken them from such winter camps to springtime harvests in southern Maryland and back up into the western foothills again for the summer and fall.

The only evidence of Woodland or Agricultural Indians (1000 B.C. to 1607 A.D.) in the greater Germantown area comes from known Indian paths. Modern Route 355, was part of the old "Sinequa" Indian trail that eventually wound its way to Point-of-Rocks. Seneca Creek was also named for the northern Seneca Indians who used that stream valley as a way south.

Woodland villages have been discovered only in the Potomac Valley region of Montgomery County and its associated islands. However, earlier Indians would have also made use of the Germantown area solely to hunt and gather seasonal flora. Because such villages were abandoned about 100 years before European contact, archaeologists have no knowledge of any of their tribal affiliations, linguistic stocks, or even migration destinations.

When John Smith sailed up the Potomac in 1609, the Germantown area, along with the rest of Montgomery County, had become a sort of prehistoric no-man's-land, buffering the Algonquians of southern Maryland against the northern Iroquois (Seneca) and Susquehannocks and western Siouan and Shawnee tribes. The Susquehannocks and the Seneca were especially territorial about their rights to hunt in the region. It was the Susquehannocks who created the path that shows up on a 1716 map as the "Tehoggee Trail", a rugged thoroughfare we now know as River Road. By this time, the Indians of Germantown and Montgomery County had long disappeared into prehistory.

Theme 2: The Waters Family and Early Agrarian Founders (18th-20th Centuries)

Although Montgomery County was formed out of Frederick County in 1776, the establishment of a stable agrarian culture began much earlier. Europeans first took out land patents in the late 17th century. The earliest patents for the Germantown area were mostly in the mid-18th century. What had been the "old Sinequa" (Seneca) Indian path now led settlers west along what they called the "Great Road" (Route 355). They used the old Indian trail to roll their hogsheads (large barrels) of tobacco from their farms to the port of Georgetown.

The British settlers established the farming practices used in southern Maryland; a soil-depleting, slave-oriented tobacco culture. Most Montgomery County tobacco farms averaged only about three or four enslaved people, but some were larger. In the 1790s, upon their marriages, the three Waters brothers, Zachariah, William, Jr., and Basil, all were given land in what is now Germantown by their father, William, Sr. A stone boundary marker with the initials W & M (for the William and Mary Waters tract, photo, left) is located in the Black Hill Regional Park west of Germantown. The combined Waters property covered all of present northeast Germantown, comprising about 1,500 acres, and included a tobacco plantation worked by 22 slaves. The fourth Waters brother, Ignatius, inherited their father's estate in Brookeville. The stone foundations of the **William Waters, Jr. House** (19/3) are all that remain of a substantial brick residence built in the late 1700s.

Around 1810, Zachariah Waters also established a mill along Little Seneca Creek with three milling operations producing flour, lumber, and flaxseed oil. The mill ceased operation in c. 1895. Today the Waters Mill ruins are still visible, and they are interpreted by an historic marker in Black Hill Regional Park.

While the Zachariah and William, Jr. Waters homes no longer stand, the Basil Waters House, dating from the late 18th century, does. Basil Waters developed his property into a large tobacco plantation known as **Pleasant Fields** (19/1, 18MO408). In the mid-1800s Basil's nephew, Dr. William A. Waters, lived in the house and had his doctor's office there. The house gained its present Italianate appearance under ownership of Charles Waters, son of William. Charles built or expanded the frame section and compatibly redesigned the existing house. The new large central hall was outfitted with an elegant curved staircase. Charles Waters bred racehorses on the property, one of which set the East Coast trotting record in 1898. The property, which remained in the Waters family until 1932, includes a bank barn and double corncrib. A small Waters family burial plot is nearby on Hawk's Nest Lane. The restored house and barn are owned by the M-NCPPC, open for community events, and operated in part by the Montgomery County Historical Society.

Theme 3: Water and Steam Powered Mills (mid-18th century through 1920s)

From 1820 to 1900, a booming economy emerged in the Germantown area. This new prosperity was made possible by the development of agricultural diversification and new fertilizers, as well as the advent of the railroad in the area by the 1870s. The change from a folk-oriented tobacco culture to a more nationally-focused industrial economy brought Montgomery County into the larger American pattern of development.

