

GALESVILLE
HERITAGE
Society & Museum

HERITAGE TOUR

GALESVILLE
CIRCA 1652

988 Main Street
Galesville, Maryland 20765
galesvilleheritagesociety.org

410-867-9499



CIRCA 1652

As early as 2,000 B.C., Native Americans came to the West River in search of fish and oysters and they found them in abundance. By the mid-17th century, European settlers established large plantations in the area, primarily growing and exporting tobacco. Originally Brownton, Galesville was founded on the banks of the West River in 1652 and became an official colonial "port of entry" in 1682. This status facilitated the import and export trade. Many of the area's early settlers were Quakers, or members of the Society of Friends.

The community grew along with the regional tobacco economy. Later, canneries along Galesville's waterfront provided income for many residents, both black and white. West River, the primary avenue of transportation until the early 20th century, still provides area residents with fish, oysters and crabs. Where log canoes, skipjacks and steamboats once traveled, recreational boating now dominates. And despite the intervening years, Galesville's landscape still retains much of its physical integrity, including several original 19th century houses. Today, Galesville's 660-acre peninsula, encompassing residential, commercial, industrial and recreational areas, is home to approximately 700 residents, some families who have lived here for generations.

A special place for all who live and visit, Galesville remains a unique and historic maritime community. The breadth and depth of the area's history survive in many stories and voices from the past that resonate today along our streets and shoreline. We invite you to explore our village and enjoy our history. Take our heritage tour and visit our museums, shops, and restaurants. Galesville, *"Where the past meets the present with a promise."*

HERITAGE TOUR

OLD QUAKER BURYING GROUND



In April 1672, George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends (Quakers), opened the first General Meeting of Friends in Maryland marking the beginning of the West River Yearly Meeting. Four-day annual meetings continued here until 1785, with participants pitching

tents along Tenthouse Creek on the village's northern edge. The frame Meeting House located on the site's knoll, may have burned around 1836; other evidence suggests it may have endured as late as the Civil War. Several of those buried here still have descendants living in the area. [Site 1 – Corner of Muddy Creek Rd. & Galesville Rd.](#)

HOT SOX BALL FIELD

The Galesville Hot Sox team was formed in 1915. The historic ballfield, originally located on the site of the Galesville Rosenwald School, moved to its current location in 1928, and is now known as Hot Sox Field at Wilson Park. The Hot Sox baseball team was a sandlot team, with many players originally employed as watermen at Woodfield Fish and Oyster Company. The team became an integrated team in 1967 but disbanded in 1977. In 2018, a \$2.5 million renovation of the ballfield was approved, including a pavilion named for the late MD House Speaker, Michael E. Busch. [Site 2 – 862 Galesville Rd.](#)



WILSON HOUSE

Henry Wilson, a former slave, was freed in 1828. He was one of the first freed slaves in Anne Arundel County and the first black landowner in Galesville. Wilson built this house on two acres of land purchased around 1865

from Anne Hughes of Tulip Hill. Henry later acquired an additional 24.5 acres as recorded on an 1878 Anne Arundel County map. The property was purchased by Anne Arundel County Recreation and Parks in 2013. [Site 3 – Next to Ball Field at 862 Galesville Rd.](#)

GALESVILLE ROSENWALD SCHOOL

Galesville Rosenwald School, built in 1929, was one of twenty-three Rosenwald Schools constructed in Anne Arundel County between 1921 and 1932 for the education of African Americans. The school closed in 1956 and the building was repurposed



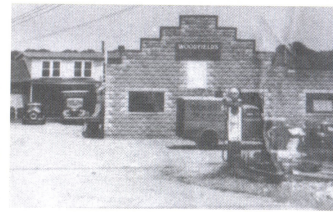
by the Galesville Community Center Organization (GCCO). The community center's mission is to further education, awareness and commemoration of the African American history of the former school, people and places within the Galesville community and surrounding areas. [Site 4 – 920 West Benning Rd.](#)

SMITH BROTHERS, INC.

