
Creating A Historic Context Study For The Old Ellicott City Jail

December 2023

EMORY
LANE
STUDIO

HISP 650

University of Maryland (UMD)

Preservation Maryland

Photo Credit: Vincent Turner II

Contents

List of Figures.....	2
Introduction	2
Findings	6
Early History	6
Architectural History and Description.....	17
African Americans, Slavery, and The Underground Railroad	31
Lynchings and Mob Violence.....	38
Daily Life and Conditions.....	49
Women and Gender	57
Flooding and Climate Change.....	66
Recommendations	71
POWs.....	71
LGBTQ	73
African American History, Slavery, and The Underground Railroad.....	74
Lynchings and Mob Violence.....	75
Flooding and the Ellicott City Jail.....	75
Appendices	76
A. Bibliography	76
B. List of Wardens	82
C. Jail Census Records	83
D. Project Team	86
E. RFP.....	88
F. Proposal Budget	90
G. Posters	94
H. Acknowledgments.....	103

List of Figures

Figure 1. Jack’s Reef Corner-Notched projectile point.....	7
Figure 2. Map showing Native American historical territories	8
Figure 3. Piscataway Peoples’ geographic sphere of influence	9
Figure 4. The Piscataway people received official state recognition in 2012	10
Figure 5. Portion of Mount Misery, from the 1818 deed.....	12
Figure 6. Disney’s Tavern, 2012.	13
Figure 7. Original 1840-43 County Courthouse	14
Figure 8. Plat of George Ellicott’s lands.....	15
Figure 9. 1860 Martenet Map (top) and 1878 Hopkins Map (right).....	16
Figure 10. The jail in context.	17
Figure 11. View north to the front façade of the jail (1878 addition)	18
Figure 12. View south showing northeast and northwest facades	19
Figure 13. View east showing northwest and southwest facades	19
Figure 14. 1952 Plans for 1954 renovation with original pre-renovation walls highlighted.....	21
Figure 15. Plans showing the possible layout of the Old Ellicott City Jail pre-renovation	23
Figure 16. Floor level changes in the 1878 building during the 1954 renovation.	25
Figure 17. View north of the retaining wall showing different periods of construction.	29
Figure 18. John Laing’s card, circa 1875.....	30
Figure 19. Arrest notice for Augustus Collins	31
Figure 20. Circuit Court sentence for Augustus Collins.....	32
Figure 21. Public sale notice for Augustus Collins	32

Figure 22. Richard Martin arrested for running a negro gambling house.	33
Figure 23. Howard County Jail listed as a contributing site to the Underground Railroad.....	35
Figure 24. Howard County Jail highlighted under the National Heritage Area.	35
Figure 25. Committal notice for Augusta Spriggs	36
Figure 26. Article about the “Joe Nick” story.....	37
Figure 27. Nicholas Snowden Enlistment Form.	40
Figure 28. Text of placard left by the lynchers of Jacob Henson Jr.	43
Figure 29. “100 Go Down In Crash At Ellicott City.”.	45
Figure 30. “Mob Prevents Lynching at Ellicott City.”	47
Figure 31. Newspaper article discussing the poor conditions at the Old Ellicott City Jail	49
Figure 32. Warden Edward Day and his wife Florence.....	52
Figure 33. A cell occupied by a federal prisoner.....	55
Figure 34. Floor plan of jail pre-renovation	57
Figure 35. Charges of women at the Howard County Circuit Court from 1865 to 1952.....	60
Figure 36. Verdicts and sentences of women tried at the Howard County Circuit Court	60
Figure 37. Did defendants spend time in the jail?.....	61
Figure 38. Crimes of women who were committed to the Old Ellicott City Jail	61
Figure 39. Article about Sadie Wiegand’s hunger strike.....	62
Figure 40. “Wm. Crommiller and Mrs. Pease Indicted By Howard Co. Jury.”.....	63
Figure 41. “Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan Howard County.”	68
Figure 42. Jail Watershed Elevations	69
Figure 43. Jail Watershed Water Accumulation	70

Introduction

Response to RFP

This Report is in response to Preservation Maryland's Request For Proposals (RFP) to create a Historic Context Study for The Old Ellicott City Jail, also known as the Howard County Jail. It documents the history of the jail including important events and people involved with the various aspects of the jail. The project team developed a technical approach and timeline to create a context study that encompasses the history and role of the jail in Howard County, Maryland, and the people (slaves, inmates, wardens, and others) associated with the jail from its beginning in 1851 to its closing in the 1980s.

Research Design and Methodology

During its research, the team visited several local repositories, including the Howard County Historical Society Archives, the Howard County Center of African American Culture Museum, the Maryland Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the Howard County Genealogical Society Publications, the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Maryland State Archives. Numerous primary sources were consulted including historic newspapers, the Maryland Historical Trust Library, Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, historic topographic and FEMA floodplain maps, The Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan and Preservation Master Plan. The Old Ellicott City Jail was toured and examined several times. Site visits were also conducted at the Lorton Reformatory, the Old Leonardtown Jail, and the Eastern State Penitentiary to better understand various adaptive reuse historic jail projects and the landscape of mid-Atlantic jail sites more generally.

Lorton Workhouse and Reformatory (Lorton, VA)

The Lorton Workhouse and Reformatory, also known as the D.C. Reformatory, was opened in 1910. It was part of an initiative by progressive reformers to build prisons that focused on rehabilitation; in doing so, it was built without walls, and its design format had the setting of a college. The open plan included dormitories and green quads to promote positive social interaction. The first men imprisoned helped build later structures as bricklayers and carpenters.

Uprisings increased from the 1970s through the 1990s, with prisoners protesting the poor conditions of the jail, damaging the building, and taking hostages, eventually leaving the prison in a state of disrepair.

Eventually the poor conditions led to the closure of the prison. Officials sought ideas from the public on what to do with site and received many suggestions for its adaptive reuse such as turning the prison into a community center, a museum, or homes. Though, majority of the interior space was gutted out, the exterior facade retained integrity; there were efforts to retain the high-level windows and the prison bars in some of the space. Significant signage and markers are placed around the site, explaining its rich history and people of significance.

Old Historic Jail in St. Mary's County (Leonardtown, MD)

The Old Historic Jail was built in 1876 and used as such until the mid-20th century. It was a listed site under the National Park Service Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, as it was built in the same location as the previous jail which held runaway enslaved people until they were retrieved or resold. It is a two-story building, with the warden and family living on the first floor and the cells on the second floor. The jail is presently a museum and bears distinct interpretations and unique interpretive signage of the jail's history, including a lynching and its connection to the Underground Railroad. The jail still retains a lot of its architectural features, both internally and externally.

Eastern State Penitentiary (Philadelphia, PA)

Eastern State Penitentiary, opened in 1829, is considered the first modern penitentiary in the United States. It was the first to use the separate system, meaning inmates were kept in separate cells from each other rather than multiple inmates in one cell, as seen in county jails. Wings were built radiating out from a center point so guards could see the entrance to every cell from a single point. It was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1965. It closed in 1971 and was left vacant for over a decade before it opened for tours. Today, parts of the jail have been restored and efforts continue to restore more, their annual Halloween event being one of their biggest fundraisers. Exhibits highlight the architectural history and the evolution of cells, death row, oral histories from prisoners and guards, and the women's wing.

Findings

1

Early History

The land on which the Ellicott City jail now sits had been occupied for thousands of years before ground was broken for its construction. Native Americans settled around and passed through the area that is now Howard County in several different phases for almost as long as humans have lived on the North American continent. Captain John Smith and his crew became the first Europeans to venture into what would become Maryland in 1608, where they encountered a number of native peoples, notably the Piscataway and Susquehannock, along Chesapeake Bay's western shore. Further waves of colonists followed, some drawn to the Patapsco River valley's waters like Native Americans had been before them.

In 1772, three Quaker brothers from Bucks County, Pennsylvania, erected a flour mill at a bend in the river and gave the enterprise their last name: Ellicott's Mills. Over the next 75 years, the community grew from a rough industrial crossroads into a town in its own right and began to seek greater self-determination. The establishment of an independent Howard County was predicated on creating a seat of government, which was actualized in 1851 with the construction of the Ellicott City jail.

Native American History

The Native American histories of Howard County and Ellicott City are still poorly understood. Diagnostic artifacts indicating the presence of Paleo-Indian peoples prior to 10,000 BCE have been discovered in nearby Anne Arundel County, such as at the Higgins Site near the border with Baltimore County.¹ Given that Paleo-Indian groups were known to be highly mobile and nomadic, it stands to reason that they also passed through what is now Howard County. Several archaeological finds have revealed sites dating back to the Archaic Period (c. 10,000-1000 BCE). The remains of what appears to have been a prominent village have been discovered on the Patapsco River near ElkrIDGE, straddling the boundary between Howard and Anne Arundel Counties; diagnostic artifacts point to a period of discontinuous settlement between 1800 BCE

¹ Robinson & Associates, Inc., "Theme 8: A Diverse Melting Pot: Ethnic Origins, National Influences, and Immigration," report written for Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning, Cultural Resources Division, October 15, 2019, <https://mht.maryland.gov/Documents/research/contexts/FRRAnne12.pdf>

and 1500 CE.² Several soapstone quarries have also been found concentrated slightly to the north and east of Ellicott City. These quarries would have been utilized mostly during the late Archaic and early Woodland (1000 BCE-1600 CE) periods for constructing tools and ceramics.³

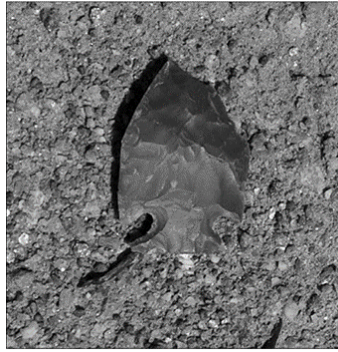


Figure 1. Jack's Reef Corner-Notched projectile point, recovered from Triadelphia Reservoir. *Maryland Archaeology*.

Settlement patterns and archaeological sites tend to follow the rivers within the county, as shown by the Elkridge village. The Patuxent River, separating Howard and Montgomery Counties, was also the home of an occupation during the Woodland Period. Jack's Reef corner-notched projectile points date the settlement between 200 and 1250 CE of a site now submerged by the Triadelphia Reservoir.⁴ Upstream of Ellicott City along the Patapsco, caves have been found with artifacts indicating that they were used at least temporarily as shelters by Native Americans, probably on hunting trips. Two of these shelters were found within the

Elysville/Daniels vicinity.⁵ Another one, known as Camel's Den near Woodstock, is known to have been a sheltering cave, but recovered artifacts and research that was supposedly compiled during an excavation are now missing.⁶ It would stand to reason that the immediate vicinity of what is now Ellicott City also provided some shelter to hunting parties, and the early residents did apparently uncover numerous projectile points and even a stone tomahawk. The early settlers who found these artifacts surmised that a "great Indian battle" had taken place;⁷ however, far more mundane activities such as hunting and toolmaking seem likelier culprits, considering what is known from surrounding archaeological sites.

² "Elkridge Prehistoric Village Archaeological Site," Maryland Historical Trust, listed May 22, 1978, <https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/NR/NRDetail.aspx?NRID=472>

³ Montgomery Parks to Montgomery County Planning Board, memorandum, September 7, 2023, https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/MCPB_Ednor-Soapstone-Quarry_OPEN_2023-09-14.final_-1.pdf

⁴ Al Luckenbach and Lauren Schiszik, "The Raven Site (18HO252): An Early 18th Century Plantation in Howard County," *Maryland Archaeology* 42, no. 2 (September 2006): 16-18, <https://www.losttownsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/ravensite.pdf>

⁵ Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (Archaeology) (site number 18HO10; accessed November 20, 2023), <https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/medusa/ArchSitesBasicForm.aspx>

⁶ Larry Sturgill, "Small Wonder in Patapsco Park Camel's Den Cave's a Hidden Delight," *Baltimore Sun*, March 7, 1993, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/bs-xpm-1993-03-07-1993066028-story.html>

⁷ Martha E. Tyson, *A Brief Account of the Settlement of Ellicott's Mills* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1870), 9-10, <https://archive.org/details/briefaccountofse00tyso/page/8/mode/2up?view=theater>

While these sites tell a great deal about the pre-European occupation of the Patapsco River Valley, it is unknown how the occupants viewed themselves in a cultural sense. Precontact peoples may have been related to the tribes the Europeans encountered, or they may have migrated elsewhere, died out, or were absorbed into those tribes. Woodland-era peoples on the eastern seaboard were already part of a vast trade network that spanned hundreds of miles across the continent, as evidenced by the discovery at Pig Point, in the southwestern corner of Anne Arundel County, of artifacts related to the Adena culture in the Ohio River valley.⁸ Understanding that these communities were highly mobile, and knowledgeable about other cultures settled far away, makes it impossible to assume that they maintained a sedentary lifestyle as the ancestors of the Native Americans that Europeans first met.

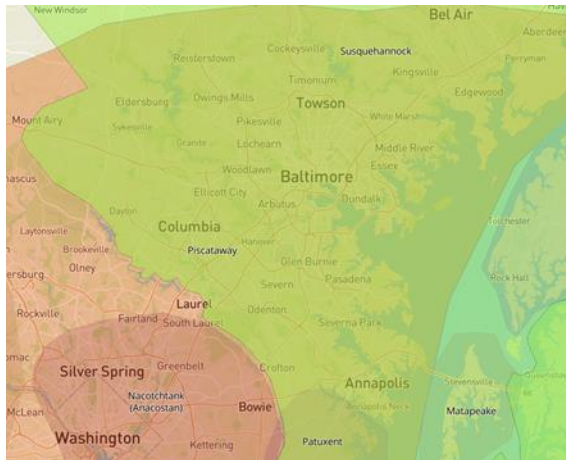


Figure 2. Map showing Native American historical territories of the Piscataway, Susquehannock, and Nacotchtank overlaid on modern settlements. *Native-land.ca*

an Algonquian language, are believed to have broken off at some point from the Nanticoke people of the Chesapeake Bay's eastern shore, who are in turn descended from the Lenni-Lenape people, called the Delaware by European colonists.¹⁰ Both the Piscataway and Susquehannock

Captain John Smith encountered many Native American tribes when he explored the Chesapeake Bay in 1608. Only two of them—the Piscataway and the Susquehannock—were known to inhabit the Patapsco River valley at any point. The Susquehannock people spoke an Iroquoian language and are believed to have broken off from other peoples speaking similar languages around 1300 CE. They then migrated southward, reaching the lower Susquehanna River in the late 16th century.⁹ The Piscataway people, who speak

⁸ Al Luckenbach, "A 'Delmarva Adena' Mortuary Complex at Pig Point," *Maryland Archaeology* 49, no. 2 (September 2013): 3-4, <https://www.losttownsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2013---A-Delmarva-Adena-Mortuary-Complex-at-Pig-Point.pdf>

⁹ Francis Jennings, "Glory, Death, and Transfiguration: The Susquehannock Indians in the Seventeenth Century," *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 112, no. 1 (February 1968): 16-17, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/986100>

¹⁰ Frederick Webb Hodge, ed., *Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1910), 2:25, https://www.google.com/books/edition/Handbook_of_American_Indians_North_of_Me/iPAYAAAAYAAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1

peoples claimed a relationship to the land that is now part of Howard County,¹¹ but archaeological evidence, Smith’s and other colonists’ records, and tribal tradition maintain that neither group had permanent settlements in the Ellicott City area. Instead, they most likely alternated the use of the area for hunting purposes, spending several months out of the year gathering food and supplies before returning to their regular settlements.¹²

It is unclear how Piscataway and Susquehannock hunters maintained peace in this border zone, or if they did at all; they were known to be in conflict with each other, especially after more colonists arrived in 1634 and Europeans strategically used the friendly Piscataway as a “buffer” against the more hostile Susquehannock. The Susquehannock, squeezed between the English and their allies to the south and other hostile Iroquois-speaking peoples to the north and west, made a hasty peace with colonists in 1652. They accepted English protection in exchange for ceding their lands on the western shore of the Chesapeake, from the Patuxent River in the south to Garrett Island, where the Susquehanna River empties into the bay in the north.¹³ While this would seem to include the area that became Ellicott City, the treaty was framed by the English with their perceptions of private property and land ownership; in truth, the Susquehannock were just one of several groups that lived on and had a relationship with the land, so it was not solely theirs to give.¹⁴

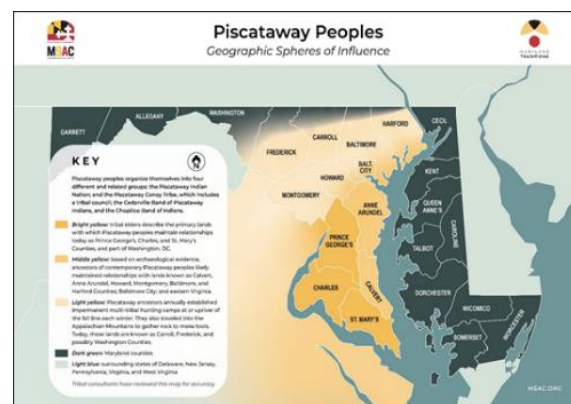


Figure 3. Piscataway Peoples’ geographic sphere of influence in Maryland at the time of European contact. *Maryland State Arts Council.*

¹¹ Maryland State Arts Council, “Land Acknowledgement Project Overview and Resource Guide,” updated October 12, 2022, 16-18, 31-33, <https://msac.org/media/935/download?inline>

¹² “Camel’s Den and the Abandoned B&O Loop,” Maryland Department of Natural Resources (website), accessed November 20, 2023, <https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/central/PatapscoValley/Patapsco-Camels-Den.aspx>

¹³ Maryland State Arts Council, 32.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

Both the Susquehannock and Piscataway populations continued to be decimated throughout the 17th century by infectious diseases and conflict, whether between each other, with other indigenous peoples, or with the English colonists. Except for a few small enclaves that remained within southern Maryland, the Piscataway were forced to migration into either northern Virginia or Pennsylvania around the turn of the 18th century.¹⁵ The Susquehannock likewise experienced a steep population decline, forcing them back

north to settle along the Conestoga River, a tributary of the Susquehanna that flows through modern-day Lancaster. A small number of them remained there until 1763 when a white mob called the Paxton Boys slaughtered the remaining inhabitants of the settlement.¹⁶ Two groups of Piscataway people, the Piscataway Indian Nation and the Piscataway Conoy Tribe, were officially recognized by the state of Maryland in 2012, and are currently still seeking federal recognition.¹⁷ The Conestoga-Susquehannock Tribe maintains an active presence through their descendants, but are not currently recognized by any federal or state government. The Piscataway and Susquehannock had both been pushed out of their territories in modern Howard County long before the Ellicott brothers reached the Patapsco River valley.

Ellicott's Mills and Mount Misery

The three Ellicott brothers—Joseph (1732-80), Andrew (1733-1809), and John (1739-94)—famously attached their name to the bend of the Patapsco River that was crossed by the road to Frederick. They combined savvy selection of the site for their mill with what might today be



Figure 4. The Piscataway people received official state recognition in 2012 when then-governor Martin O'Malley signed an Executive Order. The people in the photo above from left to right are: Natalie Proctor, Tribal Chairwoman of the Cedarville Band of Piscataway Indians; Mervin Savoy, Tribal Chair of the Piscataway-Conoy Tribe of Maryland; Governor Martin O'Malley; and Billy Tayac, hereditary Chief of the Piscataway Indian Nation. *Piscataway Park's Facebook page.*

¹⁵ "History," from The Official Piscataway Conoy Tribe (website), accessed December 2, 2023, <http://www.piscatawayconoytribe.com/index.php/history>

¹⁶ "Our History," from The Conestoga-Susquehannock Tribe (website), accessed December 2, 2023, <https://www.conestogasusquehannocktribe.com/our-history>

¹⁷ "Recent Decades," Through Piscataway Eyes Master Plan (December 2016), 3, <https://destinationsouthernmaryland.files.wordpress.com/2017/09/tpe-master-plan-for-web-1-11-17.pdf>

called community outreach, convincing local planters to switch their main crop from tobacco to wheat, which would naturally need a convenient mill to turn into flour. Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and one of the wealthiest landowners in America, was an early and influential convert. His nearby Doughoregan Manor was a crucial client for the brothers.¹⁸

Ellicott's Mills, as the city was known until its incorporation in 1867, gained significance in the early republic as both an economic center and a hub for travelers going west from Baltimore. The Ellicotts were also heavily involved in this aspect of the town's growth. They guaranteed not just grinding wheat into flour but also transporting the finished product to the port of Baltimore using roads they helped to construct. Jonathan Ellicott, son of Andrew, served as president of the Baltimore-Fredericktown Turnpike Company, extending the state's road from Baltimore through the Appalachian Mountains to western markets.¹⁹ In 1830, the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad constructed the country's first railroad terminal on the western bank of the Patapsco at Ellicott's Mills.²⁰ Entrepreneurs capitalized on this quickly growing market by establishing hotels for travelers, such as the Patapsco Hotel, which was established shortly after the B&O station.²¹ This hospitality trade was also tied to the establishment of the jail.

