



Shepherd's Hey Barn, Comus

HERITAGE TOURISM ALLIANCE
OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY
PRESENTS

Montgomery Rural Heritage Byway Tour



Comus Market, Comus

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AGRICULTURAL RESERVE

The Agricultural Reserve is known as the most successful farmland preservation program in the United States. It consists of over 93,000 acres. It was created in 1980 by the Montgomery County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, the County Council and other leaders in the planning community.

Although Montgomery County is known for its urban regions, this scenic driving tour showcases historical landscapes, recreational opportunities and the agricultural heritage of the County. The County-designated Rural Rustic Roads, with landscapes that look much as they did in 19th and early 20th century America, provide visitors with historic sites, pick-your-own farms, and antique stores dotting the rolling landscape. The C & O Canal National Park with views to the Potomac River, a National Heritage River, provides access to whitewater recreation as well as onshore activities like birding, and hiking and biking on the towpath.

The tour proceeds through Montgomery County's farms, the majority of which are family-run operations with many reaching back several generations. The County's 577 farms and 350 horticultural enterprises produce millions of dollars in economic contribution from farm produce and operations.



DRIVING TOUR DIRECTIONS

Length: 50.5 miles | Driving time: 4 hours

Coming from I-270 take exit 15B (Route 118 South). Reset your odometer to start the tour. *(Note: Mileage does not include side trips.)*

Coming from I-270, take exit 15B (Route 118 South); travel about 3 ½ miles to Germantown Park Drive and turn right. Go up the hill past the Adventure Playground entrance and half-way around the traffic circle onto Central Park Drive. Follow signs to the **King Barn Dairy MOOseum (#1)**, on the left at 18028 Central Park Circle (www.mooseum.com) in the South Germantown Recreational Park.

King Barn Dairy MOOseum

The King Family started this dairy farm in 1913 and farmed it until 1962. The farm consisted of 350 acres and had 122 black and white Holstein cows that produced 13,000 pounds of milk each year per cow. That's four to five gallons from each cow every day! The farm is now part of the South Germantown Recreational Park (www.MontgomeryParks.org) that consists of Adventure Playground, Miniature Golf, Ballfields, Splash Playground, Indoor Aquatic Center, Soccer Fields, Bike Trails, Discovery Sport Center, Archery Range, and Golf Driving Range. Stop and explore this wonderful park.



King Barn Dairy MOOseum, Germantown

The Heart of the Agricultural Reserve

Upon exiting the King Barn, continue around the loop and turn right on Central Park Circle to exit the complex. Then turn right onto rustic Schaeffer Road.

For a fun side trip, make a left into the **Model Airpark (#2)** (www.dc-rc.org) to see miniature planes taking off and landing with regularity. Continue past the Airpark on Schaeffer Road and then turn right onto the rustic White Ground Road. Continue until Old Bucklodge Lane where you will turn left to enter the heart of the Agricultural Reserve.

You will be driving on rural and rustic roads that have been protected to preserve the views and rural character of the County. On Old Bucklodge Lane, you will pass two of the historic farms that capture the beauty of the upper Montgomery County.

After traveling approximately 11 miles on the tour, turn left onto Bucklodge Road/Maryland Route 117 from Old Bucklodge Lane. This beautiful road has many barns, silos and historic homes, some of which were constructed of the reddish sandstone quarried at nearby Seneca. You will pass the **Rickman Therapeutic Riding Center** on the right and also the **Historic Joseph White House**, which was built in 1820.





Turn right on Route 28 where you will pass the **Lewis Orchard Farm (#3)** that has been operating in the County since 1888 and is famous for its peaches. After about two miles, you will come to the **Monocacy Confederate Chapel (#4)** on the left, where Confederate soldiers are buried. A little farther down the road you will pass the world class **Woodstock Equestrian Center (#5)** (www.woodstockequestriancenter.com), visible on both sides of the road. About a mile later you will see the historic marker for the **Washington Farm**, which George Washington acquired in payment of a debt from a card game.

Continuing on, you will travel through the sleepy little town of Dickerson, where you can stop and pick up hotdogs and chips, or snacks at the **Dickerson Market (#6)**.

After leaving the Dickerson Market, turn right. Then go under the bridge and make an immediate right on Mount Ephraim Road, another designated rustic road that captures the beauty of the upper County, and explores the Sugarloaf Mountain area. (Here you will briefly leave Montgomery County and re-enter again.)



Monocacy Confederate Chapel, Beallsville



Monocacy Aqueduct, Dickerson

Side Trip to the Monocacy Aqueduct (#7), one of Montgomery County's best-kept secrets.

From the Dickerson Market continue on Route 28 for 0.1 mile, then go under the bridge and turn left on Mouth of the Monocacy Road. At the end of the road, you will reach the Aqueduct that was built 173 years ago. This seven-arched aqueduct, 500 feet in length, was considered one of the finest engineering accomplishments to have been built in America or Europe. The Aqueduct has recently been restored and makes an ideal spot to picnic or just enjoy the beauty of the area.



Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard & Comus Inn

Then take the rustic Comus Road and drop in at the **Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard (#8)** – the only operating winery/vineyard in Montgomery County (www.smvwinery.com). Sample the award-winning Cabernet Sauvignon, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, and many others.

The vineyard is located in the rolling hills of Comus, and its 85-acre farm abuts the scenic Sugarloaf Mountain conservation and recreation area. It is identifiable by its signature red barn, silo and windmill.

Travel for another mile and a half and go past the **Comus Market (#9)**, (open seasonally). Continue to the recently restored **Comus Inn (#10)**, (www.thecomusinn.com) built in the 1860s overlooking the Sugarloaf Mountain. The inn is located on the Civil War Trail and the area surrounding the inn was the site of several battles during the Antietam campaign.

Town of Barnesville

Upon leaving the Inn, proceed right onto Route 109 and take a look at the breathtaking view of the Sugarloaf Mountain on your right. You will then enter the **Town of Barnesville**, established in 1749, nestled at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain. During the Civil War, Union forces marched through the town in search of General Lee and his army. The town changed hands five times during one day-long battle in September 1862. In the center of town, turn right on Barnesville Road and proceed 3/10 of a mile to visit **St. Mary's Church and Pavilion (#11)**, where town events and jousting tournaments are held. While there, also visit the local craft shops and art galleries. Turn back around to continue right on Route 109.

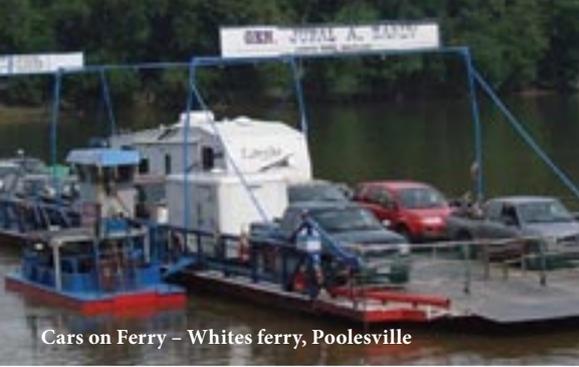
Continuing on Route 109 upon leaving Barnesville, you will see **Dancing Leaf Farm (#12)** (www.dancingleafaffarm.com) on your right, where you can purchase designer yarns and knitting supplies as well as yarn that comes from the resident polka dotted sheep. The owner loves visitors!

Town of Poolesville

Continue west on Route 109 for about 4 ½ miles. You will enter the Town of Poolesville. Founded in the middle of the 18th century, the town served as the center of commerce for the numerous farms in the area. During the Civil War, 12,000 soldiers camped in the Poolesville area. Visit the **John Poole House and General Store (#13)**, (www.historicmedleydistrict.org) a one-room log store built in 1793 and enlarged several times. It served as the first post office and is now an interpretive museum. While in Poolesville try **Bassett's Family Restaurant (#14)**, well known for its home cooking. It's a local favorite.

Heading east out of town on Route 107 (Whites Ferry Road/Fisher Avenue) visit **Hearthside Antiques/Hearthside Home and Garden Center (#16)** (www.hearthsideantiques.com) on the right with its antique furniture reflecting Maryland's rich history. The store has attracted regional attention for its interesting collection.

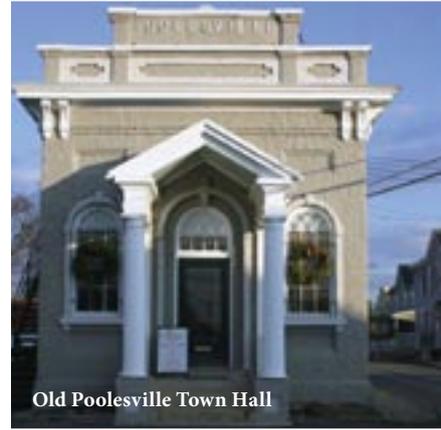
Leaving Poolesville and heading east on Whites Ferry Road, you may see signs for **Homestead**



