

WELCOME TO THE

HISTORIC Hyattsville WALKING TOUR



Hyattsville Preservation Association Inc.
www.preservehyattsville.org

THE HYATTSVILLE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION INC. (HPA) WELCOMES YOU TO HYATTSVILLE, a “beautiful village...of the most delightful character... nesting as it does on and around a beautiful chain of Maryland hills (1892).” Hyattsville attracts those who value community involvement, the arts, family-friendly parks, and proximity to Washington, DC. The town, named after Christopher Clark Hyatt, was incorporated in 1886. (This is his stoic visage overlooking US Route One on the mural by the railroad overpass).

The federally designated Hyattsville Historic District, comprised of over 1,000 properties, reflects our heritage. Keen observers will see Hyattsville’s history written in architectural poetry. Large Victorian homes make up the bulk of the historical sites designated by Prince George’s County. Interspersed with the “painted ladies” are snug Arts & Crafts bungalows, Sears kit houses, substantial Colonials, and all types of revival styles. Note the transportation networks of yesteryear—Native American footpaths and canoes, stagecoach and trolley lines—have given way to Metrorail, CSX trains, and roads.

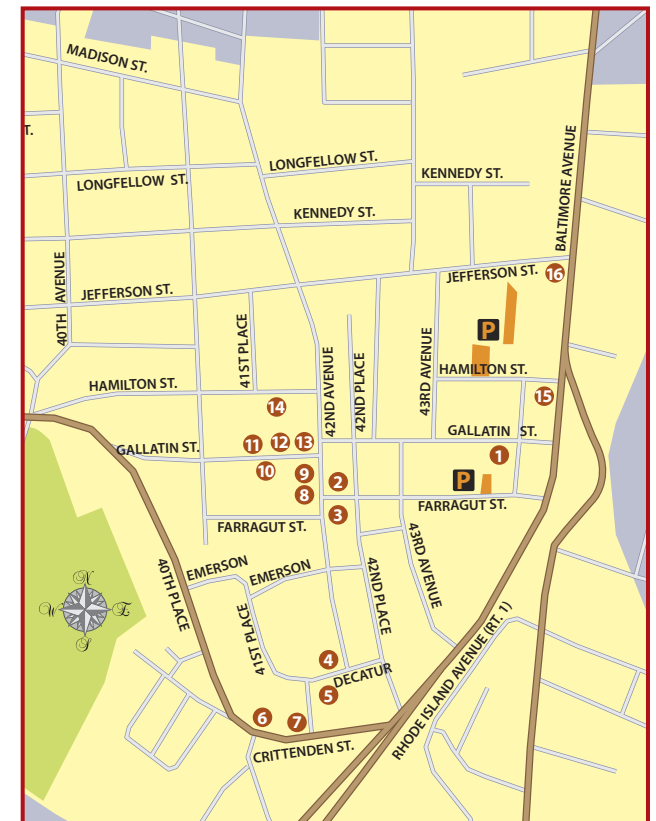
Along Route One, America’s first highway, are examples of Hyattsville’s rebounding commercial district. Franklins General Store was once the Hyattsville Hardware Co. The bins and shelves now hold children’s toys instead of tools but the store still converses with the past. The Lustine Building, a monument to “Car Alley,” stands as a pristine example of mid-twentieth century showroom architecture.

This tour features 16 Prince George’s County Designated Historic Sites and three National Register of Historic Places sites located in the City of Hyattsville.

The map is merely a guide. You are encouraged to wander through the town. Admire the gardens busy with bees making local honey. Observe the many building and preservation projects engaging (frustrating?) local home owners. Hyattsville is likely home to more “old house geeks” than any other town in America. We’re a friendly community and we welcome you to our neighborhood.

A game for all ages is provided to help walkers learn a bit more about our architectural heritage. Fill in the blanks and then match the letters to numbers at the end of the brochure to unlock the key. Answers on page 3, bottom of center column.

As you walk and talk, take care not to trespass. Please remember that most sites are private homes. For your convenience available parking is indicated on the map.



11. 4106 Gallatin Street, "Clarence McEwen House," 1887

The McEwen House was built from a mail-order pattern distributed by R. W. Shoppell's Cooperative Building Plan Association. The 2 ½-story, multigabled frame house features bays and paneled gables. Note the variety of surface treatments on the exterior. A town commissioner in Hyattsville in 1888, poor Mr. McEwen lost his property through default of mortgage payments. When the property was sold at the turn of the century it was described as "one of the best if not the best house in Hyattsville."

12. 4110 Gallatin Street, "Frederic Augustus Holden House," 1883

This is an outstanding example of vernacular stick style Victorian architecture. Particularly notable are the scissor trusses decorating the cornices of the gables and dormer ends and the windows. It is notable for its steeply pitched roof, a two-story semi-octagonal east bay, and a wraparound porch.

What type of trusses are featured on this house?

Answer: ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ 11 ■ ■ 12

13. 4112 Gallatin Street, "Lewis F. Holden House," 1897

Bookbinder Lewis F. Holden built his 2 ½-story Victorian dream home on two lots owned by his father. The home is a Queen Anne-style dwelling and features a wraparound porch supported by continuous arched posts. Steeply pointed gable roofs with exposed false timbering cover the porch entry. The house features a sleeping porch with a spindle frieze on the second floor. "Daddy Asay," the noisy ghost of a previous owner, rattles around near the servant's stairs in the kitchen.