Along the waterways of Great Seneca Creek and Little Seneca Creek, grist and saw mills had appeared by the mid-18th century. The establishment of **Waters Mill** (18MO461) in Black Hill Regional Park, and other milling operations along Seneca Creek in the Germantown area, reflect the growth of water-powered manufacturing technology in the Piedmont region, where streams run swiftly. Early maps of the area identify mills as "G&S mills" for the water-powered grist and sawing activities located along these streams. These local businesses not only served the community's commercial needs with grain and lumber processing, but also provided important social and political functions as community gathering and voting places. The mills' names pay tribute to the early residents who lived near Germantown: Benson, Crowe, Clopper, Davis, Watkins, Waters, Magruder, and Hoyle.

Mill ruins known as the **Clopper Mill** (19/21) are located in Seneca Creek State Park. A mill was built on this site in the 1770s by Nicholas Sibert. About 1795, Zaccharíah MacCubbin rebuilt the mill in stone. Francis C. Clopper, a prosperous owner of woolen factory and mills, expanded the mill with brick. The mansion house for Clopper's estate, called Woodlands, was located near the park's visitor center.

It is difficult to determine exact construction dates of many of the early mills. Some burned or deteriorated, and their foundation stones were reused to build new mills on the same site. Early documents record ownership transfers that often meant a change in the name of the mill and the road where it was located.

Early water mills were located along a steady stream of water and were constructed using local stone and timber. Mill structures ranged in size from two- to three-story masonry or clapboard structures, and some even utilized two water wheels. Early water-powered mills were located along steady, fast-moving streams and were constructed using local stone and timber.

Mills from the 18th and early 19th century were usually powered by undershot wheels, where the force of the water against the lower blades turned the wheel. As the population and agricultural production increased, the need for reliable water power for milling and milling operations grew. Experiments using different types of wheel designs were used, with the overshot wheel being the most popular. In this design, the water struck the upper blades on top of the wheel and moved it down by the force of gravity.

At least an eight foot drop in elevation was necessary for locating a mill along a waterway. In addition, an ample supply of water was created by building a small dam or "mill pond" upstream from the mill. Water was diverted from the pond through a ditch called a "mill race" or "head race." The mill race contained a grate to filter debris before reaching the water wheel. Upon turning the large wheel, the water then flowed through the "tail race" and was diverted back to the main stream. The Waters Mill ruin in Black Hill Regional Park contains remnants of these races.

The large water wheel turned a shaft that powered a series of cogged wheels inside the mill structure, transferring power by moving from large to small gears and ultimately turning the mill stone for grinding. Two stones were used for grinding. The top stone, called the runner, rotated over the stationary bottom runner, or bed stone. Both stones were cut with furrows to grind and channel the grain to the stone's edge. Grain was poured into the center of the top stone and moved out through the furrows where the ground flour or meal was collected at the edges.

Early grist mills used locally-quarried stones for grinding rye, buckwheat, and cornmeal producing a coarsely ground flour or "country custom" flour. Stones were also imported from France and Germany and produced more finely ground flour. "Cullin" stones were a blue-black lava stone and "French burrs" were freshwater quartz stones quarried in Northern France.

A list of some of the water-powered mills located on public parkland near the Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan is located at the end of this document. Of the mill ruins cited, one of the most intact ruins, and an example of a mill constructed using the local black rock, is **Black Rock Mill** (24/6), now part of Seneca Creek State Park (photo previous page).

Water power fueled the mills until the advent of steam power in the 1850s. Later milling operations ventured away from the streams and towards steam power, locating near the railroad line for transportation purposes. In 1888, the Bowman Brothers' Liberty Mill was built next to the present-day Germantown depot, along the Metropolitan Branch Railway line of the Baltimore & Ohio (B&O) Railroad. The wooden flour mill burned in 1914 but was rebuilt and modernized in 1916 with six huge silos. In 1918 Augustus Selby and his four partners bought the mill and operated it until 1963. A grain elevator and grain dryer were part of the operation in the 1920s and 30s, but burned in 1972 after the mill had closed. Still standing, and located in the **Germantown Historic District** (19/13), is a grain scale housed in a small metal shed on Mateny Hill Road, southwest of Blunt Avenue. The Liberty Mill was at one time the second largest mill in the state.

Theme 4: The Germans Behind Germantown (1830s – 1870s)

The first German settlers in the area came from old Frederick County, and they established small farms growing grains and cereals. In the 1830s and 1840s, Pennsylvania Germans, as well as immigrants from Germany and Slavic countries, settled at the crossroads of Germantown (now called Liberty Mill Road) and Clopper (Route 117) Roads. Some of the first settlers were the families of Domenicus Stang, a blacksmith; Franz Grusendorf, a stonemason; and Asher Rosenmeier and Charles Adler, who ran the community's store.