The property that would serve as the site for the Howard County Jail and Courthouse was originally known as Mount Misery. It had been patented in 1773 by Thomas Cockey from three previously patented tracts called Joshua's Grove, Joshua's Addition, and Bowden's Folly.²² Cockey sold those three tracts, along with several others, to Captain John Merriken on April 8, 1778,²³ but Merriken sold the tracts back to Cockey almost immediately, on June 4, 1778.²⁴ Cockey's transactions afterward are unclear. The 1783 tax assessment for Anne Arundel County lists the only "Mount Misery" as belonging to a Henry Welch in the "Road River Hundred," but

¹⁸ Janet Kusterer and Victoria Goeller, *Remembering Ellicott City: Stories From the Patapsco River Valley* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009), 23-25.

¹⁹ National Park Service, "Statement of Significance" from "Old National Pike Milestones," National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form, March 20, 1974, https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/NR_PDFs/NR-276.pdf

²⁰ Kusterer and Goeller, 37.

²¹ Celia M. Holland, *Ellicott City, Maryland: Mill Town, U.S.A.* (Ellicott City, MD: Historic Ellicott City, Inc., 1970): 38-40.

²² Anne Arundel County Patents, Certificate 1025.

²³ Anne Arundel County Land Records, IB 5: 523

²⁴ Anne Arundel County Land Records, IB 5: 230

this is likely not the same property, as the only “Rhode” River in the county empties into the West River which is south of Annapolis.

The 1798 Federal Direct Tax listings for Elkridge Hundred, which contained the lands of Cockey and the Ellicotts, did not show any property by the name of Mount Misery. A history of The Oaks, another estate built on Joshua’s Addition, had similar troubles establishing a chain of title from Cockey, finding no other transaction on the property between Cockey’s 1778 deed and 1840.²⁵ Mount Misery reappears slightly earlier, in an 1818 indenture between Elias, John, and George Ellicott, and Thomas, Elias, and William Brown, partitioning Mount Misery.²⁶ The Browns received the parcel of land that would become the courthouse and jail, and were the first to definitively develop the property into a hotel.

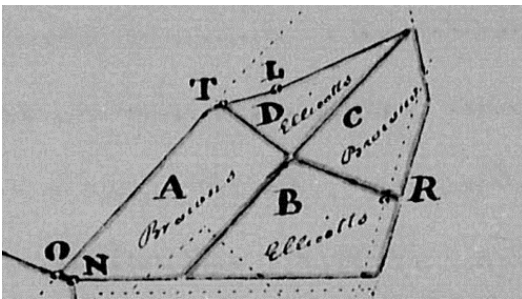


Figure 5. Portion of Mount Misery, from the 1818 deed between the Ellicotts and the Browns. The land that would become Disney’s Tavern is “A” and the N-O line is the Turnpike. *Anne Arundel County Land Records.*

Deborah Duffield was born in either 1798 or 1800.

In 1815, she married Irvin McLaughlin, and they had at least three children: two sons, William and Charles, and a daughter, Margaret. Irvin

McLaughlin leased part of Mount Misery from the Browns in the late 1810s, with the year 1819

having been suggested.²⁷ McLaughlin sought to run a hotel, but business was difficult. He took a loan

from William Lorman in 1822, with Lorman named

as trustee of the property.²⁸ The building housing the hotel fronted on the north side of the Baltimore-Frederick Turnpike, and supposedly dates from the 1790s, although documentation on its construction is lacking.²⁹ Later descriptions of the land include notices that it had stables for up to 70 horses, and land available for growing food served to guests.³⁰ McLaughlin struggled to

²⁵ Maryland Historical Trust, “The Oaks,” Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey, May 1977, <https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/Medusa/PDF/Howard/HO-243.pdf>

²⁶ Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 6: 179

²⁷ Multiple secondary sources, including Shelley Davies Wygant’s *Haunted Ellicott City* (Charleston, SC: Haunted America, 2018) and Celia M. Holland’s *Ellicott City, Maryland: Mill Town, U.S.A.* (Ellicott City, MD: Historic Ellicott City, Inc., 1970) have used the 1819 date for McLaughlin’s lease with the Browns. While this date is likely correct, a search of county land records failed to turn up an indenture.

²⁸ Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 8: 373

²⁹ Plaque affixed to the building.

³⁰ “Union Hotel, Ellicott’s Mills, at Private Sale,” *Baltimore Sun*, May 2, 1860, ProQuest Digital Database, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/533625282/ECB8F25B2BDE4ACAPQ/19?accountid=14696>

maintain the profitability of the hotel and lost money before dying sometime in the 1820s.³¹ The Browns and Lorman then brought suit against Deborah McLaughlin for ownership of the property, and Charles Dorsey was appointed a trustee to sell the property at a public auction. It was bought back by Elias Brown, who sold the property to Lorman in 1829.³²

Despite the frequently changing status of the property, Deborah McLaughlin did not leave Ellicott City. The 1830 Census listed her as living in the same election district, where she was the head of a household comprising 33 individuals, of which 26 were free white persons, six were free Black persons, and one was an enslaved person. This count and later activities suggest that she was likely still managing the hotel, which was evidently still making a profit for the Browns to maintain. Deborah married Edward Disney in 1835, but their union was short-lived. Edward fell ill shortly after their wedding and wrote a will in February of 1836, which was proved in May.³³ Deborah Disney would continue to manage the Union Hotel, also referred to as “Disney’s Tavern,” until she sold her final tract of Ellicott City property in 1864, after which she disappeared from the record.³⁴



Figure 6. Disney’s Tavern, 2012. Photo by Jennifer K. Cosham. *Maryland Historical Trust*.

Beginnings of Howard County Government

The area now known as Howard County was originally part of Baltimore County until it was transferred to Anne Arundel County in 1727.³⁵ The growth of Ellicott City led to talks of splitting the northern section into a separate county, and a meeting occurred at the Disney Hotel

³¹ Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 14: 599, refers to an 1826 suit against Deborah McLaughlin as Irvin’s widow, although it is unclear if this means that Irvin was deceased by 1826 or at the time of writing the land record in 1829.

³² Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 14: 599

³³ Anne Arundel County Wills, TTS 40: 256

³⁴ Howard County Land Records, WWW 23: 146

³⁵ Morris L. Radoff, *The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland* (Annapolis: Hall of Records Commission, 1960), 1:101, <https://archive.org/details/countycourthouse00rado/page/100/mode/2up>

in 1837 to discuss petitioning the legislature.³⁶ These plans moved forward, and the Maryland General Assembly in 1838 approved designating the Howard District of Anne Arundel County, giving it county status except for representation in the Assembly. Part of the process for county status required establishing a center of government, and funds were granted to buy land. Deborah Disney accepted a loan from Reuben Dorsey in 1840 to formally buy the land on which the Union Hotel stood.³⁷ Six months later, in January 1841, she sold two parcels of that land to the Commissioners of Howard District for a courthouse and jail.³⁸

Between 1840 and 1843, while the formal courthouse was under construction, a modest two-story stone structure standing nearby was used as the courthouse. During this time, the district commissioners rented a room from Disney for the use of a grand jury, and offices for the commissioner.³⁹ Likely because funds had run out, construction of a jail stalled until ground was broken in 1851. From 1840 until the jail opened in late 1851, the district's prisoners were kept in the basement of a house next to the first courthouse, which was leased by one Israel McKenzie in 1838 on land owned by George Ellicott, son of Andrew.⁴⁰ The house was a frame residence for McKenzie and his family on the above-ground floors, but the basement was a stone foundation with restraints added to hold prisoners. Iron bars and other reinforcements were added in 1840, and a wooden fence surrounding the house was built in 1842. Perhaps the inmates were allowed out into the yard at some point, because in 1849 the privy was moved into a nearby stream, only to be moved again so as not to pollute the water supply.⁴¹ More likely is the scenario wherein prisoners were only



FIRST COUNTY SEAT—The stone building is the original County Court House, which served as the first County seat from at least 1840 to 1843. A resolution concerning its preservation together with the Howard District Jail was introduced at Monday's night session of the County Council.

Council Considers Motion To Sell Old Courthouse

Figure 7. Original 1840-43 County Courthouse, prior to its relocation in the late 20th century. *Maryland Historical Trust.*

³⁶ "Ellicott's Mills, Feb. 18th, 1837," *Maryland Gazette* Collection, MSA SC 3447 (January 7, 1836-December 18, 1839), M 1291, image 113, Maryland State Archives, <https://www.msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc4800/sc4872/001291/html/m1291-0113.html>

³⁷ Howard County Land Records, 1:90

³⁸ Howard County Land Records, 1:259

³⁹ Louise Vest, "Spotlight on Disney's Hotel," *Baltimore Sun*, July 30, 2013, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2013/07/30/cows-as-collateral-100-years-ago-history-matters/>

⁴⁰ Anne Arundel County Land Records, WSG 22: 607

⁴¹ Joseph H. Nichols, Jr., *Patriots and Pioneers of Howard County, Maryland: The Courthouse and the Jail* (n.p.: The Howard County Genealogical Society, Inc., 1998), 19.

allowed to use the facilities at set intervals and, at all other times, were on their own. A report in 1850 on conditions in McKenzie's basement seems to support this hypothesis, calling the jail a "revolting spectacle." At the time of reporting, six prisoners were kept in the basement, of all races and genders, locked together in a room measuring only 18 by 14 feet, with no beds, blankets, or toilets. While noting the "assiduous labors of the indefatigable warden," the committee nevertheless recommended that the jail be declared a public nuisance.⁴²

McKenzie's home also functioned as the polling place for the third election district starting in at least 1844.⁴³ Why McKenzie's home became the political nexus of the Howard District is unclear, as he was a solidly middle-class family man who sought no higher office. The 1850 census gives his occupation as a plasterer. He may be related to Jesse McKenzie, who is also listed as a plasterer in the 1850 census while living in Baltimore County's first district, which was directly across the Patapsco. Jesse completed the

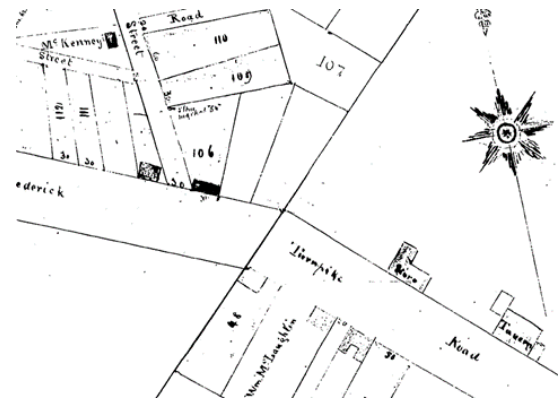


Figure 8. Plat of George Ellicott's lands, showing the Union Hotel (marked as "Tavern," bottom right) and Israel McKenzie's House (spelled "McKenney," upper left.) plats.msa.maryland.gov.

interior plaster work on the Emory Methodist Episcopal Church, which opened in 1838 close to the site of the future jail.⁴⁴ Whatever the case, Israel McKenzie dutifully confined prisoners in his basement until the jail officially opened in December 1851. He died intestate in 1853.

Over the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, the cluster of houses where the original courthouse and jail remained came to be known as Fels or Fells Lane. The area became a significant African American neighborhood in Ellicott City, and was one of the more undeveloped areas of the town. Most households had no toilet, and very few had cold running water. A 1967 feature by *Jet* magazine referred to the area as "the nation's smallest black ghetto."⁴⁵

⁴² Report to the Grand Jury of Howard District, March 30, 1850, Jails–Ellicott Mills–Fels Lane–Pre-1878, vertical files, Howard County Historical Society.

⁴³ Edward B. Mathews, *The Counties of Maryland: Their Origin, Boundaries, and Election Districts* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1907), 510, <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000630/pdf/am630.pdf>

⁴⁴ Janet Kusterer and Victoria Goeller, *Then & Now: Ellicott City* (Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006), 54.

Residents engaged in political activism and fought for better housing conditions; Howard County instead decided to raze the neighborhood in the name of urban renewal, moving the residents to new low-income public housing in the Hilltop development.⁴⁶ The current locations of Ellicott Mills Drive, where it meets Main Street and the nearby Parking Lot F, are where the neighborhood once stood.⁴⁷ The only buildings saved from the bulldozer were the original courthouse and Israel McKenzie's home, which were transferred to the Howard County Historical Society in 1974.⁴⁸ Both sites were sold back to Howard County in 1980.⁴⁹ The original courthouse was restored and used as an interpretive center and museum for Ellicott City until it was destroyed in the 2018 flash flood. The location of Israel McKenzie's home is currently unknown. The Hilltop development was subsequently demolished in 2011 to allow for the construction of mixed-income housing.



Figure 9. 1860 Martenet Map (top) and 1878 Hopkins Map (right) showing views of Mount Misery, later bought by John Day. The Hopkins Map gives an understanding of the Courthouse's and Jail's relationship to the original plot. Note that the top left corner of the Martenet map still records the Old Jail. *Library of Congress.*

⁴⁵ Becky Mangus, "African-American History is Being Documented in Howard County," *Business Monthly* (Columbia, MD), September 15, 2017, <https://bizmonthly.com/news/archived/2017/09/african-american-history-documented-howard-county/>

⁴⁶ Dorothy Beyer Alexander, "Hilltop: A Historic African American Community" (master's thesis, UMBC, 2013), 21-36, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/1499224401/18AF675759674D93PQ/14?accountid=14696>

⁴⁷ Allana Haynes, "Members of Historically Black Ellicott City Neighborhood Fells Lane Gather to Share Stories," *Baltimore Sun*, July 18, 2022, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/2022/07/18/members-of-historically-black-ellicott-city-neighborhood-fells-lane-gather-to-share-stories/>

⁴⁸ Howard County Land Records, CMP 700: 365

⁴⁹ Howard County Land Records, CMP 1023: 91

Architectural History and Description

An architectural history of the jail was constructed through analyzing and comparing information from multiple sources. The primary source of information was visual inspection of the jail and a 1952 set of blueprints that were made for the 1954 renovation. These information sources, combined with minor amounts of information from administrative and photographic records gave a reasonable record of the building's history. Examination of the exterior of the building revealed at least three, if not four to five building periods that express themselves in the form of the building. Variations in building materials, seams between building components and ghost marks were the most salient sources of information that testify to the different periods of building construction.



Figure 10. The jail in context. Main Street runs along the bottom of the image. *Google Earth*

Current Architectural Description

The Old Ellicott City Jail is a vacant five-bay stone structure located in the northern hills above the main street of Ellicott City, Maryland. The central bay of the structure projects forward with a central entrance with entablature that is framed by finished quoins and an arched window

opening with bars, currently filled with bricks, above the door. The central bay is capped by a front-facing gable roof that intersects with a gable roof that runs the longer length of the building. Four supporting bays are distributed on each side of the central bay on the front. A plaque above the central arched window opening states that the building is from 1878 and contains the names of the architect and builders. All masonry is coursed stone.

An earlier portion of the building, which sits behind and to the north of this main larger block, was built in 1851 of roughly coursed stone on the lower two stories, with larger and more varied sizes of stone used there. A framed third floor above this 1851 portion dates to the 1878 construction project of the larger block. A retaining wall runs the length of both sides and the back of the jail. Except for the back, which is a grass lawn, asphalt paving surrounds the building. There is a bridge connecting the higher elevation land and lot behind the courthouse to a doorway on the third floor of the building.



Figure 11. View north to the front façade of the jail (1878 addition). *Emory Lane Studio, November 2023.*



Figure 12. View south showing northeast and northwest facades. Original 1851 jail shown in foreground with double height porch. 1878 additions are the stone building to the left and framed third-floor portion with white siding. *Emory Lane Studio, November 2023.*



Figure 13. View east showing northwest and southwest facades. Original 1851 jail shown under framed Third floor at the left. 1878 additions in stone building to the right and framed third-floor portion with white siding beyond the chimney. *Emory Lane Studio, November 2023.*

Timeline of Known Construction and Changes

The first period of construction is associated with the lower two stories of the current structure located closest to the retaining wall in the northernmost portion of the building. It is generally understood to be the original 1851 structure. Today, this portion of the building has a slab below grade foundation, indicating that it may have been built below grade or had land graded around it. Roughly coursed masonry with variations in block sizes characterizes the older portion of the building. Stones are hewn, showing prominent point and hammer markings. On the current structure, many exposed portions of the 1851 building have been whitewashed, apart from the second story sheltered by the porch on the north elevation. Work on the original portion of the jail began in February 1851 and was completed and ready for inspection by the town Board of Commissioners on December 16 of that same year.⁵⁰ The 1851 jail was built by Charles Timanus and Samuel R. Powell as a replacement for an earlier nearby jail.

The second main period of construction of the jail is associated with the 1878 expansion to the south and east of the original site and the addition of a framed structure above the initial 1851 stone structure. Per a plaque above the main entrance, Architect John Laing with builders James Rowles and Robert Wilson designed the jail. There is no documentation from the time of the original layout of the 1878 addition. Reasonable assumptions about its layout can be gathered from visual inspection of the building today, including historical photographs, numerous descriptions from newspapers and Board of Corrections reports, as well as, most importantly, notations made on 1952 blueprints that were used for the 1954 interior renovation. Specifically, the 1952 construction drawings of the ground floor show outlines of previously existing masonry partitions with instructions to remove or brick up openings. This gives both a layout of the original plan as well and suggests that some portions of the extant partitions date from the original 1878 cell constructions. The two cells in the southeastern cell block appear to follow the outlines of the original 1878 jail cells.⁵¹

⁵⁰ Joseph Howard Nichols, Richard W Bush, and Howard County Genealogical Society. *Patriots and Pioneers of Howard County, Maryland., the Courthouse and the Jail* /. Vol. , the Courthouse and the Jail /. HCGS Special Publication, 98-1. Columbia, Md. (Box 274, Columbia 21045): Howard County Genealogical Society, 1998., pg. 20.

⁵¹ "Alterations & Additions to Howard County Jail, Ellicott City MD, Ground Floor Plan & Schedule. Irwin S. Porter And Sons , Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. June 20, 1952." Archives of the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD.

