



## WELCOME to ELLICOTT CITY'S HISTORIC DISTRICT

The village of what began as Ellicott Mills was founded during the English colonization of the area in the 18th century in the Patapsco River Valley. The Ellicott brothers, Joseph, Andrew and John, came from Quaker Country—Bucks County, Pennsylvania—in 1772 to create what would eventually become one of the largest milling operations in the colonies. The settlement that grew around their prosperous milling operation was first called Ellicott Mills. In 1867, the town's name was changed to Ellicott City and is known today as Historic Ellicott City.

The National Road was started here and the first railroad terminal was established here in 1830. One of the first academic institutions in the country solely for women, the Patapsco Female Institute, was opened in this town in 1837. Civil War prisoners were confined here, and the war dead from Gettysburg and Antietam were transported through town by rail on their way to their final destination. Through the years, the town has been visited by a number of notable historic figures from Presidents to Babe Ruth who was married at the nearby St. Paul's Catholic Church in 1914. Despite this multi-dimensional history, after the Civil War, Ellicott Mills—now Ellicott City—went into a dramatic decline by mid-century.

Spurred by a renaissance in the 1960s that gained momentum in the 1980s, the historic district began to come back to life. Despite devastating floods in 1972, 2016 & 2018 and destructive fires in 1984 and 1999, Ellicott City's historic district today is a vibrant community with over 70 unique shops, restaurants & service providers, outdoor recreation, and free museums & historic sites.

# Ellicott City HISTORIC SITES

Visit  
Howard  
County  
Maryland

OLD  
ELLICOTT  
CITY

**A**

### THE ELLICOTT CITY COLORED SCHOOL, RESTORED

*May-Dec: Sat-Sun • 1-4 pm*

This schoolhouse was built in 1880 as the first school for African American students paid for with County funds. The school was open from the 1880s to 1953. The schoolhouse is now a museum and chronicles African American history in Howard County, particularly the era of segregation and the various segregated schoolhouses that existed in Howard County. Tours, programs, lectures and summer camps take place at the museum today.  
**8683 Frederick Rd., 410-313-0421**  
[howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites](http://howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites)

**B**

### THOMAS ISAAC LOG CABIN

*May-Dec: Sat-Sun • 1-4 pm*

Named after its late 19th-century owner, this rustic structure was built circa 1780 as a settler's home of Ellicotts Mills. The cabin was reconstructed on the present site in the late 20th Century. Here, visitors can learn about the settlement and development of the region and artisans.  
**Ellicott Mills Drive & Main St., 410-313-0421**  
[howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites](http://howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites)

**C**

### HOWARD COUNTY WELCOME CENTER: POST OFFICE MURALS

*Mon-Sun • 9 am-5 pm*

Originally a United States Post Office dedicated on December 7, 1940. After the Post Office closed in 2008, the building was purchased by Howard County Government and now serves as the Howard County Welcome Center and is home to two oil paintings by Petro Paul De Anna, an artist commissioned in 1942 by the federal government as part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. The murals entitled, "Building of Ellicott Mills" and "Landscape of Ellicott City" depict the town's beginnings in 1772. New Deal murals seen in Post Offices were intended to help boost the morale of people suffering from the effects of the Great Depression through art.  
**8267 Main St., 410-313-1900**  
[visithowardcounty.com](http://visithowardcounty.com)

**D**

### PATAPSCO FEMALE INSTITUTE

*May-Dec: Sat-Sun • 1-4 pm*

Perched at Ellicott City's highest point, the Patapsco Female Institute offered a revolutionary curriculum to young women from 1837-1891. The school earned a national reputation for its inclusion of botany, chemistry, and mathematics in a time where it was believed that women could not learn such subjects.  
**3655 Church Rd., 410-313-0421**  
[howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites](http://howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites)

**E**

### MUSEUM OF HOWARD COUNTY HISTORY

*Fri-Sun • 1-5 pm*

The Howard County Historical Society's Museum is home to hundreds of artifacts that convey the story of Howard County's rich history from before European settlement to modern events. A permanent collection along with themed exhibitions of artifacts and information gives a deep understanding of Howard County History and the County's role in American history. A children's version of the museum will be opening in 2021 next door in the former Quaker School building.  
**8328 Court Ave., 410-480-3250**  
[hchsmd.org](http://hchsmd.org)