Other early families included the Metzes and the Richters. Many immigrants were millers and farmers who tilled small plots of corn and tobacco. During this period, when farmers from the surrounding area came into town and heard more German than English, the area became known as "Germantown." The name Germantown first occurred in print in the mid-19th century, on a land deed. The settlement was also sometimes called "log town" because the Germans brought log construction to the area. Today only one of the known German-built dwellings associated with the original cluster of homes and shops from this particular time of settlement survives. The sole remaining structure is the **Grusendorf Log House** (19/19, photo right), which originally stood on the east side of Clopper Road, near Route 118. The house has been relocated to Seneca Creek State Park, southeast of Germantown.

Theme 5: A Settlement that Followed Transportation (pre-1600s – Present)

The settlements at Germantown have undergone five significant changes, from 1) Native American temporary settlements along the waterways in the pre-1600 period to 2) a small Germanic crossroads settlement at Germantown and Clopper Roads in the 1830s, to 3) a vital railroad stop in the 1880s and 90s, to 4) a "Corridor City" aligned with Frederick Road (Route 355) by the 20th century, to 5) part of the technology corridor in the 1970s, defined primarily by Interstate-270.

The initial movement of people and industry was away from the waters and towards the roads. After the Germans settled along east-west-running Clopper Road, the settlement kept shifting northwards: first with the coming of the B & O Railroad, next to better surface transportation with the paving of Frederick Road and then, with the construction of Interstate 270. Present-day Liberty Mill and Walter Johnson Roads were the original Germantown Road.

During the late 19th century, with the establishment of the railroad, farmers were able to ship their produce, grain, and milk to Washington, and also receive fertilizers to enrich the soil for larger yields. The railroad continued to provide a strong economic link for Germantown, especially to the expanding metropolitan regions of Baltimore and Washington.

In 1878, the first Germantown railroad depot was constructed. In 1891, it was replaced with a larger frame building. This depot burned in 1978 and was reconstructed following the same Victorian-era architectural details. Another railroad transportation component is the massive stonework of the **Waring Viaduct** (19/10) and its larger twin over the Little Monocacy River (near

Dickerson, MD). The 350 foot-long, three-arch viaduct of roughly dressed granite supports the tracks that are about 70 feet above the Great Seneca Creek. A granite abutment and piers also remain from the **Little Seneca Creek Viaduct** (18/44), a single-track railroad bridge.

As the automobile became the preferred method of transportation in the area, accommodations arose for motorists along Frederick Road. The **Cider Barrel** (19/33) was constructed in 1926 by Andrew Baker to sell cider and apples from his orchard. Located east of Germantown, this once-popular road-side stand still stands today.
The mid-20th century saw the growth of the area continue with the location of the main headquarters for the Atomic Energy Commission (now U.S. Department of Energy) in Germantown. The completion of the I-270 "Technology Corridor" during the 1970s provided for further commercial, business, and educational development. During this time period, a satellite campus for Montgomery Community College started in Germantown. Today, the area continues to develop along this transportation corridor with three major intersections providing access to the surrounding community.

List of Park-Based Cultural Resources

Known Prehistoric Archaeological Sites

There are seven prehistoric archaeological sites within and adjacent to the Germantown Sector Plan area. All of them consist of lithic scatter; i.e., they contain flakes and chips that were knocked off to manufacture tools and projectile points. Except for the Kavanaugh III (18M0182) and Site 6 (18M0472) sites, no diagnostic artifacts were discovered which would relate the other Indian sites to definite time periods.

Both the Kavanaugh III and Site 6 sites uncovered projectile points which dated to the Late Archaic Period, circa 3000 to 1000 B.C. The Kavanaugh III site contained the base fragment of a Susquehanna Broadspear-like point. Named for the Susquehanna site where it was first identified, it is triangular shaped, broad–based and side-notched, dating from 1750 B. C. to 700 B. C. The Site 6 point was a quartz Savannah River-like projectile. Again, named after its original Savannah River location, this point was triangular-based and side-notched with a broad triangular stem. Such spear points date from 3000 B.C. to 1000 B.C.