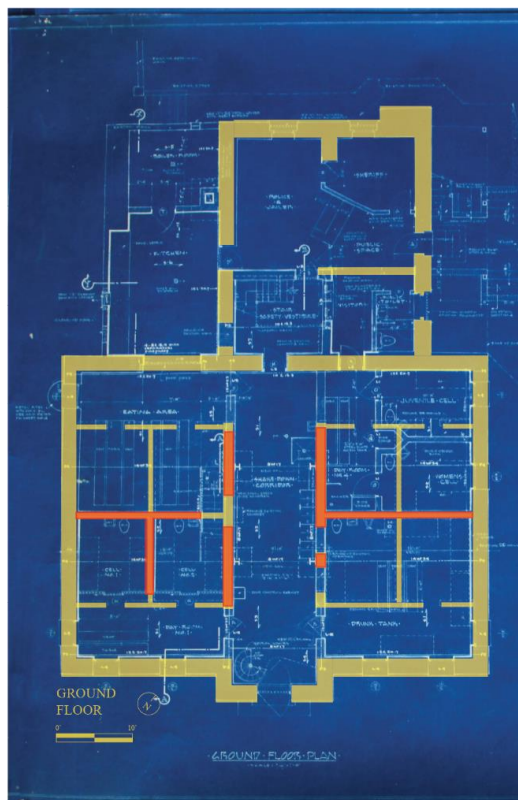
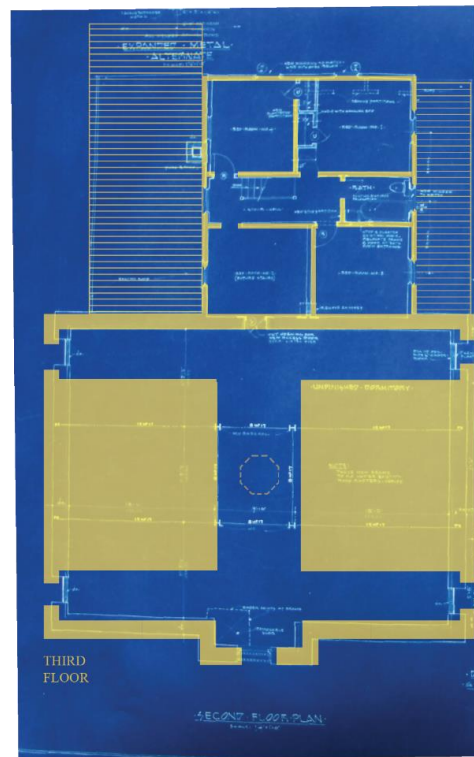
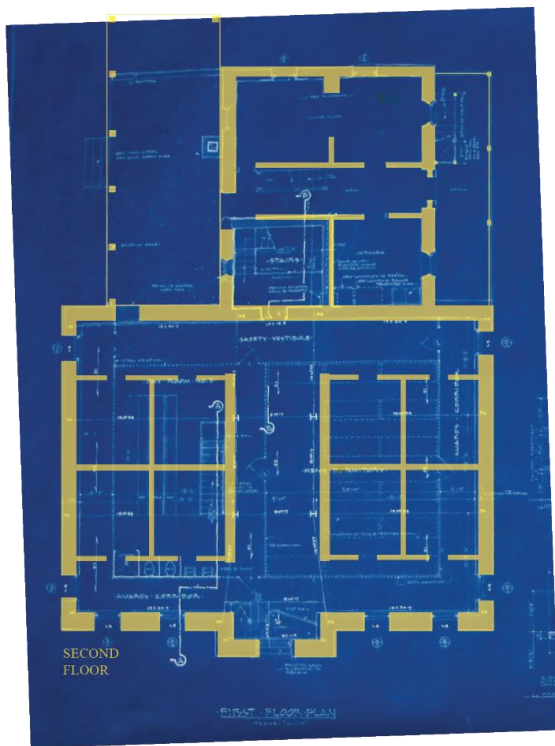


Figure 14. 1952 Plans for 1954 renovation with original pre-renovation walls highlighted.

Note: Red highlighting indicates areas where 1878 cell walls are presumed to be extant

Blueprints courtesy of the Howard County Historical Society, Maryland.

These plans depict the ground floor of the 1878 wing as containing a single corridor running from the front door to the back with four groupings of cells, each containing two cells flanking this central corridor. Cell walls were made of brick, and doors faced a corridor that ran along the outside wall of the 1878 building, with the only source of light or air into the cell being the cell door.⁵² There was one exception among this grouping on the ground floor, in the eastern cell block. Here, the cell closest to the corridor faced the corridor rather than the exterior wall.⁵³ Historical photos from a 1936 WPA program photograph show that the jail windows were barred and did not run the full length of the building as they do today.⁵⁴ Instead, those on the front of the building stopped at about 6 - 8 feet off the ground. Windows on the north and south sides of the building appeared to only be present on the second floor.⁵⁵ A 1944 Insurance Survey reported that the cell blocks were two stories tall, of brick walls with concrete floors. It reported that both the dwelling section and all roofing were of wood framing.⁵⁶

Located in each cell block, stairs were likely of a straight run or switchback configuration, leading up to a second-story balcony/mezzanine in front of each cell. This is assumed based on reports made in a 1925 State of Maryland Department of Welfare assessment report, which stated that there were toilets under each of the stairs in each cell block.⁵⁷ Inspection of photographs, such as from the 1936 Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, also show that window openings on the north and south faces of the 1878 addition did not run more than halfway down the elevation, suggesting that that lower portion may have been used to anchor a

⁵² Department of Welfare *First Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore, Board of Welfare, 1925), 19.

⁵³ "Alterations & Additions to Howard County Jail, Ellicott City MD, Ground Floor Plan & Schedule. Irwin S. Porter And Sons , Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. June 20, 1952." Archives of the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD.

⁵⁴ Gaither H. Sykes, Project Consultant for the W.P.A. of Maryland. "W.P. # 181 Jail Repairs Ellicott City, Howard County Maryland" July 1936. 181, Photos 1 & 5 -- Howard, Ellicott City -- Howard County Jail improvements, April 1936-July 1936, 5.3.5.22, Box: 5, Folder: 22.0. Work Projects Administration in Maryland records, 0009-MDHC. Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Maryland. https://archives.lib.umd.edu/repositories/2/archival_objects/359604 Accessed November 26, 2023.

⁵⁵ *ibid.*

⁵⁶ Herman & Carr, (Insurance) Agents, Ellicott City Maryland. "Insurance Survey of Howard County Properties for County Commissioners of Howard County. Ellicott City, Maryland." September 1944, Ellicott City. – 1944. L. 1990.40 Archives of the Howard County Historical Society.

⁵⁷ Department of Welfare *First Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore, Board of Welfare, 1925), 19.

stair or landing.⁵⁸ Given this information, a reasonable layout of the jail's late 19th century and early 20th-century floor plans were constructed and is presented below. Examination of the reconstructed floor plans further reveals that the lower portion of the original 1851 building had thicker walls and few openings. However, the second floor followed a central passage plan with rooms on either side. Stairs did not appear to run down to the ground floor in the 1851 building.

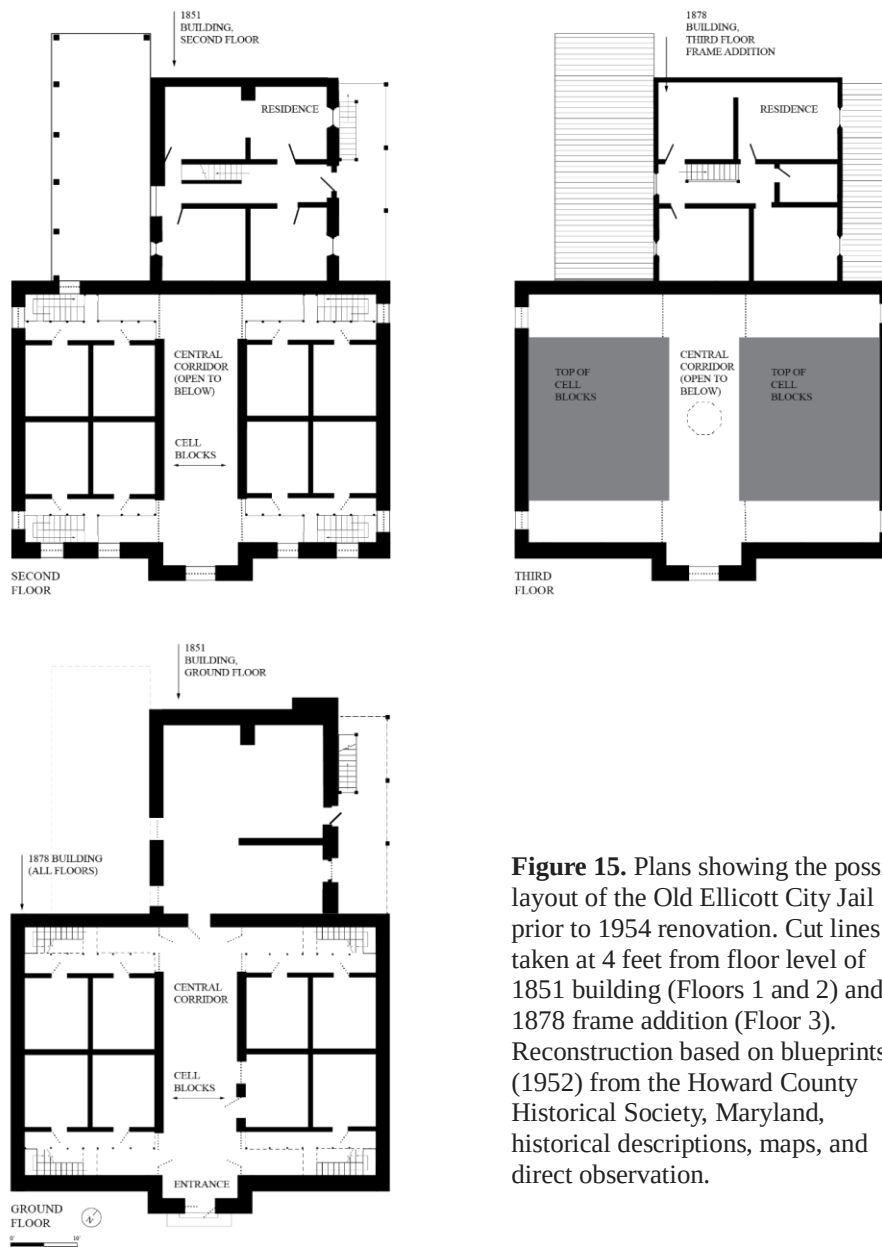


Figure 15. Plans showing the possible layout of the Old Ellicott City Jail prior to 1954 renovation. Cut lines taken at 4 feet from floor level of 1851 building (Floors 1 and 2) and 1878 frame addition (Floor 3). Reconstruction based on blueprints (1952) from the Howard County Historical Society, Maryland, historical descriptions, maps, and direct observation.

⁵⁸Gaither H. Sykes, Project Consultant for the W.P.A. of Maryland. "W.P. # 181 Jail Repairs Ellicott City, Howard County Maryland, Photo 2 'Showing North & West (Rear) of Jail and Wardens quarters'" July 1936. 181 -- Howard, Ellicott City -- Howard County Jail improvements, April 1936-July 1936, 5.3.5.22, Box: 5, Folder: 22.0.

In 1936 a retaining wall to the rear of the jail, a garage, and low brick walls to the front and rear of the building were constructed as part of a WPA project.⁵⁹ The work was photographed and, helpfully, shows many aspects of the jail's exterior. Today, the bottom portions of the main retaining wall, brick post, and a low retaining wall located near the southwestern porch of the building are all that appear to remain of this project. There are also ghosts of the rafter tails of what was believed to be the shed built during this time, products of concrete being poured over them during a later heightening of the northwestern retaining wall closest to the courthouse.

The third and final major period of change of the jail came in 1954, with the major renovation of the jail's interior.⁶⁰ Irwin S. Porter and Sons Architects and Engineers of Washington DC completed the interior design work.⁶¹ In contrast to and continuation of the quartered solid masonry cell blocks served by a central corridor of the 1878 jail, the 1954 renovation created two full floor plates running between both the 1851 footprint and 1878 building footprint and eliminated the double-height central corridor. However, it appears that the general four cell blocks of the original were retained for the overall layout of the ground floor. A shakedown corridor occupied the same space as the original central corridor of the 1878 wing. Drunk tanks occupied the northeast corner; two cells in the southeastern corner appear to follow the rough outlines of the original 1878 cell layout. A kitchen and boiler room were added underneath the southern porch. The ground floor contained a processing area for prisoners located in the original 1851 structure, as well as specific juvenile and women's cells that were only accessible through the main processing area, though located, again in one of the four original cell blocks in the 1878 addition.⁶²

⁵⁹ Gaither H. Sykes, Project Consultant for the W.P.A. of Maryland. Multiple photos. July 1936. 18, Photo. 1 & 5 -- Howard, Ellicott City -- Howard County Jail improvements, April 1936-July 1936, 5.3.5.22, Box: 5, Folder: 22.0. Work Projects Administration in Maryland records, 0009-MDHC. Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Maryland.

⁶⁰ Department of Correction. *Twenty-Eighth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1954), 49

⁶¹ "Alterations & Additions to Howard County Jail, Ellicott City MD, Ground Floor Plan & Schedule. Irwin S. Porter And Sons , Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. June 20, 1952." Archives of the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD.

⁶² *ibid.*



Figure 16. Likely floor level changes in the 1878 building during the 1954 renovation. Emory Lane Studio, November 2023.

The second floor of the 1954 interior renovation (described in blueprints as the “First Floor”) shows marked differences from the original four-part plan. The upper portion of the double-height corridor was covered and used as part of a containment area. Rather than being provided with four separate stairways and balconies in each core, the circulation was pushed to the sides taking the form of a “guard’s corridor” and a “Safety Vestibule” running around the periphery. The new plans placed the main cell block, the “Men’s Dormitory,” in the northeastern two-thirds of the second floor and a day room with stairs going down to the eating area in the southwestern one-third. Creating a single floorplate on the second floor allowed for an additional access point to the 1851 jail structure through a central stair core.⁶³ Prior to this, it is believed that the floors of the warden’s residence, located in the footprint of the 1851 structure, and the

⁶³ “Alterations & Additions to Howard County Jail, Ellicott City MD, First Floor Plan & Elevations. Irwin S. Porter And Sons, Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. June 20, 1952.” Archives of the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD.

jail, located in the 1878 wing only shared a floorplate on the first floor and maintained separate floor to ceiling heights for other floors.

The 1952 plans for the 1954 renovation further left room for an additional expansion of the jail to a third floor, specifying an area to be an “unfinished dormitory,” and installing steel support beams in the location. Importantly, the blueprints also include a comment for the builders: “These new beams go under existing roof rafters. Verify.”⁶⁴ Suggesting that the original rafter system was present and near where these new beams would be placed. The space is currently finished, likely the product of a project occurring between 1954 and 1959. (See section below on additional periods of construction.)

The 1954 renovation also introduced several windows, particularly those in the residence located along the northwestern end of the building.⁶⁵ The same renovation called for windows sheltered by the southwestern porch to be filled in.⁶⁶ While not described directly as part of the 1954 project, the project blueprints show window cutouts on the ground floor. The lowering of all cell block windows occurred during the 1954 renovation or at some point between 1935 and 1954. Notably, the 1954 renovation maintained the same divisions between jailer and jailed. The older portion of the jail, formerly the warden’s residence, continued to be used for administration, and the 1878 structure being used for imprisonment.

Prisoners assisted with demolishing the jail’s interior for the 1954 renovation. As of the 1953 Maryland Board of Correction Inspection Report, June 23, 1953, it was reported that demolition of the interior of the jail had begun and that four prisoners were housed in the garage, with three of them working on the demolition of the interior.⁶⁷ Other prisoners had been transferred to a jail in Rockville.⁶⁸

Commissioners revisited the next year and reported that a full renovation of the building was completed by the early months of 1954. The newly renovated jail addressed many of the

⁶⁴ “Alterations & Additions to Howard County Jail, Ellicott City MD, Second Floor Plan & Details. Irwin S. Porter And Sons, Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. June 20, 1952.” Archives of the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD.

⁶⁵ See plans for all floors by Irwin Porter and Sons Blueprints, cited elsewhere in this document.

⁶⁶ “Alterations & Additions to Howard County Jail, Ellicott City MD, First Floor Plan & Elevations. Irwin S. Porter And Sons , Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. June 20, 1952.” Archives of the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD.

⁶⁷ Department of Correction. *Twenty-Seventh Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1953), 48

⁶⁸ *ibid.*

faults found in previous reports, specifically the separation of women and children, now housed in one of the ground floor quadrants.⁶⁹ Maximum security prisoners were housed in the ground floor cells across the central aisle from the “drunk tank.”⁷⁰ The report said the maximum-security portion had a “special cell for violent cases.” A kitchen and the second-floor general holding cell were also added, with a reported capacity of 28 men.⁷¹ The jail ended its use as a site of confinement in 1983, when the new Howard County Detention Center was opened in Jessup with an initial 63 inmates and a capacity of 108.⁷²

Additional Periods of Construction, Minor Renovations, and Unknown Elements

Based on visual inspection of the exterior and 1952 renovation blueprints, the north entrance to the jail was constructed prior to 1952 but used brick different from the brick used for portions of the retaining wall as part of the 1936 WPA project, suggesting that there was a period of construction between 1936 and 1952. The 1952 blueprints also showed prior window openings on the ground floor of the 1878 building and did not ask for window cuts to be made, suggesting that the ground floor windows may predate the 1954 alterations but were made after 1936.

The 1952 blueprints indicate that there was additional room for a future dormitory for inmates on the third floor of the 1878 building but that it was not built as part of that renovation.⁷³ By 1959, a photograph by Celia Holland shows that the bridge connecting the third floor to a lot behind the courthouse was built, suggesting an additional period of construction between 1954 and 1959.⁷⁴ Third-floor window openings in the 1878 addition can be assumed to date from this period. A 1959 State of Maryland Board of Correction report confirmed this,

⁶⁹ Department of Correction. *Twenty-Eighth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1954), 49

⁷⁰ *ibid.*

⁷¹ *ibid.*

⁷² Joseph Howard Nichols, Richard W Bush, and Howard County Genealogical Society. *Patriots and Pioneers of Howard County, Maryland. , the Courthouse and the Jail /*. Vol. , the Courthouse and the Jail / . Hcgs Special Publication, 98-1. Columbia, Md. (Box 274, Columbia 21045): Howard County Genealogical Society, 1998., pg. 21 ; “Corrections | Howard County,” accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/corrections>.

⁷³ “Alterations & Additions to Howard County Jail, Ellicott City MD, Second Floor Plan & Details. Irwin S. Porter And Sons , Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. June 20, 1952.” Archives of the Howard County Historical Society, Ellicott City, MD.

⁷⁴ Howard County - Ellicott City -- Jail, December, 1959, 9.1.1.144, Box: 1, item: 144. Celia M. Holland papers, 0031-MDHC. Special Collections and University Archives.

reporting that the third floor above the holding cells was being used as the headquarters of the county's Civil Defense organization.⁷⁵

Connections to Conditions of Imprisonment

The creation, expansions, and renovations of the jail have always been connected to the growth of the county and concerns over the conditions of confinement for inmates. The initial impetus to create the 1851 wing of the jail was as a replacement for the then holding facilities: the nearby original 1840 jail and a portion of a private residence that the county had rented at additional cost to house a growing number of inmates, likely mostly enslaved persons, who had been captured and held.⁷⁶ The jail was often criticized for not meeting basic standards, with the physical structure of the building often being blamed. An 1877 report of a visit to the jail made by the Secretary of the Maryland State Board of Health with members of the county board of commissioners indicated that the jail, before the construction of the 1878 addition, was poorly ventilated, insecure, and structurally unsound.⁷⁷ A 1939 state inspection report recommended a total remodeling of the jail.⁷⁸ More information on conditions can be found in a later chapter of this document.

Connection to Landscape

The landscape surrounding the jail has changed markedly over its century-and-a-half existence. Historical photographs from 1915 and 1936 indicate that the retaining wall behind the jail was significantly lower than it is today.⁷⁹ ⁸⁰ Visual inspection of the retaining wall also

⁷⁵ Department of Correction. *Thirty-Third Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1959), 48.

⁷⁶ Joseph Howard Nichols, Richard W Bush, and Howard County Genealogical Society. *Patriots and Pioneers of Howard County, Maryland. , the Courthouse and the Jail /*. Vol. , the Courthouse and the Jail / . Hcgs Special Publication, 98-1. Columbia, Md. (Box 274, Columbia 21045): Howard County Genealogical Society, 1998., pg 19.