**F**

### ELLICOTT CITY FIREHOUSE MUSEUM

*May-Dec: Sat-Sun • 1-4 pm*

Located in the heart of downtown, the Firehouse Museum explores the unique challenges of fighting fire in the late 19th and early 20th century Ellicott City. This building was the first firehouse in Howard County, built in 1889 and in use until 1923.  
**3829 Main St., 410-313-0421**  
[howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites](http://howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites)

**G**

### BALTIMORE & OHIO ELLICOTT CITY STATION MUSEUM

*Wed-Thurs • 10 am-3 pm, Fri-Sun • 10 am-5 pm*

Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1968, the B&O Ellicott City Station is the oldest surviving railroad station in the country. Today the site interprets the story of transportation and travel through exhibits, including an augmented reality experience, education programs and living history programs.  
**3711 Maryland Ave., 410-313-1945**  
[facebook.com/ecborail](http://facebook.com/ecborail)

**H**

### BENJAMIN BANNEKER HISTORICAL PARK & MUSEUM

*Museum: Tue-Sat • 10 am-4 pm (May-Oct);*

*Sundays • 12-4 pm; Park: Sunrise to Sunset*

A 142-acre site dedicated to telling the inspiring story of the life and times of Benjamin Banneker often considered the first African American man of science. The museum's exhibits chronicle Banneker's contributions as a largely self-taught mathematician, astronomer, almanac writer, surveyor, abolition advocate and naturalist during the late 1700s. Programs are focused on Banneker's life and his relationship to the land he inhabited.  
**300 Oella Ave., 410-887-1081**  
[baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/countyparks](http://baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/countyparks)

**I**

### THE #9 TROLLEY TRAIL

*Sunrise to Sunset*

A paved 1.25-mile shaded trail that follows what was originally part of the Catonsville and Ellicott City Electric Railway Company trolley line that shuttled passengers between Ellicott City and Baltimore from the late 1890s to the mid-1950s. There is a great coffee shop about halfway. The trail also connects with the Benjamin Banneker Historical Park hiking trails.  
**410-887-1081**  
[friendsofbenjaminbanneker.com](http://friendsofbenjaminbanneker.com)

Thank you for visiting, learn more on all there is to see and do in  
Howard County, Maryland at [VisitHowardCounty.com](http://VisitHowardCounty.com)



# Ellicott City

## SCENIC BYWAYS

Three separate state-designated scenic byways in Historic Ellicott City. Interpretive markers throughout town trace the nation's oldest road, preserve and protect important landmarks in the nation's journey to freedom, and retrace footsteps of soldiers and freedom fighters of the Civil War.

**Civil War Trails**  
[civilwartrails.org/docs/Baltimore-brochure.pdf](http://civilwartrails.org/docs/Baltimore-brochure.pdf)

**Network to Freedom**  
[nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/visit.htm](http://nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/visit.htm)

**Historic National Road**  
[visitmaryland.org/scenic-byways/historic-national-road](http://visitmaryland.org/scenic-byways/historic-national-road)

## TOURS

There are a variety of tours available from haunted history tours, historic site tours, to educational field trips:

**BENJAMIN BANNEKER HISTORICAL PARK & MUSEUM**  
 Free public tours. School and group programs available.  
[baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/countyparks](http://baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/recreation/countyparks)  
 410-887-1081

**HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS**  
 Free public tours. School and group programs available.  
[howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites](http://howardcountymd.gov/HistoricSites)  
 410-313-0419

**MARYLAND HISTORY TOURS**  
 Haunted history tours and more.  
[mdhistorytours.com](http://mdhistorytours.com) • 410-303-2959

**MUSEUM OF HOWARD COUNTY HISTORY**  
 Offering public and private history tours. School and group programs available.  
[hchsmd.org](http://hchsmd.org) • 410-480-3250

[VisitHowardCounty.com](http://VisitHowardCounty.com)

Information is correct as possible at time of print. Hours of operation and other information subject change without notice. Published in partnership with Visit Howard County, Ellicott City Partnership, Howard County Department of Recreation & Parks, Howard County Historical Society, and Benjamin Banneker Historical Park and Museum. April 2020

## OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