TABLE 1: Known Prehistoric Archeological Sites

Site Number	Site Name	Site type	Period
18M0182	Kavanaugh III	Archaic Lithic Scatter	Prehistoric
18M0183	Kavanaugh IV	Lithic Scatter	Prehistoric
18M0184	Kavanaugh V	Lithic Scatter	Prehistoric
18M0185	Kavanaugh VI	Lithic Scatter	Prehistoric
18M0186	Kavanaugh VII	Lithic Scatter	Prehistoric
18M0472	Site 6	Archaic Lithic Scatter	Prehistoric
18M0594	Wisteria	Lithic Scatter	Prehistoric

Known Historical Archaeological Sites

There are nine historical archaeological sites near the Germantown Employment Area Sector Plan. Seven of these are farmsteads; one is a masonry structure, and the other is a mill complex. They span a time from the late 18th to the early/middle 20th century.

Table 2: Known Historical Archaeological Sites

Site Number	Site Name	Site type	Period
18MO175	Rabbit	Farm	19th century
18MO181	Kavanaugh II	Frame Structure	Historic
18MO187	Kavanaugh VIII	Masonry Structure	19th century
18MO205	Parcel EC-1 Stone House	Farmstead	19th/20th century
18MO361	355-1	Farm	----------
18MO362	Middlebrook	Farm	18th-20th century
18MO363	Calico Crab House	Farm	19th century
18MO408	Pleasant Field	Farmstead	18th century
18MO461	Waters Mill & House	Mill	18th-20th century

Additional Cultural Resources in Parks

19/1 Pleasant Fields/Basil Waters House

(c 1790s-early 1800s; 1890s)
21200 Waters Road, Waters House Special Park Master Plan for Historic Preservation

The Waters family inhabited Pleasant Fields for more than a century. Basil Waters established the large tobacco plantation about 1790. The brick sections of the house (center and left) are the earliest, dating from the late 1700s or early 1800s. During the mid-19th century, Basil's nephew, Dr. William Waters, owned the property and located his doctor's office in a back room on the first floor. Dr. Waters served as the general practitioner for the community and also continued wheat and corn on the farm. In 1907, Dr. Waters' son, Charles, inherited the house and farm. Charles redesigned and expanded the house to its current Italianate-style appearance. The property was used for breeding racehorses and remained in the family until 1932.

Today, the restored house is open to the public and contains offices for non-profit groups and provides public meeting space. Now called the Waters House Special Park, the property includes a large bank barn, a corncrib, and carriage house and is adjacent to the North Germantown Greenway Stream Valley Park. The family burial ground of all three brothers' families is preserved near the Pleasant Fields property on Hawks Nest Lane.

Waters Mill Ruins, Chimney Ruins, and Boundary Marker

Black Hill Regional Park
Not Designated

In c. 1810, Zachariah Waters also established a mill along Little Seneca Creek with three milling operations—flour grinding, flax-seed oil pressing, and lumber cutting. The mills ceased operation c. 1895. An 1865 Martenet and Bond map, labels

the mill site as “Mrs. Waters Mill,” for Eleanor (Ellen) Waters, who was Zachariah’s daughter-in-law. Ellen operated the mills after her husband, Tilghman Waters, died in 1864. The Waters’ grist and saw-mill ruins are visible from the Black Hill trail and interpreted by a historic marker in Black Hill Regional Park. Foundations from the late 18th-century miller’s house are in the vicinity. The site provides a good example of the head race and tail race used to direct water to and from the milling operation. Also located along the trail is a remaining “W&M” stone boundary marker indicating the William and Mary Waters land tract. Near the park’s picnic area and playground are two stone chimneys and a foundation from a former tenant house owned by the Waters family.

14/54 Davis Mill Ruins

Great Seneca Stream Valley Park
Not Designated

The Davis Mill, located along Davis Mill Road near Great Seneca Creek, was purchased by John Samuel Davis in the 1880s. A mill was at this site as early as 1783. During the time Davis operated the grist mill, it was a three-story, clapboard, frame building with a stone foundation. Davis’ homestead was nearby and overlooked the mill. The mill burned in the 1940s. An interpretive historical marker is located at the mill site.