⁷⁷ C.W. Chancellor, M.D. Secretary of the Maryland State Board of Health, "Report on the Public Charities, Reformatories, Prisons & Almshouses, of the State of Maryland," July 1877. Pg. 127.

⁷⁸ Department of Correction. *Fifteenth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1939), 22.

⁷⁹ Reproduction of a photograph of "Chatham"-Circa 1915. PC3 L 1990.3 - Ellicott City Jail. L 1995.23. Archives of the Howard County Historical Society. Ellicott City, Maryland.

⁸⁰ Gaither H. Sykes, Project Consultant for the W.P.A. of Maryland. Photos No. 3 & 4. May 11, 1936. "W.P. # 181 Jail Repairs Ellicott City, Howard County Maryland" July 1936. 181 -- Howard, Ellicott City -- Howard County Jail improvements, April 1936-July 1936, 5.3.5.22, Box: 5, Folder: 22.0. Work Projects Administration in Maryland records, 0009-MDHC. Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Maryland.

reveals that there appear to be different periods of construction, with the lowest being confirmed to have been part of the 1930s WPA project, but an additional layer from an unknown period, including the addition of buttresses, and at least one more layer above it, this one sharing the material language of a 1986 extension of the nearby courthouse.

Also notable was the presence of several outbuildings throughout the site of the jail that have come and gone through time. Sanborn Maps from the late 19th and early 20th century show that several outbuildings were recorded between 1894 and 1910, including stables with slate or tin roofs located just to the west and south of the main jail building (the latter ones only possibly associated with the jail).⁸¹

Connection to Rail History

Through its architect, the 1878 building has connections to the history of rail in Maryland. Its architect, John Laing, was an engineer recruited to come to Maryland in 1867 by the mayor of the City of Baltimore and Chairman of the Western Maryland Railroad, John Lee Chapman.⁸² Laing was born in Scotland and trained as a civil engineer by the Royal College of Engineers in Chatham, England and served as chief engineer of Birmingham.⁸³ He later worked as chief engineer of the San Paolo and Juandetay Railroad in Brazil prior to his arrival in Baltimore.⁸⁴ He served as chief engineer of Union Tunnel in Baltimore and worked on other rail



Figure 17. View north of the retaining wall showing different periods of construction.
Emory Lane Studio, November 2023.

⁸¹ Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. Sanborn Map Company, Nov, 1894. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn03599_002/.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. Sanborn Map Company, Apr, 1899. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn03599_003/.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. Sanborn Map Company, May, 1910. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn03599_005/.

⁸² "Col John Laing." *The Sun*. Nov. 29, 1897.

⁸³ Ibid.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

projects in Maryland. He was reported to have resided at 918 East Lombard Street in Baltimore.⁸⁵

Laing created a set of drawings of Baltimore's Union Wharf for the Baltimore Steam Packet Company in 1892, showing his ability to take survey work and create effective documentation.⁸⁶ Laing also ran a business consulting as an architect, surveyor, and engineer at 5 St. Paul Street in Baltimore. Contracted by Margaretta Ridgely of Hampton Manor in 1875, John Laing created plans and elevations of Hampton for a price of 300 dollars as well as plans for "gates and piers" for a total of 20 dollars, to be paid upon completion of the work. Iron gates and side railing for this job were supplied by the W.E. Davis & Co. company of 41 Clay Street in Baltimore for a fee of 792 dollars.⁸⁷

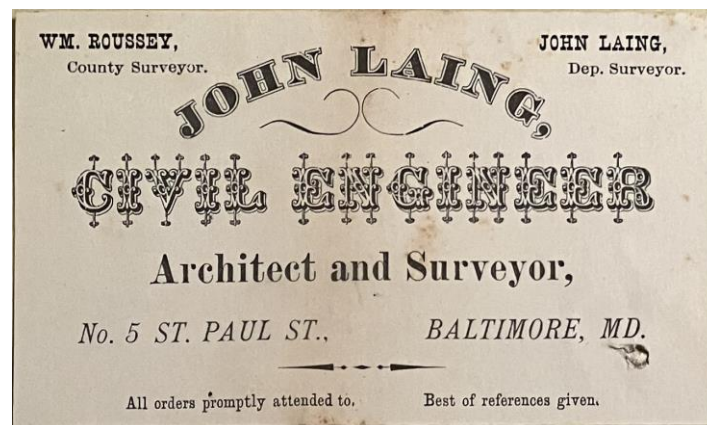


Figure 18. John Laing's card, circa 1875. *Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore.*

It is clear from this that Laing was not just an accomplished engineer but also someone who may have been known to work in materials of stone and iron – materials often associated with late 19th-century rail but also with late 19th-century imprisonment. Given this, the choice of a railroad engineer to design the jail seems less surprising than might be assumed. Laing passed away in 1897 and is buried in Loudon Park Cemetery, Baltimore.⁸⁸

⁸⁵ "Col John Laing." *Baltimore Sun*, November 29, 1897.

⁸⁶ Baltimore. Map of Union Wharf, property of the Baltimore Steam Packet Company. 1892. M 183, Large. Special Collections of the H. Furlong Baldwin Library of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore.

⁸⁷ Margaretta S.H. Ridgely – Bills and Letters – John Laing. Reconstruction of gates at 'Hampton'. Special Collections of the H. Furlong Baldwin Library of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore.

⁸⁸ Find a grave.com. John Laing, 1816/17-1897 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/203626188/john-laing>

African Americans, Slavery, and The Underground Railroad

Early tobacco planters in the county imported Africans as labor to serve their vast estates and plantations. Despite Maryland having a number of free African Americans, a vast majority of them were enslaved. However, the arrival of the Ellicott brothers in Ellicott City, who purchased hectares of land, revolutionized farming in the area by persuading farmers to plant wheat instead of tobacco. Ellicott's Mills became one of the nation's largest milling and manufacturing factories, employing African Americans into the workforce. African Americans were an integral part of the development of Ellicott City and Howard County. Ellicott City became the seat of power and government when Howard County gained its political freedom from Anne Arundel County on the 4th of July 1851 and was established as a distinct county.

African Americans, both free and enslaved, were charged with all manner of claims to the circuit court and eventually locked in the county jail. Major newspapers like *The Baltimore Sun*, *The Ellicott Times*, and the Howard County Historical Archives provided vital resources in developing the stories of African Americans as related to the jail. Also, the Maryland State Archives Legacy of Slavery, Howard County Center of African American Culture, Maryland Truth Lynching and Reconciliation, and the Howard County Lynching Truth and Reconciliation provided various useful connections. Great strides have been made towards effectively documenting, recounting, and narrating the stories and untold history of African Americans within the county from these organizations. However, much history is yet to be told.

Augustus Collins

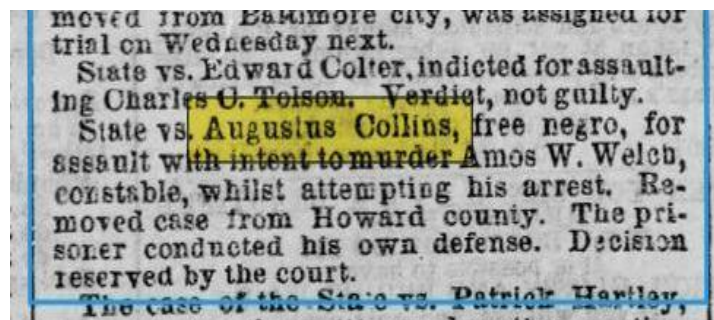


Figure 19. Arrest notice for Augustus Collins, a “free negro.”
“Circuit Court For Anne Arundel County.” *Baltimore Sun*, January 21, 1862.

Augustus W. Collins, a free black man, was charged by the state in Ellicott City for disturbing the peace and inciting an insurrection.⁸⁹ Some newspaper postings, however, claimed he was charged with assault with the intent to murder Amos W. Welch, a constable, on the 23rd of July 1861 while he was arrested.⁹⁰ The vague claims and generalistic descriptions and terms such as “disturbing the peace” bring to question what the actual offenses or crimes free blacks committed.

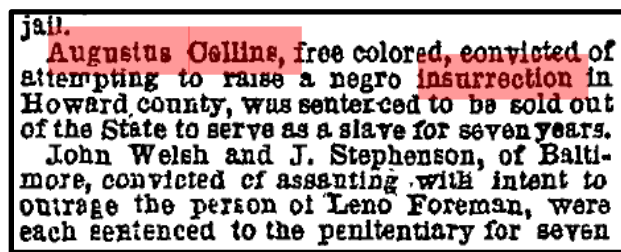


Figure 20. Circuit Court sentence for Augustus Collins. “The Circuit Court-Heavy Sentences-Departure of Troops, &c.” *Baltimore Sun*, January 31, 1862.

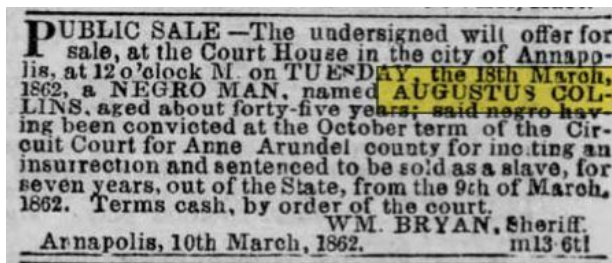


Figure 21. Public sale notice for Augustus Collins following his conviction at the courthouse.

Understanding that he may not get a free and fair trial, Collins petitioned the Judge and sent an appeal for his case to be transferred from the circuit court to the court of rounds.⁹¹ Notably, Collins was a man familiar with the law and its intricacies and insisted on defending his own case; despite his resolute defense, he was convicted by the circuit court of Arundel County and sentenced to be sold as an enslaved person for seven years out of state in cash in 1862.⁹²

Richard Martin

Richard Martin was a free black man in Ellicott City in the 19th century who not only had white acquaintances but built a cordial relationship with them and owned a gambling house. He was arrested, charged, and committed to jail for disturbing the peace, alongside Isaiah Shipley and Harmon Henson, both “white men.”⁹³ Whether they were in a drunken state or just too loud, or a black man hosting his white friends for card games and drinks, we cannot ascertain what their main faults were, however in an era

⁸⁹ “Circuit Court For Anne Arundel County.” *Baltimore Sun*, January 21, 1862.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Circuit Court Record, Howard County Historical Society Archives and Historical Center.

⁹² “The Circuit Court-Heavy Sentences-Departure of Troops, &c.” *Baltimore Sun*, January 31, 1862.

⁹³ “Playing Cards.” *Baltimore Sun*, October 1, 1851.

where slavery, segregation and discrimination was still deeply entrenched, the main motive for Martin's arrest may not be far-fetched.

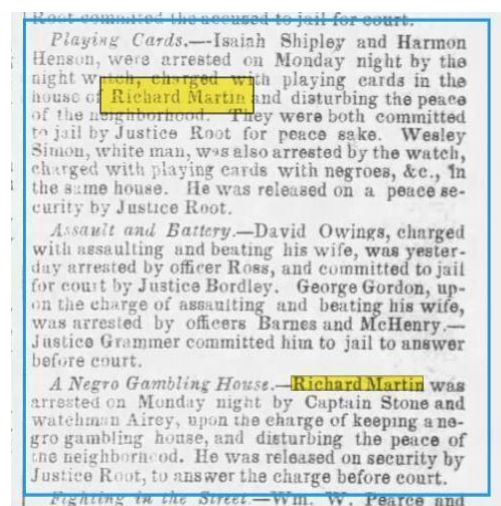


Figure 22. Richard Martin arrested for running a negro gambling house. "Playing Cards." *Baltimore Sun*, October 1, 1851.

Martin owning a Negro gambling house invokes a series of questions: Did he have a license? When did the gambling house open? Was it a business venture or just for pleasure? What kind of nomenclature was built within the space that allowed for both white and black people to mix? Was it a safe space? How long did it run? These questions would require more research and to answer, as well as understanding the subsequent event and aftermath of Richard Martin's arrest and the eventual state of the Negro gambling house.

Underground Railroad and Freedom Seekers

The National Park Service has done extensive research in creating a theme and contextual study on the Underground Railroad and the creation of the Network to Freedom, which is aimed at honoring, preserving, and promoting the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight.⁹⁴ In 1998, the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act was passed to educate the public, to provide technical assistance in documenting, preserving, and interpreting underground railroad history, to create a network of historic sites, interpretive and educational programs, and educational facilities all with a "verifiable association" to the Underground Railroad.⁹⁵

Following the guidelines and criteria set by the National Park Service, the Ellicott City Jail is a significant site and contributes to the Underground Railroad Network. The stories of Augusta Spriggs⁹⁶ and Nick⁹⁷ provide context and support to this claim. This section will discuss

⁹⁴ "About the Network to Freedom - Underground Railroad (U.S. National Park Service).".

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/about-the-network-to-freedom.htm>.

⁹⁵ "National Underground Railroad Network To Freedom Act of 1998." Public Law 105-203 105th Congress, n.d.

<https://www.congress.gov/105/plaws/publ203/PLAW-105publ203.pdf>.

⁹⁶ "Committed." *Baltimore Sun*, April 11, 1857.

each person further to understand their relationships to slavery and the jail. The movement to run away heightened in the 1830s when the first railroad roared from Baltimore to Ellicott City. The railroad became a symbol of speed for the enslaved; those escaping to the north were described as using the underground railroad and then deemed to define all aspects of the escape process.

The Underground Railroad was a support system for freedom seekers beginning in the 1700s, providing a means for the enslaved to reach freedom. It was a system of hidden spaces carved out by free and enslaved African Americans and compassionate whites.⁹⁸ Different groups were involved and played vital roles in the functioning and effectiveness of the Underground Railroad; some guided fleeing enslaved people to safe houses, some hid them on their properties, and some sponsored their transportation. These all formed an intricate network of the Underground Railroad. Ellicott City Jail, which is noted as “Howard County Jail” under the National Park Service has been listed as a site under the network and incorporated into the NPS GIS.⁹⁹ Various terminologies used in describing escaping African Americans were set and constructed of an enslaving society or by abolitionists, therefore, words used in discussing slavery and freedom then, reflects “how the dominant society viewed African Americans and their efforts toward freedom.”¹⁰⁰

Options available to fugitive slaves were very limited in where they could live. Moreover, laws enforcing the return of fugitive slaves were rigid and more stringent in the southern states of the United States. Daring the consequences and potential punishment, efforts to liberate the enslaved increased in intensity, and enslaved people kept defying the odds. Vigilance committees in northern cities coordinated the elaborate communication and relief networks that served escapees who fled to places like Canada where slavery was illegal. In contrast southern states, around the boundary like Maryland and Virginia, enslavers kept a tight leash on both the free and enslaved due to the increasing losses they faced with their escape.¹⁰¹

⁹⁷ The Howard County Archive, The Howard County Times, Feb 5,(1981). Pg 21.

⁹⁸ National Underground Railroad Network To Freedom. “Maryland Underground Railroad, Network to Freedom,” n.d. <http://npshistory.com/brochures/ugrr/md-ugrr-2019.pdf>.

⁹⁹ “Explore Network to Freedom Listings - Underground Railroad (U.S. National Park Service).” <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/ntf-listings.htm>.

¹⁰⁰ “Language of Slavery - Underground Railroad (U.S. National Park Service).” <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/language-of-slavery.htm>.

¹⁰¹ National Underground Railroad Network To Freedom. “Maryland Underground Railroad, Network to Freedom,” n.d. <http://npshistory.com/brochures/ugrr/md-ugrr-2019.pdf>.

Routine advertisements were placed in newspapers for fugitive slaves by owners and overseers in county and municipal newspapers such as *The Baltimore Sun* and *Ellicott City Times*, which highlighted the escape date, location, enslaved individual’s name, physical description, and reward amount for the runaway’s capture and return. These advertisements sometimes noted familiar connections like the names and locations of kin with whom the runaway might seek shelter.¹⁰²

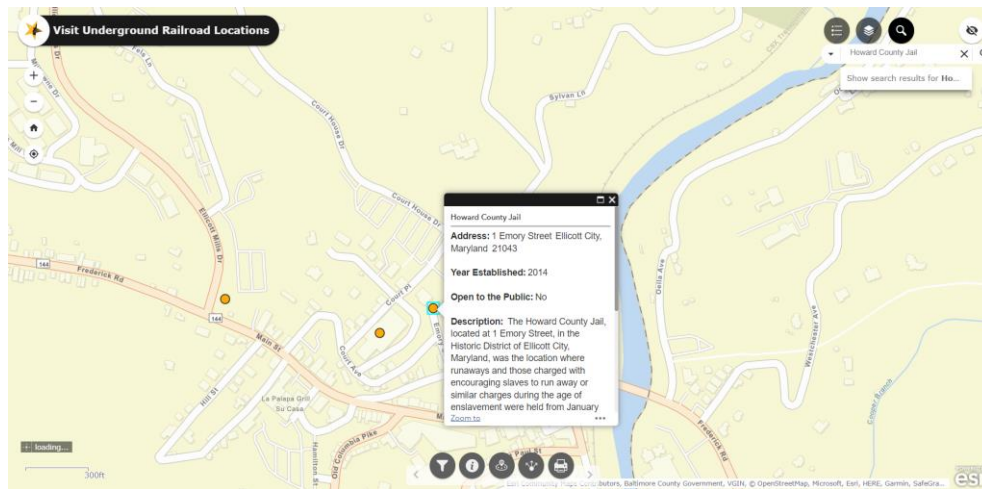


Figure 23. Howard County Jail listed as a contributing site the Underground Railroad Network. “ArcGIS.” NPS, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.

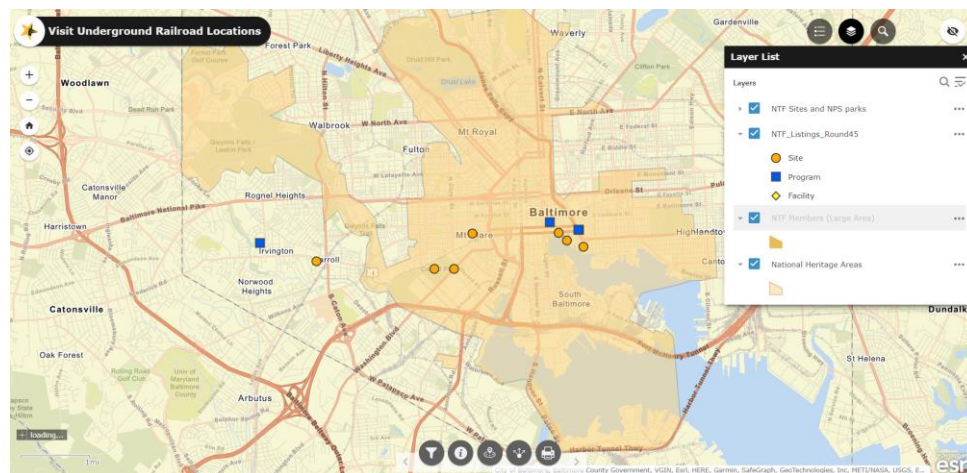


Figure 24. Howard County Jail highlighted under the National Heritage Area. “ArcGIS.” NPS “Explore Network to Freedom Listings – Underground Railroad.”

¹⁰² Jacobsen , Phebe. “Researching African American Families.” Maryland State Archives (MSA), n.d. https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se14/000000/000048/researching_african_american_families.pdf.