What do you think a "projecting bay" is? How many can be seen from the street?

Answer: ■ 13 ■ 14 ■

14. 4115 Hamilton Street, "Edgewood," 1888

In the early 20th century, the New York stage actress Mrs. Matthew Halloran and a neighbor, Mrs. Fainter, organized the "Edgewood Players" in this home. The drama troupe was named after the "Wine Woods," a

sizeable forest adjacent to the property. The 2 ½-story frame cross-gabled dwelling is distinguished by geometric paneling on the principal gable. It was purchased from the original owners, the Mary Tricon family, by the Hallorans in 1900. Mr. Halloran was an early mayor of Hyattsville.

Note the Eastern white pine, *Pinus strobus*, one of America's most storied trees. The first flag of the Revolutionary War bore the image of a white pine in its center. The tree's timber, used for masts in the British Navy, was one of the main reasons the British established colonies on these shores. The battle for the right to harvest this resource was a major conflict, along with taxation without representation, and launched the colonies into the Revolutionary War.

15. 5214 Baltimore Avenue, Prince George's Bank and Trust, 1926

A lovely example of the Beaux-Arts Neo-Classical style, this 1-story building is dominated by a monumental entry portal that features projecting granite planters and steps, two large Ionic columns, and a recessed entry. It opened in 1904 as the First National Bank with \$40,000 in capital stock and guaranteed three percent interest on deposits of \$50 held for six months. The bank failed in 1929, its accounts were later secured by Prince George's Bank and Trust.

16. 5340 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville Armory a.k.a. "The Castle," 1918

This National Register of Historic Places landmark is a 3-story, fortress-like stone structure, distinguished by turrets, parapets, and buttresses. It was designed by Robert Lawrence Harris for the state of Maryland and served as the headquarters of Company F of the First Maryland Infantry, later the 115th Infantry Regiment, 29th Division. Since its deactivation in 1971, it has served as a restaurant and theater and currently as a church.

ANSWERS TO INDIVIDUAL CLUES BY HOUSE NUMBERS
1. Horse, 3. Fox, 4. Garden, 5. Semi Circle
6. Fish Scales, 7. Isosceles, 12. Scissor, 13. Two

HISTORIC PROPERTIES NOT SHOWN ON WALKING TOUR MAP:

17. 6122 42nd Avenue, "Paxton House," 1912

This front-gabled Victorian frame dwelling features distinctive ornamental shingle decoration. The house stands on two large lots and includes two accessory buildings, one of which faces the street to your left. This was once a doctor's office and has been converted to an artist's studio.

18. 4525 Buchanan Street, "Dorr House," circa 1908

The Dorr house lies east of Baltimore Ave. and is a visually distinctive landmark in this part of Hyattsville. Constructed of brick and molded concrete block on a rough square plan, its most prominent feature is the round leaded window with colored lights over five molded panels. The porch was apparently added later, according to the recollections of family members.

19. 3308 Rosemary Lane, "Ash Hill," circa 1840

Ash Hill, known locally as Hitching Post Hill, is a 2-story brick dwelling originally built on 427.5 acres. Presidents Glover Cleveland and Ulysses S. Grant enjoyed visiting Ash Hill. In 1877 Grant wrote to the then owner, General Edward Fitzgerald Beale, "I will feel more at home...no place more than in visiting your farm with you." Indeed, Grant stabled two prize Arabian horses on the property. The house features foot-thick brick walls and a massive pillared porch which surrounds it on three sides. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. In addition to the historic relevance of the home, the grounds feature a number of Champion Trees, those recognized for being the "largest, rarest, oldest and prettiest trees of various species."



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1. 4325 Gallatin Street, United States Post Office, 1935



2. 4200 Farragut Street, "Charles H. Welsh House,"



3. 5011 42nd Avenue, "Fox's Barn," 1892



4. 4206 Decatur Street, "Harriet Ralston House" 1880



5. 4200 Crittenden Street, "Marche House," 1933



6. 4100 Crittenden Street, "Wheelock House," 1905



7. 4106 Crittenden Street, "Wilson-Ferier-Windsor House," 1897



8. 5104 42nd Avenue, "Benjamin F. Smith House," 1886



9. 5108 42nd Avenue, "Shepherd-Sibley House," 1906



10. 4107 Gallatin Street, "W. G. Lown House," 1891



11. 4106 Gallatin Street, "Clarence McEwen House," 1887



12. 4110 Gallatin Street, "Frederic Augustus Holden House," 1883



13. 4112 Gallatin Street, "Lewis F. Holden House," 1897



14. 4115 Hamilton Street, "Edgewood," 1888



15. 5214 Baltimore Avenue, Prince George's Bank and Trust, 1926



16. 5340 Baltimore Avenue, Hyattsville Armory, "The Castle," 1918

GAME KEY: Match the numbers to the letters found in the clues to uncover Hyattsville's motto.

			9		14	2		12		10		4		
14	8	13	1	8	5		14	9	10	K	8	5	3	
			4	8	11		13	9	5	7		6		



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18. 4525 Buchanan Street, "Dorr House," circa 1908



19. 3308 Rosemary Lane, "Ash Hill," circa 1840



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