19/7 Watkins Mill Ruins

Great Seneca Stream Valley Park
Not Designated

The Watkins Mill site is located along the Great Seneca Creek at Watkins Mill Road. Originally built by Aden Grey, a grist mill has been at this site since 1783. From 1791 to 1846, the Dorsey family owned the property and ran a grist and saw milling operation. From 1859 to 1877, it was owned and operated by Susan Ann and Remus Snyder. At that time, the mill road was also called “Snyder’s Mill Road.” Levi Watkins purchased the mill at auction and operated the grist mill. By the 1880s, the mill produced 600 barrels of wheat flour, 10,000 pounds of buckwheat flour, and 185,000 pounds of cornmeal a year. The mill burned in 1908. Part of the mill foundation remains along the creek bank, and portions of the mill race are visible. A radio tower is located near the former mill pond. The miller’s house burned in 1920. An interpretive historical marker is located at the mill site.

King Farm Dairy Mooseum

South Germantown Regional Park
Not Designated

The c. 1930s James and Macie King Dairy barn is part of the 650 acre South Germantown Regional Park. The large concrete block barn features a gambrel roof. Two original concrete silos are connected to the barn. In 2001-2002, the Department of Parks restored the exterior of the barn and added missing roofs to the silos. The barn is open to the public as the King Farm Dairy Mooseum (photo below).

Hoyles Mill Ruins

Hoyles Mill Conservation Park
Master Plan for Historic Preservation

The Hoyles Mill site is located along Hoyles Mill Road in the Hoyles Mill Conservation Park. This 19th century mill was operated by the Hoyle family on part of their farm land along Little Seneca Creek. The 1850 Census of Manufacturers lists it as a grist and a saw mill. It operated until 1914 when the Hoyles moved their milling operation to Boyds to be closer to the railroad. The mill ruins still contain remains of the water-powered turbine that replaced the mill wheel in the second half of the 19th century.

18/44 Little Seneca Creek Viaduct, B&O Metropolitan Branch Railroad Bed

Black Hill Regional Park and WSSC Property
Master Plan for Historic Preservation

This resource consists of the remains of the 1896 viaduct that traversed Little Seneca Creek and an abandoned c. 1865 railroad bed located approximately midway between Boyds and Germantown. These structures were once part of the c. 1860s Metropolitan Branch of the B&O Railroad, a 43-mile link between Washington, D.C. and the Main Line of the B&O at Point of Rocks, MD. Upon its completion in 1873, an economic boom began for the communities located near its route; consequently, the former crossroads community of Germantown moved its commercial development to the northeast, creating "New Germantown" along this railroad.

The remaining masonry structures once supported a single-tracked metal railroad bridge in operation until 1928. The bridge was abandoned when the railroad was double-tracked, straightened, and rerouted farther south. The bridge was built on a four-degree curve with a total span of about 480 feet and approximately 105 feet above water at its midpoint. The bridge was designed by John E. Greiner (1859-1942), an engineer with the B&O Railroad, using a relatively standard bridge design with the track supported by deck-type girder spans which were, in turn, supported by nine bents, arranged into four towers and one stand-alone bent.

In 1980, a dam was constructed to create the Little Seneca Lake reservoir. Construction occurred in the center of the viaduct site; the western section of the viaduct and its stone piers were either removed or buried.

The rest of the viaduct remains are located along the former eastern slope of Little Seneca Creek. It consists of one large granite-end abutment and four stone piers. The abutment is approximately 31 feet wide and 12 feet long. The structure stands some 12 feet above grade at its exposed end. Two dates are chiseled in the structure, "6.17.96" and "10.13.96" (photo below), and, probably represent the periods of construction. At the base of the stone abutment stand four stone piers. The 1896 viaduct replaced an early 1870s wooden trestle. Visible remains from this earlier bridge are the stone retaining walls that the B&O Railroad used as rip-rap for the base of the fill on the east bank of the creek. The viaduct structures are located on WSSC property.

The remaining B&O Metropolitan Branch Railroad Bed is a significant landscape feature that is cut into the hillside and leads from Wisteria Drive to the Little Seneca dam. It is now part of Black Hill Regional Park and is currently being used as an access road to service the dam. The road is closed to the public.