Augusta Spriggs

Local law enforcement officials also placed committal notices in newspapers, listing individuals who had been picked up and were being held in the local jail until claimed, with the expectation that the owners would retrieve them upon seeing such advertisement, with the assumption that the individual might be a fugitive. These committal notices most times bear the name, physical description, and the status of the captured, either as free or owned.¹⁰³

In the case of the Ellicott City Jail, a committal notice was placed in *The Baltimore Sun* by Joshua McCauley,¹⁰⁴ the sheriff of Howard County in 1857, for a “Negro Woman” Augusta Spriggs.¹⁰⁵ She was committed to the county jail after escaping from within Maryland. She was claimed to have belonged to a lawyer named Alfred Berry from Prince George’s County. Augusta Spriggs was locked in the jail on the 2nd of April 1857. Committal notices required by law a timeline for the individual to be claimed by the owner, and if not, they will be released. Spriggs’ notice gave a 60-day period in which she could be claimed and, if failing that, afterward released.¹⁰⁶

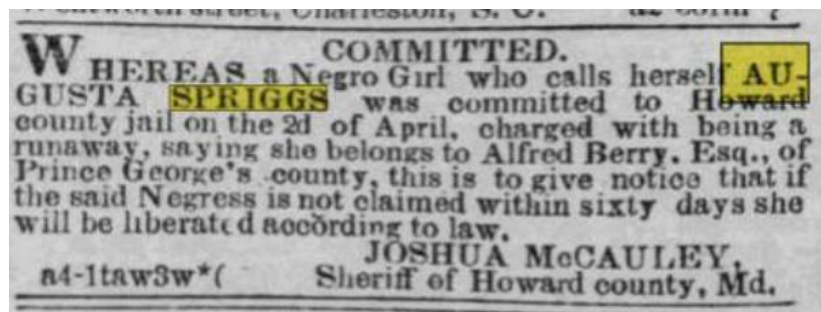


Figure 25. Committal notice for Augusta Spriggs, “a runaway” committee to the Howard County Jail. “Committed.” *The Baltimore Sun*, April 11, 1857.

¹⁰³ Jacobsen , Phebe. “Researching African American Families.” Maryland State Archives (MSA), n.d.

¹⁰⁴ “Committed.” *Baltimore Sun*, April 11, 1857.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid.

The Old Nick Story

There is a very popular story or claim of a fugitive slave called “Nick,” also known as the “*Old Nick story*” based on his popularity and how much it has been told and retold. Truthfully, some loopholes exist contextually in the story and more research work through the *Ellicott City Times* is needed to bring some edge to the story. Tom Randel, a slave descendant from Ellicott City, was interviewed by researchers of the Library of Congress to document narratives from former enslaved people. Randel re-echoed the story of a fugitive slave named “Joe Nick”, which was a nickname given by his owner Reuben Rogers.¹⁰⁷ Nick was literate, which made him of value to his owner at the time. He was also a first-class wheelwright and a mechanic, but it has not been determined how he was able to harness all this knowledge and skill. However, his value was indisputable.

Nick escaped from the Rogers farm through the westbound B&O freight train, where his lack of papers or slave traveling permit would have gotten him arrested. A \$100 reward was posted for his capture and return, which drew several slave hunters to the county. Nick was never found. He eventually returned to Ellicott City in a blue uniform after the Civil War in 1865, claiming to have joined the Union army up north.¹⁰⁸ Rogers insisted on getting Nick arrested and charged with being a “fugitive slave” and was then locked in the county jail, until the U.S Marshal from Baltimore released him, and arrested Rogers who was reprimanded by the federal judge.¹⁰⁹



Figure 26. Article about the “Joe Nick” story. *Howard County Times*, 1981, Hornbake Library Special Collections

¹⁰⁷ Hornbake Library, Special Collections, The Howard County Times, (1981). Pg 21

¹⁰⁸ Carleton Jones. "The Black Tracks, A Slave Fools, The Dogs". *Baltimore Sun*, 1983.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

Lynchings and Mob Violence

Lynching is the public murder of an individual without the due process of law. In an American post-Civil War context, lynching typically carries a racialized aspect as the victims were most often African Americans hanged by white mobs. Over 4,000 lynchings have been documented across the United States as having occurred between 1877 and 1950.¹¹⁰ Though the specific events that would spark these murders were contextual, the overarching pattern is that these acts were done with the direct intention of maintaining white supremacy and instilling fear. The issue of “truth” in presenting the events of a lynching becomes difficult. Victims regularly included the falsely accused. Rape, particularly of white women, theft, and assault were common accusations. African Americans who, even in self-defense, may have harmed a white individual were also common targets. Local government, press, and police were often complicit in, if not supportive of lynchings, with many southern newspapers viewing them as a necessary evil to maintain social order. What little historical record remains of the victims of lynchings will never tell the complete story of these events and their personhood.

Restorative Efforts

To draw attention to the presence of violent lynchings locally the Maryland State Archives *Legacies of Slavery* “Judge Lynch’s Court: Mob Justice in Maryland During the Age of Jim Crow, 1854 - 1933” numerous biographies were created for the victims of lynching throughout Maryland.¹¹¹ When possible, these biographies were used for organization and voice. Recognizing the need to draw attention to and amend the legacies of lynchings in Maryland, the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created via House Bill 307.¹¹² The preamble for this bill is as follows:

“WHEREAS, Lynching, or the extralegal murder of an individual in an act of mob violence, is a violation of the rights to due process and equal protection of the law; and

¹¹⁰ Equal Justice Initiative. “Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror.” *Equal Justice Initiative*, 2017, p.4 <https://eji.org/wp-content/uploads/2005/11/lynching-in-america-3d-ed-110121.pdf>

¹¹¹ “Judge Lynch’s Court: Mob Justice in Maryland During the Age of Jim Crow, 1854 - 1933” *Legacies of Slavery in Maryland*. The Maryland State Archives

¹¹² Maryland State Legislature, House, *Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act of 2019*. House Bill 307. https://msa.maryland.gov/lynching-truth-reconciliation/pdf/ch_41_hb0307t.pdf

WHEREAS, At least 40 African Americans were lynched by white mobs in Maryland between 1854 and 1933; and WHEREAS, No person was ever tried, convicted, or otherwise brought to justice for participating in these racially motivated lynchings; and WHEREAS, Various State, county, and local government entities colluded in the commission of these crimes and conspired to conceal the identities of the parties involved; and WHEREAS, These crimes far exceeded any notion of “justice”, just retribution, or just punishment, but were intended to terrorize African American communities and force them into silence and subservience to the ideology of white supremacy; and WHEREAS, No victim’s family or community ever received a formal apology or compensation from State, county, or local government entities for the violent loss of their men; and WHEREAS, Restorative justice requires a full knowledge, understanding, and acceptance of the truth before there can be any meaningful reconciliation”

The Lynching of Nicholas Snowden

Nicholas Snowden, at the age of 19, served in Company B, 30th Regiment, of the United States Colored Troops.¹¹³ He enlisted June 15, 1864, listed as a “substitute for Will Haywood, 5th County Division, Maryland” and was mustered out on December 10, 1865. There are no remarks in his file regarding if he was killed, wounded, or seriously injured during his time in service.¹¹⁴ The Thirtieth Regiment was organized at Camp Stanton, Maryland from February 12th to March 18, 1864.¹¹⁵ It was assigned to the Ferreros Division of the 9th Army Corps and served under General Grant during the Overland Campaign which lasted from May to mid-June 1864. However, Snowden would have missed this campaign. From there, the unit took part in the Siege of Petersburg, Virginia, and was active at the Battle of the Crater on July 30, 1864. Snowden may have been present. On December 25, 1864, the Thirtieth Regiment took part in General Benjamin Butler's expedition against Fort Fisher, North Carolina, and the subsequent second expedition in January 1865 that captured the fort. It was present at the capture of Confederate General Joseph Johnson's army in mid-April 1865. The Thirtieth Regiment was

¹¹³ "United States, Compiled Military Service Records Of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served With The U.S. Colored Troops, 1861-1866", , *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:CTQ6-JJPZ> : Thu Oct 05 14:41:20 UTC 2023), Entry for Nicholas Snowden, 22 Jun 1864.

¹¹⁴ *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers War of 1861-1865 Volume II*. General Assembly of Maryland by L. Allison Wilmer, J.H. Jarrett, and Geo. W.F. Vernon, State Commissioners. 1899. Press of Guggenheimer, Weil & Co., Baltimore, MD. reprinted in 1987. Family Line Publications (Silver Spring, MD) and Toomey Press (Harmans, MD) pg 239.

¹¹⁵ *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers War of 1861-1865 Volume II*. General Assembly of Maryland by L. Allison Wilmer, J.H. Jarrett, and Geo. W.F. Vernon, State Commissioners. 1899. Press of Guggenheimer, Weil & Co., Baltimore, MD. reprinted in 1987. Family Line Publications (Silver Spring, MD) and Toomey Press (Harmans, MD) pg 233.

placed on garrison duty until being mustered out on December 10, 1865. He likely participated in these events.

Following the war, Nicholas Snowden would return to Ellicott City at which point he would disappear from the historical record until his arrest on September 13, 1885. The following biography is provided by the Archives of Maryland¹¹⁶:

“Nicholas Snowden was arrested September 13, 1885 for allegedly assaulting Alberta Fischer, a nine-year-old African American girl. Snowden... was arrested by Sheriff Nicholas T. Hutchins in Ellicott City, Howard County. It was reported on Saturday, September 19, that a group of twenty-four African American men entered the Howard County Jail, intending to lynch Snowden for his alleged crime. John T. Ray, warden of the jail, told The Sun that the men came to the back door of the jail around 2:00 a.m. the morning of September 19. The men told the warden that they had a prisoner and were directed to enter the front door upon which the warden opened it and them in. The men then asked for Nicholas Snowden. It was reported that Ray noticed that even though the men were masked, he could see parts of their faces and concluded that all were African Americans.

Upon finding Snowden's cell, the men broke the lock with an ax. Two men brought Snowden down the stairs, carrying in their hands a long piece of rope. The lynchers were also seen with three or four guns in their possession. The warden reported the incident to Sheriff Hutchins.

Hutchins claimed the men were a mixture of African Americans and whites. The men drove around the outskirts of the town before stopping at a location called Cat Rock where Snowden was hanged in a grove of trees. His body was found later that morning by a youth who lived in the city. Snowden is buried at Locust Cemetery in Ellicott City.

Coroner James D. Cooke summoned a jury of inquest. The jury ruled that Nicholas Snowden was hanged to a tree by persons unknown to the jury, and that he died from strangulation.¹¹⁷ The Sun published a condemnation of the act on September 19, 1885:

30 U.S.C.T.
Nicholas Snowden
Appears with rank of *Private* on
Muster and Descriptive Roll of a Detachment of Drafted Men and Substitutes forwarded *
for the *30* Reg't U. S. Col'd Inf. Roll dated *Balto. Md. June 22, 1867*
Where born *Howard Co., Md.*
Age *19* y'rs; occupation *Laborer*
When enlisted *June 15, 1867*
Where enlisted *Ellicott City, Md.*
For what period enlisted *3* years.
Eyes *Black*; hair *Black*
Complexion *Black*; height *5 ft 5 in.*
When mustered in *June 15, 1867*
Where mustered in *Ellicott City, Md.*
Bounty paid \$ *100*; due \$ *100*
Where credited
Company to which assigned
Remarks: *Substituted for Wm. Grayman, 5th Co. of 30th Reg't. Md.*
* This roll of Drafted Men and Substitutes was made on the form intended for Volunteer Recruits.
Book mark: _____
(240e) *W. F. Ray* Captain

Figure 27. Nicholas Snowden Enlistment Form. “United States, Compiled Military Service Records Of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served With The U.S. Colored Troops, 1861-1866,” Database. FamilySearch.

¹¹⁶ Archives of Maryland (Biography Series) MSA SC 3520-13735: Nicholas Snowden, Lynched in Ellicott City, Maryland on September 18, 1885.

‘The lynching of a colored man at Ellicott City early yesterday morning by men of his own race is another instance of a kind of violation of law and interference with the course of justice against which The Sun has too often found it necessary to protest. In this case there was no reason to believe that the culprit would not be speedily brought to trial, and, if guilty of the revolting crime charged upon him, would be properly punished.’¹¹⁸”

Nicholas Snowden was buried at Locust United Methodist Church Cemetery, Columbia, Howard County.¹¹⁹

The Lynching of Jacob Henson Jr.

Though details about Jacob Henson Jr.’s early life remain a mystery, it is known that his father, Jacob Henson, was born sometime around the 1840s in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.¹²⁰ Henson Sr would go on to serve as a laundry worker for the US Navy during the Civil War.¹²¹ Sometime in the years following the war, Jacob Henson would have a son, Jacob Henson Jr. The following biography is provided by the Archives of Maryland *Legacies of Slavery* “Judge Lynch’s Court: Mob Justice in Maryland During the Age of Jim Crow, 1854 - 1933”¹²²:

“Jacob Henson Jr, a young African-American store clerk, is reported to have walked over to his employer’s country store during the closing hours of February 19, 1895 to enjoy a few beers. Henson and his employer, Daniel F. Shea, reportedly enjoyed the beverages as they were locking up the store for the evening, when it is alleged that a fight broke out between the two men. Shea reportedly struck Henson in the chest with his fists three times. Henson reportedly picked up the first thing he saw on the ground, a hatchet, and proceeded to hit Daniel Shea in the head with it a number of times, causing Shea to collapse in the corner of the room, upon which Henson fled. A neighbor, John Dorsey,

¹¹⁷ “Lynching in Howard.” *Baltimore Sun*, 19 September 1885.

¹¹⁸ “The Lynching of Snowden at Ellicott City.” *Baltimore Sun*, 19 September 1885.

¹¹⁹ Find a Grave, database and images (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/113666788/nicholas-snowden>: accessed 16 November 2023), memorial page for Nicholas Snowden (1849–18 Sep 1885), Find a Grave Memorial ID 113666788, citing Locust United Methodist Church Cemetery, Columbia, Howard County, Maryland, USA; Maintained by John Reeder (contributor 47365665).

¹²⁰ Year: 1870; Census Place: District 8, Anne Arundel, Maryland; Roll: M593_568; Page: 808A https://www.ancestry.com/imageviewer/collections/7163/images/4269477_00079?treeid=&personid=&rc=&usePUB=true&_phsrc=cYE8&_phstart=successSource&pId=23542934

¹²¹ “United States Census of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, 1890”, , FamilySearch (<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8SJ-HT7> : Sun Nov 12 16:02:43 UTC 2023), Entry for Jacob Henson, 1890.

¹²² Archives of Maryland (Biography Series) MSA SC 3520-13743: Jacob Henson, Jr. Lynched in Ellicott City, May 28, 1895.

alleged that he saw Henson fleeing. Shea was subsequently found dead inside the store, with lacerations to his head.

Authorities found Henson at his home in Ellicott City, Howard County, and arrested him for the murder of Daniel Shea. Henson explained that his actions were in self-defense, explaining that Mr. Shea struck him in the chest first. Detectives found blood on both Henson's clothes and the hatchet used to kill Shea. While in custody, Henson confessed these events to Deputy Warden Robert H. Hollman, emphasizing that it was an act of self-defense. Henson was held in the county jail on Ellicott City's Main Street until a trial date was set.¹²³

On March 28, Jacob Henson was in court for the murder of Daniel Shea the previous month. Henson's representation, an African American lawyer named W. Ashby Hawkins, argued that Henson was of unsound mind, and he pleaded to the jury not to sentence his client to death by reason of insanity. Detective Herman Pohler of Baltimore also heard the confessions given by Henson while he was in custody in Ellicott City, and although he agreed that Henson was slow, and "stupid" at times, he was still competent enough to realize his actions. This conclusion was confirmed by a number of doctors who interviewed Jacob Henson while he was in jail. Chief Judge Roberts heard the case, and the jury only needed 25 minutes to deliberate and returned a verdict of guilty to the first-degree murder charge. The jury claimed that the attack was premeditated and organized by Jacob Henson the night before. First-degree murder was a capital offense and Henson was sentenced to death by hanging, which was scheduled to take place on June 7. Henson's attorney immediately asked for a suspended sentence because he was going to file for appeal based on the grounds that Jacob Henson was of questionable mind, and did not know the difference between right and wrong.¹²⁴ The next day, Mr. Hawkins argued his case, and although praised by State's Attorney McGuire for his articulate appeal, the amount of submitted evidence stacked up against Henson was too much to overturn the verdict. On April 2, Judge Jones found that Jacob Henson was guilty of the murder of Daniel F. Shea. This was the first time that Justice Jones handed down a death sentence in any case he had heard in his career.¹²⁵

There were a number of doctors from the Maryland Lunacy Committee that interviewed Henson while he was in custody, and found that he knew what he was doing, and therefore should be held accountable for his actions.¹²⁶ Mr. Hawkins stated that the council would appeal to Governor Brown for at least an executive clemency decision because of Henson's lowered mental capacity. This is the point when tensions began to rise among the community.

Jacob Henson could do nothing but wait until June 7 to arrive and accept his sentence. On the night of May 27, citizens of Howard County were afraid that the governor would be lenient on Henson and grant his lawyer's wish of clemency and reduce the sentence, most probable to life in prison. Just after midnight on May 28, 1895, 15 or 20 armed and

¹²³ "The Shea Case at Ellicott City." *Baltimore Sun*, March 28, 1895.

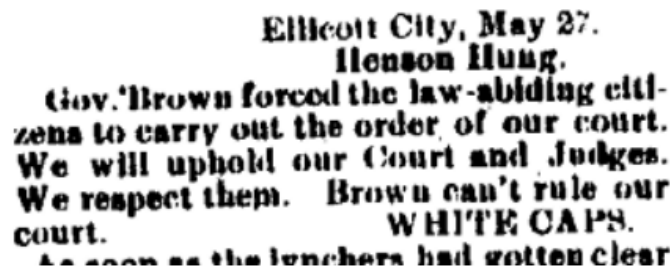
¹²⁴ "Henson Convicted." *Baltimore Sun*, March 29, 1895.

¹²⁵ "Sentenced for Crime." *Baltimore Sun*, April 3, 1895.

¹²⁶ "Henson Lynched." *Baltimore Sun*, May 28, 1895. And "Henson's Mental State." *Baltimore Sun*, May 28, 1895.

masked men approached the Ellicott City jail where Henson was held. Warden Lilly's son-in-law, Robert Hollman, and an African American worker named Joe Geurus were on watch that night, and at gunpoint, the two men could do nothing more to protect their inmate from the angry mob. It took the men a short while to enter the jail using an iron bar to break through the wooden door. Jacob Henson heard nothing until the men used a sledgehammer to break the iron lock of his cell door. Ordered to get dressed, Henson screamed for the men to take mercy on him. The masked men then tied a rope around his neck, bound his hands, and gagged him as they dragged Henson out of the jail. The mob then led Jacob Henson to Merrick's Lane beyond the Patapsco Heights area, a short walk up the hill from the jail. Afraid of what awaited him, Jacob Henson fainted, and was dragged the rest of the way to a dogwood tree on the property of A.B. Johnson, where Jacob Henson Jr was hanged."

A placard was left under the body stating that a group called "White Caps" carried out the lynching because Governor Brown did not provide the justice the lynchers thought Henson deserved.¹²⁷ While the Ku Klux Klan would not arrive in Maryland until 1921, other less organized and more localized groups of anti-black terror groups would exist.¹²⁸ White Caps were groups of white rural farmers that had organized into anti-black mobs and terror groups that typically would force African Americans to give up property.¹²⁹



Ellicott City, May 27.
Henson Hung.
Gov. Brown forced the law-abiding citizens to carry out the order of our court.
We will uphold our Court and Judges.
We respect them. Brown can't rule our court.
WHITE CAPS.
As soon as the lynchers had gotten clear

Figure 28. Text of placard left by the lynchers of Jacob Henson Jr. "Henson Lynched." *The Ellicott City Times*, June 1, 1895.

Returning to the MSA Biography of Jacob Henson Jr:

"By daybreak, the body of Jacob Henson Jr was still in the tree, and Undertaker Hillsinger was ordered to place the body in a coffin, bring it to the jail, and get an interment for the body somewhere in Ellicott City. Unable to find a plot, the undertaker

¹²⁷ *ibid.* And "The Lynching of Jacob Henson, in Howard County." *Baltimore Sun*, May 29, 1895. And "Henson Lynched." *The Ellicott City Times*, June 1, 1895.

¹²⁸ Harcourt, Felix Alexander Richard. "Kleagles, Kash and the Klan: Maryland and the Decline of the Klan, 1922–1928." Order No. 1463665, The George Washington University, 2009.