Founded in 1918, Smith Brothers, Inc. began as a pile driving company, building piers and bulkheads on local waterways. After WWII, six Smith brothers and Robert Leatherbury expanded the company into a large construction firm, building bridges around the Metro area, from the Baltimore Beltway to the West Virginia Turnpike. Later the company turned its attention to renting marine construction equipment. In 2020, the business was sold to a private entity. [Site 5 – 4702 Woodfield Rd.](#)

WOODFIELDS FISH & OYSTER COMPANY

Woodfield's, one of several oyster-packing houses that once dotted the shoreline, began operation in 1917 and eventually became one of the largest oyster packing houses on the east coast. In 1922, an icehouse was added which supplied ice throughout Maryland. Today, one of the oldest Galesville families owns and operates a boatyard on this site. [Site 6 – 4701 Woodfield Rd.](#)



GALESVILLE MEMORIAL HALL

Built in 1916 on land deeded to the community for \$5 by Herman and Bessie Woodfield, the Galesville Memorial Hall has been the center of community activities for over 100 years. Notably, the Hall was a temporary quarters for a local school

and the United Methodist Church, the original home of the South Anne Arundel Lions Club, a branch of the Anne Arundel County Public Library and a space for blood drives. In 2005, the Hall was renovated with assistance from the USS Maryland submarine crew. Today, the Hall is used for community meetings and social gatherings and available for rent to the public. [Site 7 – 952 Galesville Rd.](#)

GALESVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Built in 1929 on land acquired from the West River Improvement Association, Engine Company 1 was the first and only volunteer fire department servicing South County until 1943. Company 1 purchased its first engine.



an 80-gallon booster tank, for \$4,655. Early on, an old farm bell alerted the department's 31 members when a call came in (five in its first year). Company 1 eventually became a combination career and volunteer fire department. In 2020, a new Anne Arundel County fire station was built at Muddy Creek Road and Route 468 and in 2021, this property was sold to a private entity. [Site 8 – 956 Galesville Rd.](#)

CAPT. HARVEY'S ANTIQUES/ H. E. LEATHERBURY STORE

This circa 1902 building still contains the original ceiling, shelves and display cases. As Leatherbury's, a variety of goods including meats, groceries, medicine and penny candies were sold to serve the needs and wants of the community. Since the early 1960's, various antique shops, currently Capt. Harvey's Antiques, have operated in this building. [Site 9 – 970 Main St.](#)



GALESVILLE HERITAGE MUSEUM/ CARRIE WEEDON HOUSE



Carrie Weedon, who taught three generations of Galesville children, purchased this home in 1901 for \$800. The Galesville Heritage Society (GHS) founded in 1991, acquired the property and opened it as a community museum in 2002, Galesville's 350th anniversary. Operated by GHS

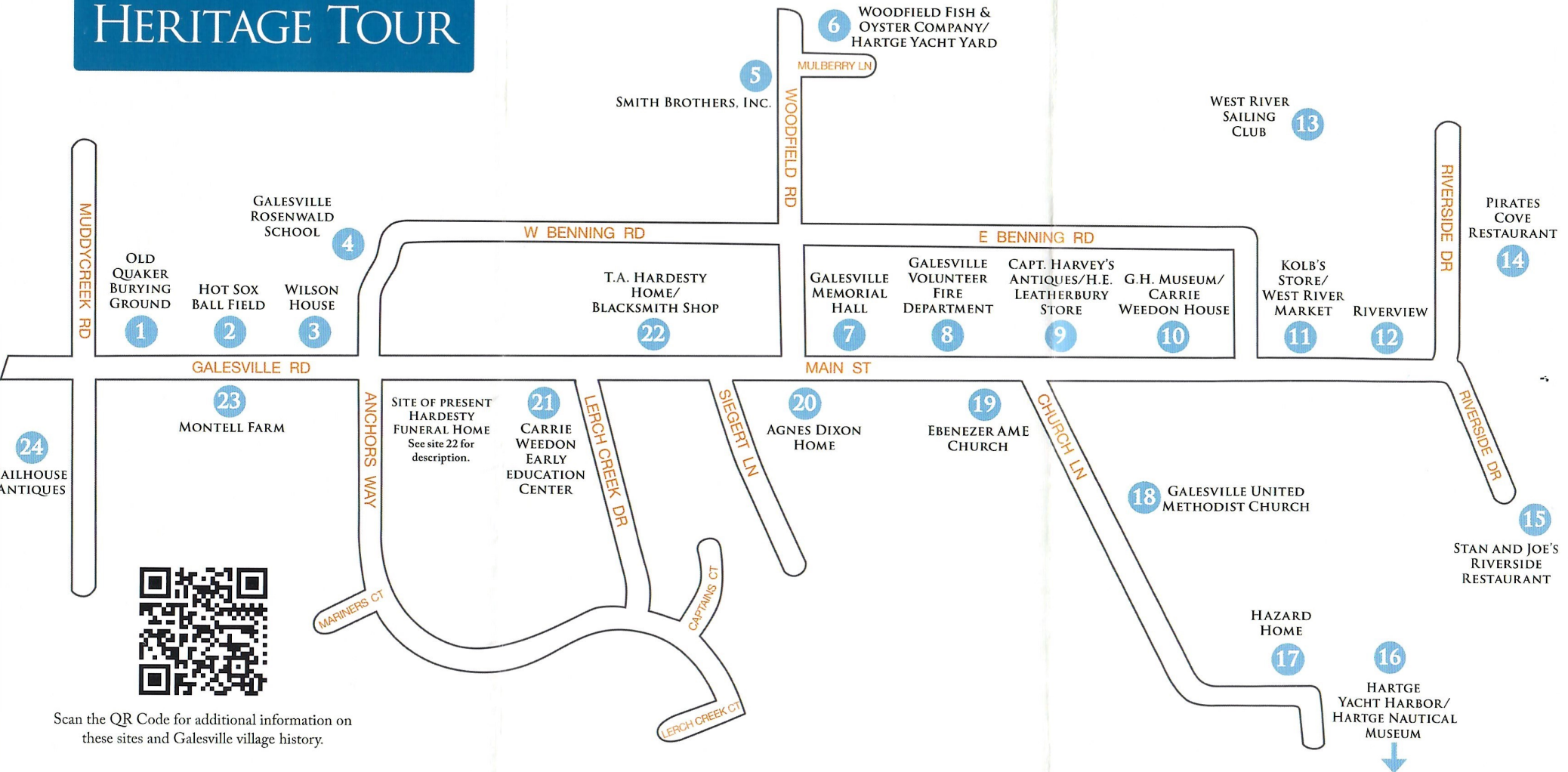
volunteers, the Museum houses new interior and exterior interpretive exhibits documenting the rich history and culture of Galesville and surrounding areas. [Site 10 – 988 Main St.](#)