18/8 Boyd-Maughlin House

15215 Darnestown Road
(Black Hill Regional Park)
Master Plan for Historic Preservation

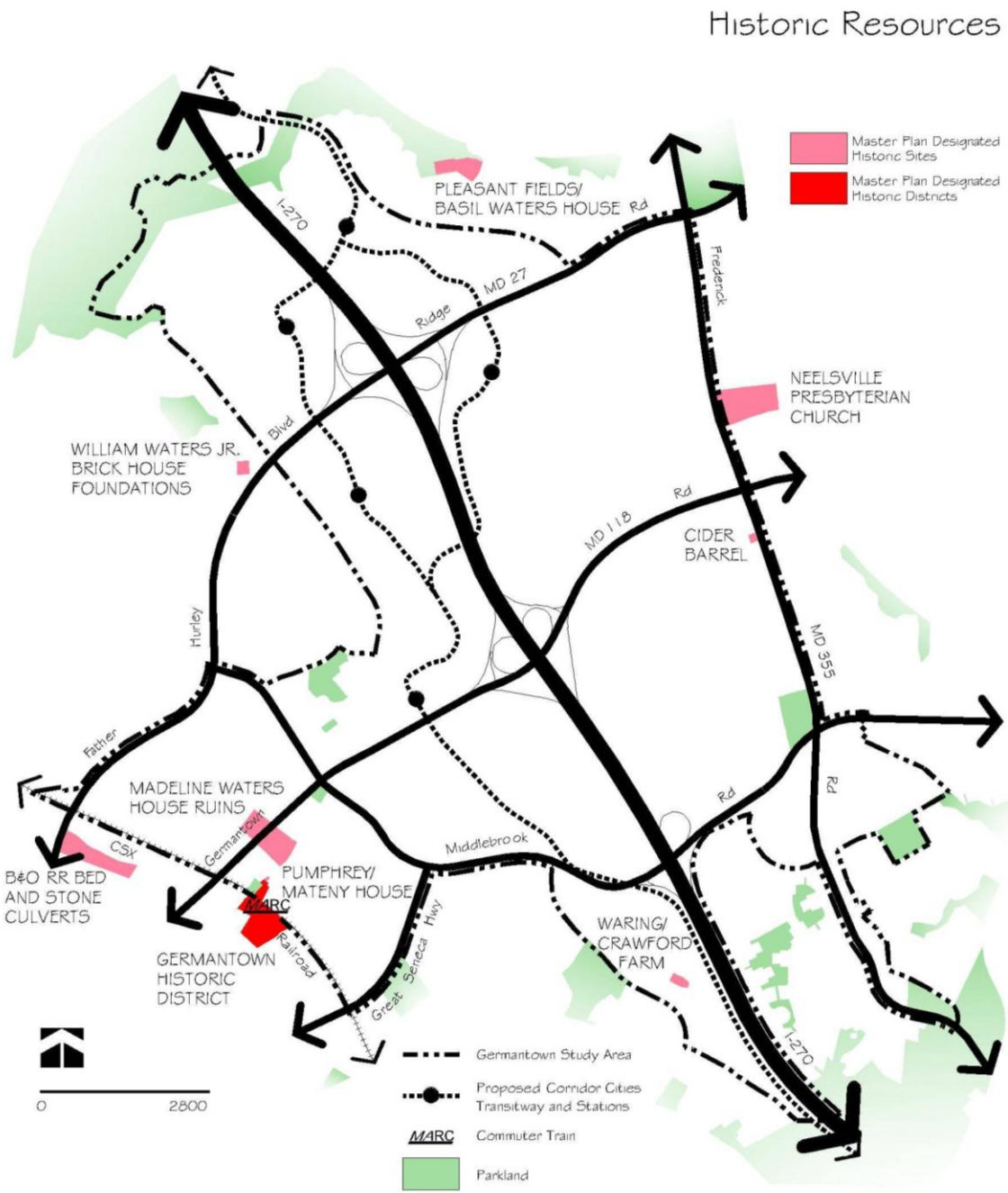
One of the earliest structures in the Boyds Historic District, is the David Maughlin House also known as the Boyd-Maughlin house that dates from 1866. The two-story, frame, clapboard house is a good example of the rural Gothic Revival influenced vernacular architecture. Features include a cross-gabled roof, bracketed porch posts, and a central front gable with a small arched window. The property is now part of the Black Hill Regional Park and rented as a residence.

Black Hill Gold Mine

Black Hill Regional Park
Not Designated

Remnants of mining pits from the Black Hill Gold Mine are located in the Black Hill Regional Park. Starting around 1850, miners used picks and shovels in open-pit extraction in attempts to find gold. However, results were disappointing since ore containing gold was rarely found. In 1947, George A. Chadwick purchased the property and later converted the mine to a bomb shelter. An interpretive historical marker is located at this site.

Photos: Black Rock Mill



Map 1: Historic Resources