Cars on Ferry – Whites ferry, Poolesville



Hearthside Garden Center, Poolesville



Old Poolesville Town Hall

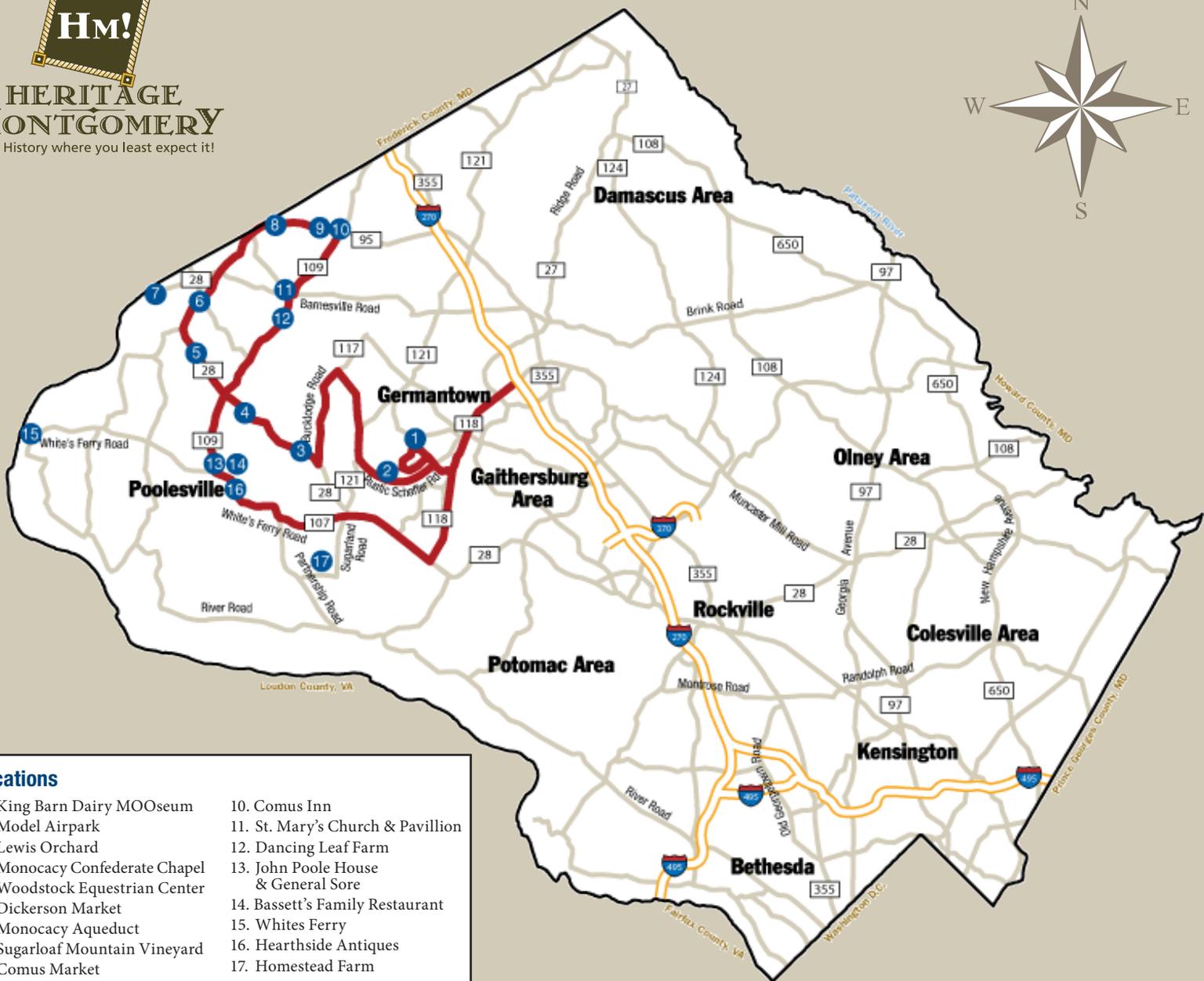
Farm (#17) (www.homestead-farm.net), a large, family-owned, pick-your-own produce stand. To visit this farm, take a right onto Partnership Road and then turn left onto rustic Sugarland Road to the farm. Pick-your-own berries and vegetables are available in summer and holiday decorations in the winter. Their famous pumpkin patch is visited by many school groups in the fall.

Turn left upon exiting the farm and make a right on Route 28. After about 2 ½ miles turn left on Route 118 and continue toward Interstate 270 for another 8.3 miles. You will have completed a drive through some of Montgomery County’s most beautiful scenery.

We hope you enjoyed the drive and that you took time to sample some of the offerings of the Agricultural Reserve.

Remember, you don’t have to go away to get away!

Side Trip to Whites Ferry (#15)
 For an interesting side trip, go west on Rt. 107 for 6.2 miles to try the old-fashioned ferry crossing of the Potomac River on the “Jubal Early” (weather permitting). This is the only operating ferry that takes you and your car across the river between Virginia and Maryland as residents have been doing for centuries. In fact, the ferry is still used by commuters today as a shortcut from northern Virginia to Washington DC.



- Locations**
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| 1. King Barn Dairy MOOseum | 10. Comus Inn |
| 2. Model Airpark | 11. St. Mary’s Church & Pavilion |
| 3. Lewis Orchard | 12. Dancing Leaf Farm |
| 4. Monocacy Confederate Chapel | 13. John Poole House & General Sore |
| 5. Woodstock Equestrian Center | 14. Bassett’s Family Restaurant |
| 6. Dickerson Market | 15. Whites Ferry |
| 7. Monocacy Aqueduct | 16. Hearthside Antiques |
| 8. Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard | 17. Homestead Farm |
| 9. Comus Market | |



HERITAGE TOURISM ALLIANCE IS A
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THAT HELPS
MONTGOMERY COUNTY USE ITS HERITAGE
TO DEVELOP TOURISM WHILE PROTECTING
AND PROMOTING CULTURAL, HISTORICAL
AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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THANKS TO OUR FRIENDS

Mike Rubin

David and Cynthia Shauer Langstaff

King Barn Dairy MOOseum

Sugarloaf Mountain Vineyard

Hearthside Antiques

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John Poole House, Poolesville



C&O Canal, Diekerson