¹²⁹ Holmes, William F. "Whitecapping: Agrarian Violence in Mississippi, 1902-1906." *The Journal of Southern History* 35, no. 2 (1969): 165–85. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2205711>.

then looked into some of the African American cemeteries in the vicinity, but with no luck. When the relatives of Jacob Henson were contacted, they originally planned to give their son a proper burial, but since he was lynched, they wanted nothing to do with the body. As a last resort, Sheriff Flower agreed to take the victim's body to his farm, and buried Henson in a cemetery located there. During this time, the dogwood tree that Henson was lynched on had been cut down and relic-hunters took pieces of it as souvenirs to commemorate the spectacle.¹³⁰

Governor Frank Brown, upon hearing what happened in Howard County, condemned the mob that lynched Henson, stating that the actions of few reflected the community. But right after that sentence, he stated "...the actions of the lawless mob breaking into the jail and hanging the prisoner cannot be too strongly condemned," assuming that a hanging would have been carried out either by the community or the state. The governor put together a team of doctors to determine the sanity of Jacob Henson Jr., and if they would have just waited a few more days, they would have known that the conclusion of the interviews revealed that Henson did know what he was doing, and was of sound enough mind to commit the crime with reason. Justice Wallehborst summoned a jury of inquest to look into the matter, and unfortunately, like a number of other lynching inquiries, the jury concluded that "he died at the hands of persons unknown to the jury." It was at this moment that Governor Brown ordered from that day forward, any person awaiting execution would be tried locally, then transferred to the State Penitentiary in Baltimore City, and the execution would be carried out there, citing that local jails were not secure enough to prevent interference, as it had been proven many times before."

On June 27, 1898, charges would be pressed against Justice of the Peace and Editor for the Ellicott City Democrat James F Melvin by Jacob Henson Jr's father, Jacob Henson Sr. Melvin would insist that these claims were political in nature and retaliatory for his convictions of other African Americans in Ellicott City.¹³¹ Henson Sr. testified that "Mr. J. Frank Oldfield, ex-sheriff, intimated to him that Melvin had taken a prominent part in the affair."¹³² When called to the stand, ex-sheriff Frank Oldfield testified that "Mr. Melvin had himself given the facts shortly after the lynching [as he] told me all about it" including the names of the other members of the crowd. The ex-sheriff also claimed that "Melvin asked me several times to go with the crowd that took Henson out of the jail" with Melvin going so far as to say that "[they] would never get caught and could never get convicted: that the people were all with us and that everybody knew it." In the end, a grand jury would dismiss Melvin of all charges.¹³³ Their report

¹³⁰ "Hard to Find a Grave." *Baltimore Sun*, May 30, 1895.

¹³¹ "Charge of Lynching: Justice of the Peace James F. Melvin, Of Howard" *Baltimore Sun* June 27, 1898

¹³² "The Melvin Case: After a Sensational Hearing at Ellicott City..." *Baltimore Sun* June 28, 1898

¹³³ "Justice Melvin's Case: Grand Jury of Howard County Dismisses..." *Baltimore Sun*, September 9, 1898.

on the condition and affairs of the Henson lynching would note that “proper care had not been taken of Henson [and that] no preparations had been made in defense of the jail.”¹³⁴

The Near Lynching of William Hatwood

On December 15, 1908, Charles E Hill, a “well to do farmer of Clarksville”¹³⁵, was allegedly assaulted by William Hatwood, who had hitched a ride in Hill’s carriage until the pair had reached Little River and Leeshear’s Gate on the Columbia Pike, whereupon Hatwood allegedly grabbed two large stones and threw them at Hill.¹³⁶ Hatwood took \$40 from Hill while he was unconscious from the blows. On December 29, William Hatwood was captured and held in the Ellicott City Jail “stoutly denying any connection with the assault and robbery”. His arrest garnered much excitement with “scores of farmers [began] pouring into the county seat, and talk of lynching [were] heard on all sides”. Aware of the inadequacies of the Ellicott City Jail, preparations were made for Hatwood’s transfer to Baltimore at the first sign of trouble.

The next day, during the hearing for the assault on Charles Hill, over a hundred individuals had crowded into the second floor of Easton’s Hall to await the verdict of William Hatwood.¹³⁷ During the hearing, the floor gave out and the crowd fell, Hatwood included, into one big heap on the concrete floor below. 37 people were badly hurt, with some in critical condition; however, complete disaster was averted when an unnamed individual threw a bucket of water onto burning coals that had become dislodged, preventing a fire from rising.¹³⁸



Figure 29. “100 Go Down In Crash At Ellicott City.” *The Baltimore Sun*, December 30, 1908.

Nearly 35 men gathered to witness the hearing were now stranded in Ellicott City for the night due to the complications from the floor collapse and chose to lodge themselves in the

¹³⁴ “Howard Grand Jury: Their Report of the Condition of Affairs...” *Baltimore Sun*, September 10, 1898.

¹³⁵ “Farmers Talk Lynching.” *Washington Post*, December 29, 1908.

¹³⁶ “Hatwood Held For Court.” *Baltimore Sun*, March 10, 1909.

¹³⁷ “100 Go Down in Crash at Ellicott City.” *Baltimore Sun*, December 30, 1908.

¹³⁸ “Floor Falls; Forty Hurt.” *The New York Times*, December 30, 1908.

Howard House.¹³⁹ At 10:30 pm on December the 30th after Sheriff Hobbs had gone to bed, some men set about for the jail having crafted masks for themselves and spent the remainder of the daylight searching for a rope. Members of the party were dismayed and would dissuade others from charging the hill to the jail. They were dispersed with the aid of Sergeant Walker of the Baltimore County Police Force.¹⁴⁰ The next morning Hatwood was transferred to the Baltimore City Jail by Sheriff Hobbs and Warden E.T. Leishear for his own safety.¹⁴¹ On March 10, 1909, an initial hearing would occur in Baltimore City where all relevant parties testified. On March 15, 1909, Hatwood was sentenced “to twelve years in the penitentiary, having pleaded guilty before the court.”¹⁴²

The Nearly Lynching of Lawrence Wallace

On Thursday, September 14, 1922, Lawrence Wallace, a farmer, allegedly stole a watch from Henry Brown, a storekeeper near Columbia.¹⁴³ Chief of Police Julius Wosesh went to arrest Wallace and received a pistol wound to the thigh. While Wosesh would claim that Wallace shot him, it was “common talk that Wosesh shot himself” while making the arrest.

In the newspapers, Lawrence Wallace had no age or residence listed. The only information about him was his name and that he was African American. The only African American man with the name Lawrence Wallace living in Maryland found in the census records for both 1920¹⁴⁴ and 1930¹⁴⁵ was Lawrence Wallace of North Brentwood, Prince George’s County, Maryland. No records were found in the 1910 census. Born in Maryland, Lawrence Wallace could read and write though he received no formal education. He was married to Edna Wallace, who was the same age as him. The 1920 census states he was employed as a chauffeur and that he and Edna lived with Robert S. Randall and his wife Sophia, the property owners. By 1930, Wallace was widowed, employed as a cook, and living with his mother, Martha, age 53, and father, James, age 54. His younger brother Morris, age 21, and three younger sisters Evelyn,

¹³⁹ “Talk of Lynching at Night.” *Baltimore Sun*, December 30, 1908.

¹⁴⁰ “Masked Men at Jail Door.” *Washington Post*, December 31, 1908.

¹⁴¹ “Hatwood In City Jail.” *Baltimore Sun*, Dec 31, 1908.

¹⁴² “Notice to the Public”. *Union*, April 3, 1909.

¹⁴³ “Mob Prevents Lynching at Ellicott City.” *Afro-American* (Baltimore, Maryland) September 8, 1922.

¹⁴⁴ 1920; Census Place: Brentwood, Prince Georges, Maryland; Roll: T625_674; Page: 3B; Enumeration District: 96

¹⁴⁵ 1930; Census Place: North Brentwood, Prince George’s, Maryland; Page: 2B; Enumeration District: 0043; FHL microfilm: 2340613

age 19, Otia, age 17, and Elizabeth, age 15, also appeared. Lawrence Wallace of North Brentwood, born in 1901, would have been 21 or 22 years old in 1922. Further research to locate the court documentation of his trial both in Ellicott City and Baltimore City could be used to confirm if Lawrence Wallace of North Brentwood is the individual arrested in 1922. The only discrepancy is that the newspapers claim he is a farmer; however, it is possible that he had switched employment or was double employed.

On Saturday, September 16, 1922, a mob of whites carrying a rope protested near the jail, demanding Wallace. “Rumor has” it that an unidentified colored individual was amongst the crowd. “Determined to defend Wallace, thirty colored men, some of whom were armed also, appeared at the jail”. Having expected tension to rise and fearing another failure at the jail, the State Attorney for Howard County, James Clark, had already made preparations to defend the jail.¹⁴⁶ He arrived earlier in the morning with the streets already filled with men. With him were Warden Otto Newman, Deputy Sheriff Frank Miller and Fredrick Brosenne, the son of Sheriff Arthur Brosenne. It is unknown where the Sheriff himself was on this night and the Chief of Police would had been wounded earlier in the day.

It was not until midnight that the detective from Baltimore City could arrive, meaning that the four men had to defend the jail, keep Wallace from harm, and navigate the tensions of the two crowds, which could have erupted into a full-scale race riot for the entire day. There are no mentions of any further arrests or injuries, and once the detectives arrived Wallace was quickly transferred to the Baltimore City Jail.

Conclusion

Lynchings are instances of mob violence. These instances serve to maintain racial hierarchy but also draw attention to the lack of efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice. The



Figure 30. “Mob Prevents Lynching at Ellicott City.” *The Baltimore Sun*, September 8, 1922.

¹⁴⁶ “Rival Mobs Around Ellicott City Jail.” *Baltimore Sun*, September 1, 1922.

lynching and near lynchings of Jacob Henson Jr, William Hatwood, and Lawrence Wallace came from majority white mobs after each individual had allegedly committed a crime against a white man. A majority African American mob lynched Nicholas Snowden for allegedly sexually assaulting a black child. In the Snowden case, it was noted that he likely would have received the death penalty even if he was not lynched. It is unknown if Jacob Henson Jr would still have been sentenced to hanging.

As mentioned in the preamble of the Maryland Lynching Truth and Reconciliation Commission Bill, no individual in Maryland was ever brought to justice for these lynchings. The harsh reality of this would have been well known in the community, as is reflected in the inquiries and hearings on the lynching of Nicholas Snowden and Jacob Henson Jr.

Following the lynching of Jacob Henson Jr, there was an investigation into the failures of the Ellicott City police. Following this investigation, a new policy was adopted to transfer individuals at threat of lynching to the Baltimore City Jail, resulting in no more lynchings occurring despite the attempts made on William Hattwood's and Lawrence Wallace's life. It is evident not only that this new policy was successful, but also that holding authorities accountable for the safety of prisoners in their custody resulted in increased investment from police toward inmate safety.

Daily Life and Conditions

Often cited as one of the worst county jails in the entire state, the Old Ellicott City Jail struggled with less-than-ideal conditions since it opened in 1851, through the 1878 expansion, and even after the 1954 renovations. Because of this, the operations and conditions of the jail were explored to document the daily life of those held there. County jail inspections by the Department of Welfare and Board of Corrections were used to create a brief history of the jail's wardens, operations, and conditions prisoners experienced.

Federal Inspector Calls Prison At Ellicott City Worst In State

This is the fifth of a number of articles on the condition of Maryland's county jails, based on a voluminous report prepared by Edgar M. Gerlach, Federal prison inspector, and Richard W. Wickes, former Federal prison inspector and now probation officer of Baltimore county. The survey of the jails, at the request of State authorities, took more than a month.

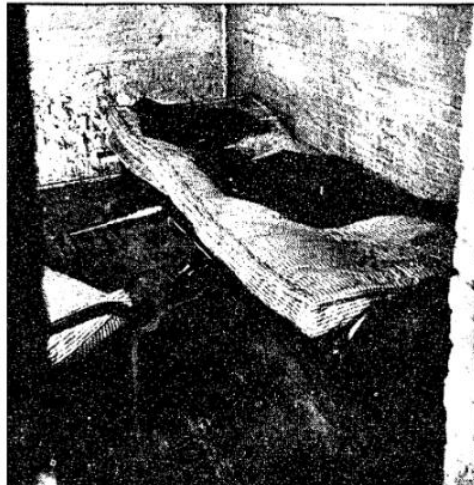
By LOUIS J. O'DONNELL

Howard county's jail at Ellicott City is the worst in the State—"the epitome of all that a jail should not be," is the way it was put by a Federal inspector, who said the "stench" of the place permeated his clothes long after he left the building.

"If one had attempted to locate in one place all of the undesirable features of county-jail administration, he could not have done much better than Ellicott City," the inspector added in his report on the structure, which was built in 1878.

Practices Condemned

"From the point of view of administration, common decency, sanitation, public neglect, opportunity for immorality and, all in all, the providing of a degrading experience for those incarcerated therein, this jail is about as bad as one



"UNSPEAKABLY FILTHY"—This is a cell in Howard county's jail, where inspectors found "unspeakably filthy" mattresses, "visible bed bugs" and "practically everything bad" as to sanitation.

Figure 31. Newspaper article discussing the poor conditions at the Old Ellicott City Jail, including photo of a cell. "Federal Inspector Calls Prison At Ellicott City Worst In State." *The Baltimore Sun*, February 5, 1945.

Operations and Wardens

Under the sheriff's supervision, the warden was the only official employee at the jail for most of its history. Occasionally, there was a deputy warden present who was usually a relative of the warden. The warden's wife would often clean the jail, cook for the jail, and supervise inmates.¹⁴⁷ In the 1950s, Howard County began hiring guards to help at the jail. There were also

¹⁴⁷ "Honor System Is Prevalent With Ellicott City Prisoners." *Baltimore Sun*, September 21, 1931.

instances when the warden picked out a prisoner who was given more responsibilities than other inmates such as cooking and even overseeing the jail while the warden was gone. These inmates were given the name “trusty.”¹⁴⁸ There were at least 26 wardens who presided over the Howard County Jail (see Appendix B).

For most of its tenure, the jail operated on a fee system where the warden received 75 cents per day for each prisoner. In 1945, the warden received \$500 a year for acting as warden and 75 cents a day to feed each prisoner.¹⁴⁹ In 1947, it officially switched to a salary system where the warden received \$1,200 a year for his duties at the jail. Over the years, the salary increased; in 1955, it was raised to \$2,000, and in 1969, it was \$6,125.¹⁵⁰ After the expansion in 1878, the warden and his family lived in the original 1851 wing of the jail. It is unknown where the warden stayed before the expansion. Most wardens also acted as Deputy Sheriff, for which they would receive extra pay.¹⁵¹

The first warden was Wheeler Clark, who worked under Sheriff Seth Warfield.¹⁵² Not much is known about Clark or the jail operations at this time. William Sullivan was warden in 1860, but he did not appear in the census as there was no warden’s residence at the time. The census included six inmates at the county jail (see Appendix C). In 1862, John T. Ray took over and served until at least 1885. Ray was described as “one of the most capable and fearless wardens that ever served the county.”¹⁵³ Ray was present when the jail expanded in 1878 and was the first warden to live there with his family (see Appendix C). Ray was also present the night Nicholas Snowden was lynched.

After Ray, the wardens switched quite frequently. John J. Lilly was the warden when Jacob Henson was lynched; however, he was not present that night. Instead, his son-in-law, Deputy Warden Robert H. Holtman, was present along with Lilly’s wife and two daughters.¹⁵⁴ Lilly was only warden for a year and was replaced by George M. Gearhart. Gearhart took in a

¹⁴⁸ “Ritchie Sees Problem In Escape Of Prisoners.” *Baltimore Sun*, January 25, 1921.; “Sweetheart Takes Fugitive To Jail.” *The Baltimore Sun*, February 22, 1932.

¹⁴⁹ “Maryland’s ‘Worst Jail’ Somewhat Cleaner Now.” *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) February 9, 1945.

¹⁵⁰ “Bills Passed.” *Baltimore Sun*, February 11, 1955.; “Snack Bar Provides ‘Meals’ For Jail.” *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) April 16, 1969.

¹⁵¹ Inspection Board of Correction, *Twentieth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1946), 60.

¹⁵² Joseph H. Nichols, Jr., *Patriots and Pioneers of Howard County, Maryland: The Courthouse and the Jail* (n.p.: The Howard County Genealogical Society, Inc., 1998)

¹⁵³ “Mr. John T. Ray Dead.” *Baltimore Sun*, September 22, 1907.

¹⁵⁴ “Henson Lynched.” *Ellicott City Times*, June 1, 1895.

young man found wandering in the woods with no recollection of how he got there.¹⁵⁵ Walter S. Hinmon was the next warden, and he, his family, and seven inmates appeared in the 1900 Census (see Appendix C). A condemned murderer, Robert T. Wyatt, wrote a letter of praise about Hinmon, saying he was treated well.¹⁵⁶ James Crook succeeded Hinmon in 1904.¹⁵⁷

James E. Hobbs was first referenced as a warden in 1907, and he served until 1909, when he became sheriff. In 1910, Hobbs and his family still lived at the jail with his family despite not being warden (see Appendix C). Rather, Edward Leisher, who also lived at the jail, was warden. In 1911, Leisher was beaten by three prisoners who stole his keys and escaped from the jail. Even with the door left open, no other prisoners escaped.¹⁵⁸ After Leisher was William Easton who was present when three men escaped from the jail by digging a hole through the ceiling of their cell, crawling through the attic, and escaping through the cupola.¹⁵⁹ In 1914, Easton ensured that his family and all the prisoners received smallpox vaccinations.¹⁶⁰

The next warden was Charles M. Cumberland, who served from 1920 to 1930. However, two newspaper articles listed two other men as warden instead; the first was in 1922, when Otto Neuman was present at the time of Lawrence Wallace's near lynching, and the second in 1927, when William Easton was called warden once again.¹⁶¹ It is not clear why there was overlap, but it is possible they were deputy wardens who were watching over the jail when Cumberland was gone. Cumberland and his family were at the jail for the 1920 and 1930 Census, the former including one prisoner and the latter including nine (see Appendix C). In 1920, Cumberland wrote a newspaper article defending members of the sheriff's department from anonymous criticism.¹⁶² Cumberland was known for his relaxed treatment of prisoners, saying "I just treat 'em right and they don't abuse their privileges. We get along all right."¹⁶³

Warden Edward W. Day was also known for using an honor system with prisoners and keeping rules relaxed. He kept no lock on the Federal prisoners' (who were there for violating dry laws) cells, and the rear door of the jail was kept open for prisoners to wander in and out and

¹⁵⁵ "Wandered From Home." *Baltimore Sun*, July 20, 1896.

¹⁵⁶ "Wyatt Writes A Letter." *Baltimore Sun*, April 28, 1900.

¹⁵⁷ "Maryland Briefs." *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1904.

¹⁵⁸ "Three Escape From Jail." *Baltimore Sun*, June 30, 1911.

¹⁵⁹ "Three Negroes Break Jail." *Baltimore Sun*, November 9, 1913.

¹⁶⁰ "Smallpox in Howard County." *Baltimore Sun*, February 28, 1914.

¹⁶¹ "Prisoners Warden Of 'Raid,' He Says." *Baltimore Sun*, October 22, 1927.

¹⁶² "If Mr. Cumberland Got Hold of You, Mr. Anonymous, He'd Be Might Apt To Lock You Up." *Baltimore Sun*, September 12, 1920.