KOLB'S STORE

Kolb's Store opened for business in the mid-1800's and was operated by the Kolb family for over 100 years. Believed to be the second oldest structure in the village, it served as the first Post Office, with Emile Lerch, founder of the store, as the first Postmaster. The gristmill, located next door, was part of the store's operation and now houses a vintage decor shop and an art gallery. [Site 11 – 1000 Main St.](#)



HERITAGE TOUR





RIVERVIEW

Constructed circa 1875, this historic building served multiple purposes - a church, general store, boarding house, ice cream parlor and restaurant - for the Galesville community and visitors arriving by

steamboat. As a restaurant, first Riverview and then Topsiside, customers enjoyed fine dining on the wide upper-level veranda with expansive views of the West River. Changing ownership multiple times, the building underwent several major renovations, including the addition of apartments and a liquor store. [Site 12 - 1004 Main St.](#)

WEST RIVER SAILING CLUB

Founded in 1930 as "Our Own Damn Yacht Club," this group's permanent clubhouse was built in 1964 on land once owned by a former slave. The private club, which gained prominence in the 1930's with one-design class boats such as the Chesapeake 20, is known for its Junior Sailing School. Local regattas are also sponsored by the WRSC throughout the sailing season. [Site 13 - 4800 Riverside Dr.](#)



PIRATES COVE

Originally named Zang's pier and now called Pirates Cove, this popular eating establishment has been a favorite Galesville gathering spot for generations. During the 1920's and 1930's, Showboat, a floating theatre

barge, tied up at the community dock each summer and its crews and actors enjoyed the local cuisine. Today, community residents and visitors frequent Pirates Cove for fine food, entertainment and the breathtaking views of the West River. [Site 14 - 4817 Riverside Dr.](#)

STAN AND JOE'S RIVERSIDE

This site, originally owned by the Tolchester Steamship Company, began as Galesville's steamboat pier from 1831-1932. Steamboats, including the famous Emma Giles, made regular stops here, bringing finished goods as well as visitors to vacation in the village's boarding houses. In return, the steamboats carried local livestock, tobacco and other crops to processing plants and markets in Baltimore and beyond. The pier was converted to a restaurant by a local family in the 1930's and continues to serve the community and visitors today. [Site 15 - 4851 Riverside Dr.](#)



HARTGE YACHT HARBOR/NAUTICAL MUSEUM

Emile Hartzge, son of a German immigrant, moved to Galesville in 1879 and began adapting the family woodworking skills to



boat building. Dick Hartzge, Emile's son, designed and built many boats, including the 52 ft. schooner EMPRESS built in 1927 and the

famous and beautiful Chesapeake 20 racing sloops. More than 120 years after its modest beginnings, Hartzge's continues to flourish. Visit Hartzge's Nautical Museum to view historical boat models and learn more about the Hartzge family history. [Site 16 - 4881 Church Ln.](#)

HAZARD HOME

The Hazard Home was a popular boarding house not just for the summer visitors, but for residents as well, during the Steamboat era (1880's-1930's).