¹⁶³ "Prisoners Comfy in Howard Co. Jail." *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) August 7, 1928.

for outsiders to visit. Day credits his wife for helping with the honor system around the jail.¹⁶⁴ After Day, Arthur Wessel served as warden for less than a year. Under his watch, two prisoners escaped by sawing or filing a chain on the jail's front door. Seven other prisoners could have escaped but refused to leave.¹⁶⁵

Sometime in 1938, Harry L. Cross was appointed and served about 15 years, ending in 1945. Similar to Charles M. Cumberland, there was an overlap of Cross' time and two others. The first, George E. Taylor, was present for a county jail inspection in 1940, where he and his wife were credited with cleaning the jail and making almost all the improvements suggested in a previous inspection.¹⁶⁶ The second, H. Winter Barron, was listed as warden in the 1942 county jail inspection. A prisoner made his escape by pushing Barron into a cell, taking the keys, and locking him inside.¹⁶⁷ Cross and his family did not appear with the inmates in the 1940 Census (see Appendix C). During the 1945 federal inspection, Cross attempted to show how the jail was in better condition by showing that one of the two toilets worked. He then tried to show how the jail had working electricity, but the lights failed to turn on when he hit the button.¹⁶⁸

It is unknown who served after Cross's finish in 1945. Julius Wheeler was warden in 1951, and by 1952, Kenneth Cross, Harry L. Cross's son, was the new warden. Harry L. Cross served as deputy warden under his son. He held that title for several years after his son was no longer warden. After a few years of neglect, Kenneth Cross was credited for fixing the jail in 1952.¹⁶⁹ He was also warden during the 1954 renovations and presided over the prisoners who stayed to help with demolition.



Figure 32. Warden Edward Day and his wife Florence. "Honor System Is Prevalent With Ellicott City Prisoners." *The Baltimore Sun*, September 21, 1931.

¹⁶⁴ "Honor System Is Prevalent With Ellicott City Prisoners." *Baltimore Sun*, September 21, 1931.

¹⁶⁵ "Two Prisoners Flee From Grand Jury Room." *Daily News* (Frederick, Maryland) July 23, 1938.

¹⁶⁶ "Howard County Jail Found Clean and Freshly Painted." *Baltimore Sun*, September 23, 1940.

¹⁶⁷ "Prisoner Jails Jailer To Flee County Cell." *Baltimore Sun*, September 25, 1939.

¹⁶⁸ "Maryland's 'Worst Jail' Somewhat Cleaner Now." *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) February 9, 1945.

¹⁶⁹ Breen, Robert H. "'Stone Walls Do Not A Prison Make'." *Baltimore Sun*, October 29, 1952.

Kenneth Cross was likely still the warden when Jack Newcomer took over sometime in 1955 or 1956. After Newcomer was Vernon Hare, who held the job from 1958 to 1963. Sheriff Norman O. Howard dismissed him and two guards for not agreeing with his policies.¹⁷⁰ Hare was very relaxed with prisoners. When two trustees ran away, Hare said, “I wouldn’t call it an escape. They just decided to take a walk and get a breath of air.”¹⁷¹ Hare’s dismissal left the then 80-year-old Harry L. Cross as the only employee at the jail. Sheriff Howard did not have a replacement in mind when he fired Hare. Henry Riemsnyder was acting warden for a short time, and from at least 1967 to 1968, Sheriff Howard acted as warden.¹⁷²

In 1969, Charles E. Mann took over for about three years. By this point, Hank’s Snack Bar provided meals instead of prisoner trustees or a warden’s wife working as cooks.¹⁷³ Unlike some of his predecessors, Mann did not let prisoners roam freely throughout the jail, nor did he let them outside, even though some prisoners spent several months confined.¹⁷⁴ Mann clarified that prisoners could not go outside because a nearby radio tower could be used to escape.¹⁷⁵ After Mann, Thomas Hobbs served for two years until Herbert B. Parker took over by 1976.¹⁷⁶ It is unclear who the warden was when the jail stopped holding inmates in 1983.

Conditions

As seen in the above section, many wardens tried to fix the jail and create better conditions for the prisoners, but their improvements never remained. The jail was consistently called one of the worst county jails in the entire state. As early as 1877, a year before the second wing was built, the interior of the jail was described as a disgrace, quoted “it did not look much like civilization, but it belonged rather to the dark ages.”¹⁷⁷ Dark, damp, and dirty were the three most repeated descriptors. While electric lights were installed in the 1930s, they did not always work. There was a major issue with natural lighting being unable to reach most the interior cells.

¹⁷⁰ “Jail Warden, Two Guards Dismissed In Howard.” *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) April 11, 1963.

¹⁷¹ “Jail Trustees Get Scolding; Run Away.” *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) November 30, 1962.

¹⁷² “Flash.” *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) October 11, 1963.

¹⁷³ “Snack Bar Provides ‘Meals’ For Jail.” *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) April 16, 1969.

¹⁷⁴ “Most Inmates Awaiting Trial.” *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) August 14, 1969.

¹⁷⁵ “Warden Wants New Howard Jail.” *Baltimore Sun*, July 20, 1972.

¹⁷⁶ “Jail-bound turkey.” *Baltimore Sun*, December 24, 1976.

¹⁷⁷ “Some Very Bad Maryland Prisoners - A Disgrace To The State.” *Baltimore Sun*, June 26, 1877.

Poor lighting and proper ventilation were issues since the 1878 expansion and could only be fixed if a new jail was built.¹⁷⁸

The jail was often dirty with smuggled liquor bottles that lined the windowsills and unsanitary bathroom and shower spaces. There was no running water and no toilets in the fells. Bathing facilities and toilets, really just buckets, were located under stairwells and rarely cleaned.¹⁷⁹ Bedding was made of straw; often, more straw was on the floor than used for the bed. Bed bugs were also a common complaint among prisoners.¹⁸⁰ Vermin were a consistent issue, to the point that inmates were given blowguns to help with mice.¹⁸¹ Some issues were ignored by wardens as well. For two years, jail inspectors noted a large hole in the main door facing the street that was likely used to smuggle in liquor. In 1948, several prisoners escaped using material smuggled in through the hole, and only after the escape was the hole finally repaired.¹⁸²

The prisoner population greatly fluctuated over time. The jail's capacity was about 35 people and usually would have no trouble accommodating that amount.¹⁸³ In 1926, the average population for the year was three prisoners and twenty years later the daily average was about ten.¹⁸⁴ Most prisoners were held at the jail before their trial at the circuit court, but it was not unheard of for convicted criminals to spend their sentences there. For example, at the time of the 1939 inspection, nine were awaiting trial and seven were serving sentences.¹⁸⁵ Occasionally someone was held as a witness or for investigation and in 1929 two men were held as "almshouse cases."¹⁸⁶ Overcrowding was likely an issue when federal prisoners, held for

¹⁷⁸ Department of Welfare, *Eighth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1932), 25.

¹⁷⁹ Department of Welfare, *Second Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1926), 19.; Department of Welfare, *Sixth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1930), 23.

¹⁸⁰ Department of Welfare, *Eighth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1932), 25.

¹⁸¹ Department of Welfare, *Fourth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1928), 18.

¹⁸² Board of Correction, *Twenty-Second Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1948), 42.

¹⁸³ Inspection Board of Correction, *Twentieth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1946)

¹⁸⁴ Department of Welfare, *Sixth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1930), 23. ; Inspection Board of Correction, *Twentieth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1946)

¹⁸⁵ Department of Correction. *Fifteenth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1939), 22.

¹⁸⁶ Department of Welfare. *Ninth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1933.

violating prohibition laws, were housed at the jail. In 1931, a total of 36 prisoners were held at one time, 23 were federal and 23 were state prisoners.¹⁸⁷ This was the highest prisoner population found.

As discussed previously, many wardens were fairly relaxed with prisoners and let them roam freely around the jail. However, from roughly 1927 to 1932, only federal prisoners were allowed to roam freely and received special privileges over confined county residents, so long as they paid Warden Edward W. Day \$7.00. An inspector report stated that since no federal prisoners were present, the rest could leave their cells at mealtime and sit down at a table in the main corridor, so the restriction was only while federal prisoners were there.¹⁸⁸ These special privileges, including a specific room set aside for federal prisoners to eat in the warden's residence, caused the jail to be banned from holding federal prisoners.¹⁸⁹ However, the ban lasted less than a month in December of 1932.¹⁹⁰

There were few opportunities for rehabilitation or jobs for those confined in the jail. For most prisoners, the only job available was general jail maintenance. Some were allowed to work in a vegetable garden started by 1940.¹⁹¹ Warden George E. Taylor started the garden when he got permission from the owner of a neighboring farm to use some overgrown land; the garden was not on the jail property.¹⁹² Prisoner trustees would occasionally receive special opportunities. Since they were not official employees, trustees were not paid with money but rather with things

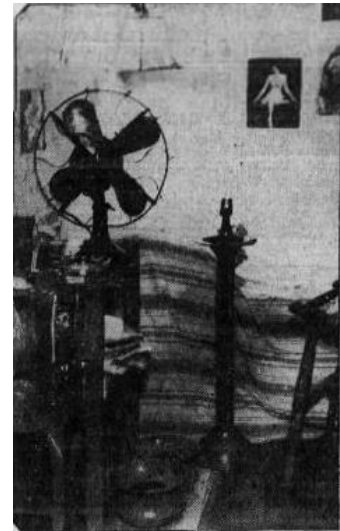


Figure 33. A cell occupied by a federal prisoner. It had better furnishings than other cells. "Honor System Is Prevalent With Ellicott City Prisoners." *The Baltimore Sun*, September 21, 1931.

; Department of Welfare, *Fifth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1929), 25.

¹⁸⁷ Department of Welfare, *Sixth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1930), 23

¹⁸⁸ Department of Welfare, *Fifth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1929), 25.

¹⁸⁹ Department of Welfare, *Eighth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1932), 25.

¹⁹⁰ "Howard County Jail Loses 28 Of Its Star Boarders." *Baltimore Sun*, December 10, 1932.; "Ellicott City Jail Ban Lifted By U.S." *Baltimore Sun*, December 31, 1932.

¹⁹¹ Inspection Board of Correction, *Twentieth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1946)

¹⁹² "Howard County Jail Found Clean And Freshly Painted." *Baltimore Sun*, September 23, 1940.

like cigarettes.¹⁹³ Howard Thompson, a trusty under Warden Charles Cumberland, was allowed to help a nearby neighbor cut the lawn and other small tasks.¹⁹⁴

Coal stoves set up in the main corridor heated the jail during the winter. Wardens allowed inmates to leave their cells to huddle around the stove but would force them back into their cells at night. Some prisoners would not tolerate these conditions; in 1951, two prisoners made their escape while Warden Julius Wheeler locked up other inmates when it was time to return to their freezing cells. The prisoners escaped through the front door that Wheeler forgot to lock.¹⁹⁵ Escapes were common; even so, some wardens still worked off an honor system and treated the prisoners nicely to boost their morale. The wardens knew the conditions were less-than-ideal and tried to make the prisoners' time less uncomfortable, so long as they did not cause any trouble.¹⁹⁶

However, the 1951 escape showed that it did not matter how nice the warden was; the inmates disliked the poor conditions. In 1969, a prisoner begged to be sent to the State Penitentiary rather than back to the Howard County Jail. At the Penitentiary, he could at least have a job and a place to exercise rather than be "closed up like a wild animal" in Howard County.¹⁹⁷ At the time, Warden Charles E. Mann refused to let the prisoner roam freely. Mann was also warden when several prisoners sent a letter to Judge T. Hunt Mayfield of the Circuit Court complaining about conditions in the jail. Complaints included the lack of exercise space and time allowed outside, short visitation times (due to only two visitation booths), inadequate food, and a wish to receive newspapers.¹⁹⁸

Conclusion

No matter how much the wardens did to improve the jail, it always returned to disarray. After decades of asking for a new jail, jail inspectors were impressed by the renovations completed in 1954. It did not take long for the issues of lighting, ventilation, and dirtiness to return to the jail. The jail finally closed in 1983 when a new detention center opened in Jessup. While the Old Ellicott City Jail served its purpose, it did so with sub-par conditions for those who were forced to stay there.

¹⁹³ "Howard County Jail Found Clean And Freshly Painted." *Baltimore Sun*, September 23, 1940.

¹⁹⁴ "Prisoners Comfy In Howard County Jail." *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) August 7, 1928.

¹⁹⁵ "Four Area Prisoners Escape, 2 From Fairfax, 2 From Ellicott." *Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.) March 21, 1951.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁷ "Holdup Man Asks For Prison Home." *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1969.

¹⁹⁸ "Warden Wants New Howard Jail." *Baltimore Sun*, July 20, 1972.

Women and Gender

Strict separation by gender was not available before the 1954 renovations. In fact, there was no room for strict segregation; since all cells were in the same area, inmates of different sex, race, and age could be separated in different cells but not in different areas of the jail. There was a cell dedicated to women when there were any in the jail, but it offered little privacy. This section of the report explores questions relating to different gender experiences at the Howard County Jail, including if genders received different treatment, reasons why women were at the jail, and if gender played a role in their incarceration.

Conditions for Women

The women's cell opened to the main corridor where the male prisoners often congregated. The only form of privacy was a blanket hung over the cell bars. A wooden panel installed in 1948 provided some privacy but caused issues with natural lighting and ventilation.¹⁹⁹ The women's cell likely changed depending on the needs of the warden. The prisoner population fluctuated greatly over time and would likely have been more crowded during the Circuit Court terms in March and September. Women were likely kept there despite the lack of privacy because it was one of the better lit cells. Later, the cell was reported as one or two cells closest to the warden's office. Men could still interact with the women, but these cells offered more privacy. These were, however, in the darkest parts of the jail. Only one cell opened onto the main corridor, the rest had

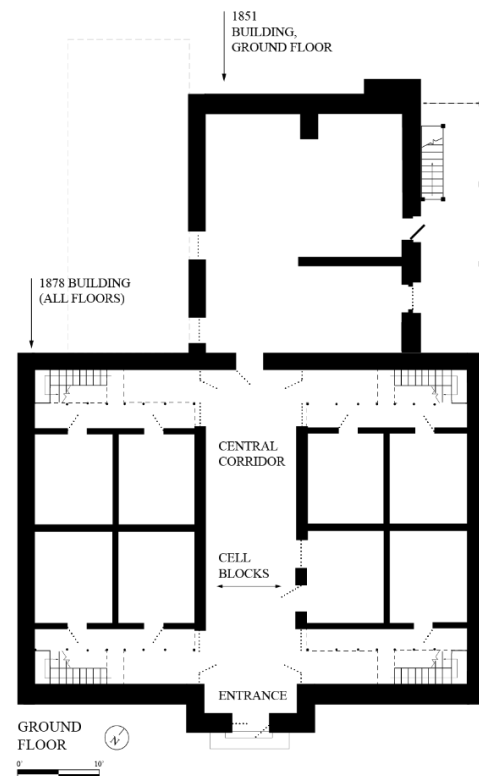


Figure 34. The women's cell was first in the only cell that opened to the main corridor, close to the entrance. It was then moved to an unknown cell (or possibly multiple) close to the warden's residence.

¹⁹⁹ Board of Correction, *Twenty-Second Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1948), 42.

side entrances in small hallways where the stairs were located. It is unknown which two cells closest to the warden's office were used as neither is closer than the other. It is also possible that the cell switched between the four options depending on the population of the jail. The women's cell was also sometimes used as the cell for juveniles and sick prisoners, so it is clear the jail adapted cells to fit its current needs.²⁰⁰

Women were not always put in a separate cell, and occasionally, a man would stay in the women's cell. In 1877, an unknown woman and her husband were arrested for stealing chickens and, along with their baby, were kept in the same cell as three other men.²⁰¹ In 1932, a 10-year-old girl stayed with her father for a few days, so both were placed in the women's cell.²⁰² The same year, a woman and a man were reported to have played checkers through the bars of the women's cell, insinuating that she could not leave the cell and that women were not allowed to roam freely as the men were.

The county jail inspections constantly reprimanded the Howard County Jail for the conditions that women faced. Just like the recommendations for the overall conditions of the jail, a new jail was needed to give proper facilities for women. Women were not recommended to spend more than a night at the jail.²⁰³ It was not until the 1954 renovations that women received their own dedicated space within the jail. Separate from the normal holding cells, the women's cell sat next to the juvenile cell on the ground floor. The inspections immediately praised the jail for the much-needed changes, saying there was nothing more to improve. However, as discussed previously, the renovations could not fix the inherent issues of the jail.

Reasons for Incarceration

To explore questions relating to the incarceration of women, a dataset of women tried at the Howard County Circuit Court was compiled. This was done using the Howard County Criminal Dockets from 1865 to 1952. More criminal dockets are located at the Maryland State Archives but were not used for research; dockets from 1851 to 1866 were unavailable, and

²⁰⁰ Department of Welfare, *Third Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1927), 20.

²⁰¹ "Some Very Bad Maryland Prisoners - A Disgrace to the State." *Baltimore Sun*, June 26, 1877.

²⁰² Department of Welfare, *Eighth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1932), 25.

²⁰³ Board of Correction, *Twenty-First Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1947)

dockets from 1965 to 1970 were not included due to time constraints. Nonetheless, the criminal dockets from 1865 to 1952 proved to be an invaluable resource. Women's names were picked from an index, and a photo was taken of each entry. The photos were used later to pull data and were entered into a Excel spreadsheet. Information recorded included the year the trial took place, if they were arrested and taken to jail or straight to the courthouse, the verdict, and race when it was available.

It is possible that every woman who appeared in the Criminal Docket spent some time in the jail before her trial, even if just for a few hours or a couple of minutes. Some entries specified that the sheriff made the arrest day of and took the defendant straight to the courthouse. Several entries included the phrase "cepi in jail." "Cepi" is Latin for "I have taken" and in a legal sense, means there was a return on a warrant, and someone was arrested.²⁰⁴ This means that entries with the phrase "cepi in jail" confirm women were held at the jail before their trial. General statistics about all the women tried at the Circuit Court are analyzed, followed by data specifically for the women held and sentenced to the Howard County Jail.

Over 260 entries were recorded for women tried at the circuit court, including over 250 unique women. The highest percentage of trials were due to larceny, followed by insanity and assault, a small portion of which had "the intent to kill." A little over 20% of trials were dismissed in some way, such as getting labeled as "stet," indictments ignored, or simply labeled as dismissed. About 18% of women were found not guilty. Over 15% of women were sentenced to state-run institutions such as the State Penitentiary in Baltimore, the Maryland House of Corrections, and the Maryland Reformatory for Women. Most of those tried for insanity were sent to institutions such as the Maryland Hospital for the Insane, while only a few stayed with family members. In both cases, the county paid for their care. Almost 15% of women were sentenced to the Howard County Jail.

²⁰⁴ "Glossary of Court Terms." Maryland Courts. Accessed December 5, 2023.
<https://mdcourts.gov/reference/glossary#:~:text=Cepi%20%2D%2D%20I%20have%20taken,the%20defendant%20has%20been%20arrested>

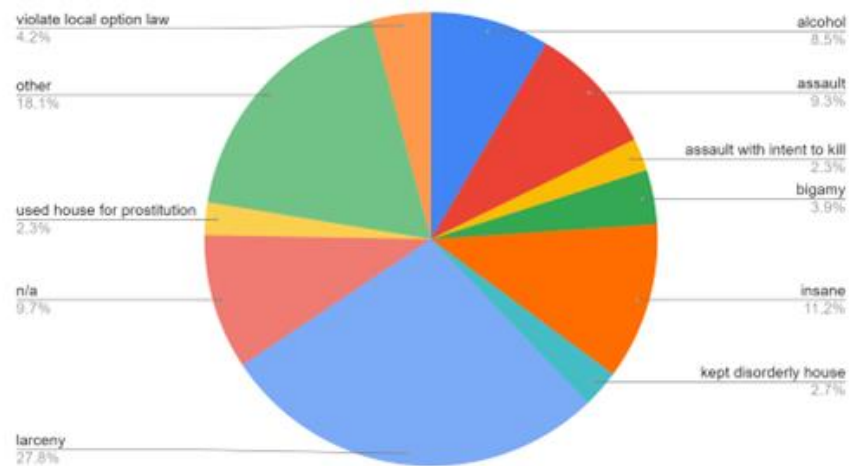


Figure 35. Charges of women at the Howard County Circuit Court from 1865 to 1952.