Boarding houses were the centers of social activities and space for community meetings. Managed for years by Mrs. Jennie Hazard, the original home burned down and was rebuilt in the early 1930's.

This home is currently a private residence. [Site 17 - 4861 Church Ln.](#)



GALESVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



Built in 1885, the original white frame church was built on this site. Before 1885, services and Sunday School classes were held in homes. In 1950, the original church was moved across Church Lane and converted into a private residence. The present brick church, erected on the original site, hosted its first service on Good Friday, 1951. For generations, the GUMC has provided religious services, social assistance and communal activities for the community and surrounding areas. [Site 18 - 4827 Church Ln.](#)



EBENEZER A.M.E. CHURCH

The oldest congregation in Galesville and the only A.M.E. (African Methodist Episcopal) Church in South County, this historic landmark was originally constructed in 1880 as the West River A.M.E. Church. The church is an important institution to the African American community. A new brick church was built in 1968 and continues to serve worship services and community-wide activities for the African American community. Ebenezer is one of four historic African American sites in Galesville. [Site 19 - 967 Main St.](#)



AGNES DIXON HOME

Built in the 1880's, this house served as the Galesville Post Office for 57 years. Starting in 1918, Agnes Dixon's mother, Mary Smith, was the Postmistress for 28 years and when she retired, Agnes operated the Post Office here for 29

more years. Agnes died in August 2011 at 107 years old. This house remains a private residence. [Site 20 - 945 Galesville Rd.](#)



CARRIE WEEDON EARLY EDUCATION CENTER

Carrie Weedon, the first principal of Galesville's one-room schoolhouse built in 1899, was the namesake for several Galesville education centers that followed. In 1961, the Carrie Weedon School opened as the first newly built integrated school in Anne Arundel County. That school closed in 1983 and was repurposed as the Carrie Weedon Science Center by the Carrie Weedon Science Foundation,

Inc. and the Anne Arundel County School Board. In 2015, the science program was discontinued and the school reopened in 2018 as the Carrie Weedon Early Education Center that is in full operation today. [Site 21 - 911 Galesville Rd.](#)

T. A. HARDESTY HOME/BLACKSMITH SHOP

The original T. Alvin Hardesty house and blacksmith shop were located on this site. In 1911, a band of gypsies approached Hardesty to build a child's coffin because at that time, there were no established undertakers in South County. "Capt. Alvin" built the coffin and Hardesty's blacksmith shop eventually converted into a full-time funeral parlor. Bernard, "Capt. Alvin's" son, followed his father into the funeral business. In the early 1950's, the blacksmith shop was demolished and a new funeral home was constructed at its present site on Main Street. Today, the original T.A. Hardesty house is a private residence. [Site 22 - 938 Galesville Rd.](#)



MONTELL FARM

Montell Farm was purchased by Herman A. Woodfield in 1918, from John and Alice Montell. From 1923-1972, Stallings Moreland, a sharecropper, and his two sons, Edward and Francis Ray, farmed the 111



acres. Corn, wheat, hay, cattle and pigs were raised at Montell Farm, but the primary cash crop was tobacco. Today, the daughter and grandchildren of Francis Ray are striving to revive Montell as a working farm. [Site 23 - Galesville Rd.](#)

JAILHOUSE ANTIQUES

Between the late 1930's and early 1950's, this site operated as Sub-Station One, police station and jailhouse headquarters for the southern end of Anne



Arundel County. Thereafter, the building housed a frozen custard shop and Lady Ellen's Beauty Corner, the first South County African American licensed beauty shop. Next, a community barber bought the building and opened the first South County African American barbershop. Today, the building houses an antique store with its original downstairs jail cell. [Site 24 - 4704 Muddy Creek Rd.](#)



Galesville -
*"Where the Past Meets
the Present with a Promise"*

Galesville Heritage Society & Museum
988 Main Street, Galesville, Maryland 20765
galesvilleheritagesociety.org
410-867-9499