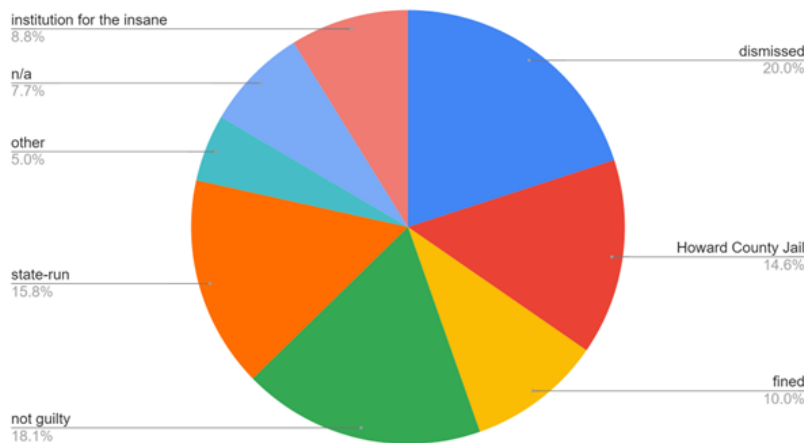


Figure 36. Verdicts and sentences of women tried at the Howard County Circuit Court from 1865 to 1952.

Of the over 260 entries, almost 30% indicated that the defendant spent time in the jail, either before the trial, for their sentence, or both. Almost 10% indicated “cepi on bail,” which means those women may have spent time in the jail if the bail was not paid. The rest of the entries did not mention the jail in any way. The charges for those held at the jail reflect similar trends to the overall charges; the majority were charged with larceny, followed by assault, disturbing the public peace²⁰⁵, violating the local law²⁰⁶, and alcohol-related crimes. The main

²⁰⁵ Disturbing the public peace could refer to a number of crimes, including unlawful assembly, riot and keeping a disorderly house (which can include keeping a house for prostitution). The Criminal Dockets did not specify.

difference is that no women charged with insanity were held in the jail before their trial or sentenced to it, except for one case which will be discussed later.

About half of those were “committed to the custody of the Sheriff” until a fine was paid. Many of those fines were paid the same day or the next, so some of these women never spent their sentence in the jail or only for a night. Fines paid the day of the sentencing were not included in the data to reflect women who spent at least a night in the jail. Most of the women sentenced to serve time in the jail received a couple of months, with two to three months being the most common. Only three women were sentenced to the jail for a year, including Annie Gallary in 1892 for larceny, Emma Jackson in 1904 for larceny, and Maud Waytowich in 1931 for “keeping a house for purposes of prostitution, lewdness, and assignation.”

Did Defendants Spend time in Howard County Jail?

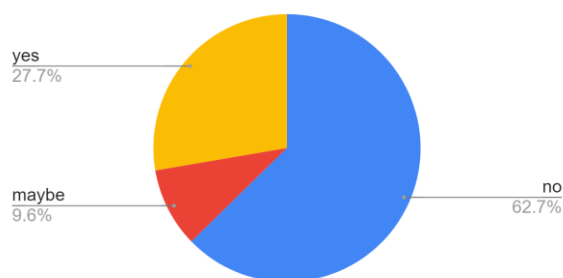


Figure 37. More than half of women charged for crimes at the Howard County Circuit Court did not spend time at the Old Ellicott City Jail.

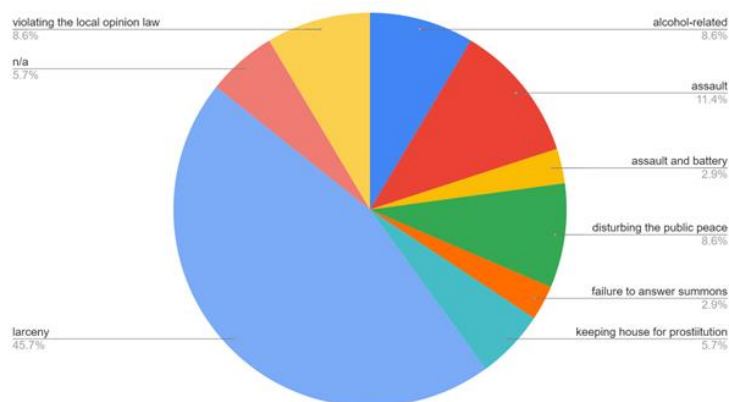


Figure 38. Crimes of women who were committed to the Old Ellicott City Jail to serve their sentence.

²⁰⁶ The local option law was voted on by local communities and so differs from locality to locality. This allowed for smaller areas to create laws needed that were not covered by State or Federal law. Common laws include regulations on the sale of liquor, fish and game, horse racing/gambling, and rent and housing.

Women of the Old Ellicott City Jail

Information about these women was minimal; for most, only the Criminal Docket provided information, and if there was an accompanying newspaper article about the trial, it was usually the same information in the docket. This hindered research into the question of if gender influenced why women were charged with a crime and sentenced. The only stories that directly related to gender were two women both charged with abandoning their babies.

In 1929, Sadie Wiegand was held in the jail on the charge of abandoning her baby. She left her baby in a basket on a lawn near Ellicott City, was arrested in Baltimore, and held in Ellicott City for trial. Her name did not appear in the Howard County Criminal Dockets. While in jail, Wiegand refused to eat food and wrote a note to Warden Charles M. Cumberland that she was going to take her own life by drinking poison. Her fate is unknown. In 1945, Mary T. Goodwin was convicted for deserting her infant. She was sentenced to parole and to contribute \$5 a week for the support of her child.²⁰⁷ It is unknown why either chose to abandon their children. More research is needed to flesh out the question of whether gender affected their arrest and trial.

For some, newspapers expanded on the trials of these women. Some trials received more coverage than others. In 1894, Rebecca Williams was convicted for the murder of her husband with rat poisoning. Professor P.B. Wilson, head of chemistry and toxicology at the Baltimore University, testified against her with her husband's chemical examination results. Williams was held in the jail for almost six months before her trial. She was eventually sentenced to the Maryland State Penitentiary for 15 years.²⁰⁸

In 1920, Annie Breitenback was held at the jail. While not convicted of anything, she was held as witness in her husband's, William J. O'Connor, trial. O'Connor was a black man who

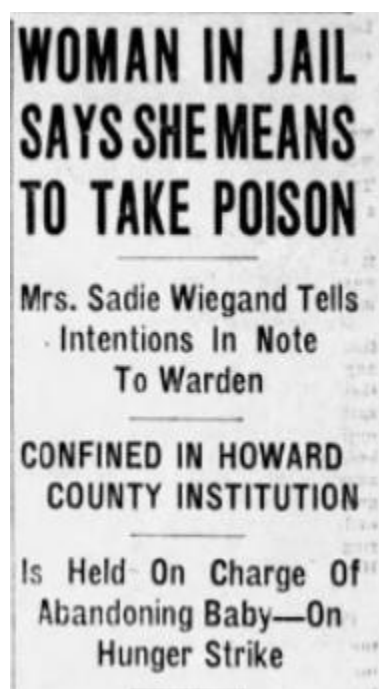


Figure 39. Article about Sadie Wiegand's hunger strike. "Woman In Jail Says She Means To Take Poison." *The Evening Sun*, August 16, 1929.

²⁰⁷ Howard County Circuit Court (Criminal Docket) 1938-1952, Liber BM JR 5, ff. 105, T1037-3, OR/08/01/049.

²⁰⁸ "A Poisoning Case." *Baltimore Sun*, April 25, 1894. ; Howard County Circuit Court (Criminal Docket) 1891 1922, Liber JHO 3, ff. 30, T1037-1, HF/10/11/090.

could pass for white. The mother accused O'Connor of tricking her daughter into believing he was white and wanted the marriage annulled. Annie insisted she was aware of her husband's race and that it did not matter, she still loved him. They were kept in separate cells while at the Howard County Jail.²⁰⁹

In 1922, May Belle Pease, also known as Marbelle, and W. Carter Crommiller were held at the jail after confessing to the murder of J. Bernard Pattison. However, both accused each other of shooting the man and both insisted they themselves were innocent. Neither's story held up in questioning. Eventually, Crommiller was convicted of the shooting but blamed Pease until the end. He received 18 years for the crime. Pease was later charged with accessory after the fact and was released on bail in the sum of \$2,500. She was held in the jail for at least three months.²¹⁰

Notably, in 1945, a 14-year-old girl was held for falsifying her age in a marriage license. Kept in the warden's wing of the jail due to her age and gender, she received a privilege that male juveniles would not get. A prisoner trusty, who was in charge while the warden was away, attempted to rape the girl until someone intervened. The trusty was charged and convicted for the crime.²¹¹ The name of the girl was not mentioned, and what happened after the assault and the outcome of her trial are unknown.

Just like Sadie Wiegand and Annie Breitenback, some women were held at the jail for reasons other than their own trial. Reports suggest that witnesses were held before someone's trial, meaning that many more women likely spent time in the jail.²¹² Records kept by the warden would give more insight into those held at the jail; however, the inspections made it clear that the

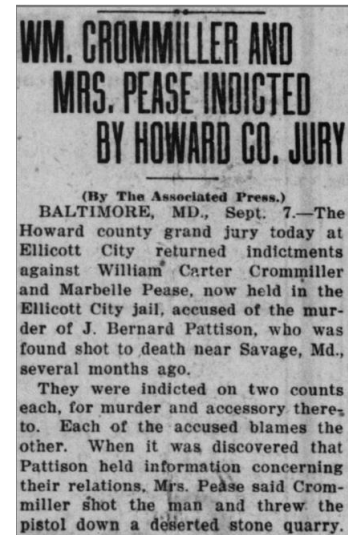


Figure 40. “Wm. Crommiller and Mrs. Pease Indicted By Howard Co. Jury.” *Evening Capital* (Annapolis, Maryland) September 7, 1922.

²⁰⁹ “Loves Colored Husband.” *Washington Post*, December 21, 1910.

²¹⁰ “Will Drain Quarry To Recover Pistol.” *Baltimore Sun*, August 7, 1922; “Crommiller Gets 18 Years In Prison.” *The Baltimore Sun*, October 25, 1922. ; “Mrs. Marbelle Pease Released On Bail Today.” *The Evening Capital* (Annapolis, Maryland) November 2, 1922.

²¹¹ “Ellicott City Jail Called Worst In State in Inspectors’ Report.” *Evening Star* (Washington, D.C.) February 5, 1945.; “Va. Man Convicted Of Attempted Rape.” *Baltimore Sun*, October 3, 1944.

²¹² “Health of the Mills-Ten House System-Manufactures-The Jail-Homicide-Arrest, &c.” *Baltimore Sun*, September 3, 1953.; Department of Welfare, *Fourteenth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1938), 13.

jail records kept very little information about those at the jail. Records only included the name and number of days served; there is no information about why there were serving.²¹³ As discussed in the *African American History, Slavery, and the Underground Railroad* section of the report, Augusta Spriggs attempted to escape enslavement but was caught and held at the Howard County Jail. Found wandering the woods, unable to recount who she was or where she came from, Laura Jones spent about a week in the jail in 1879 while officials figured out what to do with her. Later identified as a married woman from Anne Arundel County, inspectors recommended to send her home.²¹⁴

Discussed so far were *involuntary reasons* for why women were at the jail. Some women were present for *voluntary reasons*, such as the wives and families of wardens. As previously discussed in the *Conditions and Daily Life* section, the warden's family lived at the jail, and there were several instances where the wife was involved with running the jail. The first family to live at the jail was that of John T. Ray, including his wife Mary E., and his four daughters Jane, Josephine, Laura, and Roberta (Appendix C). At the time of Jacob Henson Jr.'s lynching, John J. Lilly was the warden, but he was not present. Instead, his son-in-law Deputy Warden Robert H. Holtman was there with his wife, his mother-in-law Sallie Lilly, and his sister-in-law Jennie Donnelley. Holtman and his wife tried to hide the key to Henson's cell. However, this could not stop the attacking mob. The women then urged the mob not to lynch Henson in the jail yard and to take him elsewhere, which they did.²¹⁵

Rebecca Hinmon and daughters Minnie and Elsie lived at the jail while her husband, Walter S. Hinmon, presided as the warden. Not much is known about his family and if Rebecca played a prominent role in running the jail. Sheriff James E. Hobbs' wife and daughter, both named Susan, lived with him at the jail even though he was no longer warden. Charles Cumberland's wife Mary, daughters Rebecca, Agnes, Catherine, and Pearl, and granddaughters Mary and Petta lived with him at the jail. Cumberland's wife, Mary, would cook extra food for prisoners if they paid \$5 a week.²¹⁶ In 1931, Edward W. Day credited his wife for his success at the jail. The prisoners loved Mrs. Day and would go to her for special favors. Mrs. Day got

²¹³ Department of Correction, *Twentieth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1946), 62.

²¹⁴ "A Wanderer." *Ellicott City Times*, August 30, 1879. ; "Circuit Court For Howard County." *Baltimore Sun*, September 6, 1879.

²¹⁵ "Henson Lynched." *Ellicott City Times*, June 1, 1895.

²¹⁶ "Prisoners Comfy in Howard Co. Jail." *Evening Sun* (Baltimore, Maryland) August 7, 1928.

“considerable amusement from her position and the attitude of the men toward her.”²¹⁷ Outside of helping with the jail, the warden’s wives would maintain the warden’s residence.²¹⁸

On rare occasions, some women chose to stay in the jail for family members. As mentioned before, a 10-year-old girl stayed a few days with her father, who was awaiting trial. The wedding of Ruth Wilson and inmate Charles Ottavino occurred in the jail in 1931. The warden, Edward W. Day, escorted them to the courthouse so they could sign their marriage license. The warden’s residence served as the location of the ceremony; Day’s wife acted as the maid of honor and another inmate as best man. The bride and groom met a few days prior when they were arrested together.²¹⁹ The same year, Mrs. Lehman and her two children, Vincent Jr. and Rosie May, chose to spend the night with her husband, Vincent Lehman, who was held for trial for drunk driving.²²⁰

Conclusion

Over 100 women are confirmed to have spent more than one day at the Old Ellicott City Jail, both voluntarily and involuntarily. While information is scarce about each woman, their presence at the jail revealed that gender did influence treatment at the jail, for better or for worse. Most women were held there against their will after being arrested for trial, sentenced there, and in some cases held as witnesses. Some women had more agency in choosing to be at the jail. While the warden’s families did not choose to live at the jail, they still held power over the inmates and had a very different experience than that of an inmate. The women who chose to stay with family members held for trial showed resiliency to stay with a loved one despite the poor conditions of the jail. More research is needed to answer the question of whether gender influenced the arrest and outcome of a trial, as well as to delve deeper into the lives of the women at the Old Ellicott City Jail.

²¹⁷ “Honor System Is Prevalent With Ellicott City Prisoners.” *Baltimore Sun*, September 21, 1931.

²¹⁸ “Howard County Jail Found Clean And Freshly Painted.” *Baltimore Sun*, September 23, 1940.

²¹⁹ “Inmate Gets Married At Ellicott City Jail.” *Baltimore Sun*, July 26, 1931

²²⁰ “Wife and Two Children Spend Night In Cell With Prisoner.” *Baltimore Sun*, July 4, 1931.

Flooding and Climate Change

Ellicott City is situated at the bottom of a steep valley carved by four river branches: the Tiber, Hudson, Autumn Creek, and New Cut. These branches join in the valley and empty into the Patapsco River.²²¹ The valley forms a topographical funnel for any runoff from the area above. Much of the land surrounding the valley has been developed and acres of impervious land only add to the amount of runoff.²²² This section of the report explores Ellicott City's relationship with climate change and flooding, and its effects on the Old Ellicott City Jail.

History with Flooding

Ellicott City has a long history with the occurrence and risk of flooding. Flooding in Ellicott City has been divided into two categories: bottom-up and top-down. Bottom-up flooding is caused by the Patapsco River swelling from its banks and engulfing the town. Before 1952, this was the most common type of flooding. Caused by heavy rains, top-down flooding sends floodwaters rushing from the top of the watershed down the valley.

There have been 15 to 18 significant floods in Ellicott City's past, depending on the source, including floods in 1786, 1817, 1868, 1894, 1901, 1917, 1923, 1933, 1942, 1952, 1972, 1975, 1998, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2018.²²³ The 1868 flood, called "the Great Flood of Maryland," inundated Ellicott City with 21.5 feet of water, destroying 32 buildings and killing 43 people.²²⁴ In 1972, rain from Hurricane Agnes caused the Patapsco River to overflow and cover Ellicott City in 14 feet of water, damaging 200 buildings along the Patapsco and killing seven people. Two devastating top-down floods struck Ellicott City in 2016 and 2018.

²²¹ "EC250 – Ellicott City, Maryland at 250 Years." *Advertising Media Plus* November 8, 2021.

²²² Halverson, Jeff. "The Second 1,000-Year Rainstorm in Two Years Engulfed Ellicott City. Here's How It Happened." *Washington Post*, December 3, 2021.

²²³ "The Timeline: Ellicott City Historical Flooding." *WMAR 2 News Baltimore*. Accessed December 7, 2023.

²²⁴ "EC250 – Ellicott City, Maryland at 250 Years," *Advertising Media Plus*. November 8, 2021. Pg 57

2016 and 2018 Floods

The 2016 flood was particularly destructive, and data gathered from its floodwaters has been used as a benchmark for all future stormwater management projects in the valley.²²⁵ Violent thunderstorms dropped six inches of rain on Ellicott City in a matter of hours, resulting in a flash flood that killed two people and caused damage to property of about \$22 million and \$42 million in lost economic activity.²²⁶ Around 200 buildings were damaged by the flood, with five being totally destroyed. About 170 cars had been swept into the streets or the Patapsco and had to be removed.²²⁷ According to the National Weather Service, the Patapsco River rose 14 feet in about 90 minutes.²²⁸ A study by the Jacob France Institute later that year estimated that before the flood, Ellicott City generated an estimated \$196.8 million in economic activity in Howard County.²²⁹ Following the flood they estimated that as much as \$67.2 million in economic activity could be lost as well as 151 jobs.

In 2018, back-to-back thunderstorms dumped more than eight inches of rain on Ellicott City. A deadly torrent swept down Main Street. By nightfall, as much as 15 inches of rain had fallen.²³⁰ The flood killed one person, and initial reports indicated that the damage was worse than the flooding in 2016 caused, and water levels had peaked even higher.²³¹

A turbulent combination of factors formed these storms. A stalled cold air front over the D.C. region was met with warm, moist air from the ocean. The moist air was forced higher in updrafts creating thunderstorm cells which were pushed east over Ellicott City by air currents.²³² Climate change will only exacerbate these conditions.

²²⁵ “Case Study-2016 Ellicott City Flood Event” *Smith Planning and Design, LLC*.

²²⁶ “EC250 – Ellicott City, Maryland at 250 Years,” *Advertising Media Plus*. November 8, 2021. Pg 54

²²⁷ “2 Dead, More Than 100 Rescued in ‘Historic’ Flash Floods in Maryland.” *ABC News*, July 31, 2016.

²²⁸ Chaney, Eric. “2 Maryland Flood Victims Identified; ‘Total Devastation’ in Ellicott City.” *The Weather Channel*. August 01, 2016. Accessed December 8, 2023.

²²⁹ “Pre-Planning and Community Participation: Ellicott City 2016 Flash Flooding Recovery.” *Federal Emergency Management Agency*. September 2018.

²³⁰ “EC250 – Ellicott City, Maryland at 250 Years,” *Advertising Media Plus*. November 8, 2021. Pg 55

²³¹ Romo, Vanessa. “Body Of Missing Man Found After Ellicott City, Md., Flood.” *NPR*, May 29, 2018, sec. America.

²³² Halverson, Jeff. “The Second 1,000-Year Rainstorm in Two Years Engulfed Ellicott City. Here’s How It Happened.” *Washington Post*, December 3, 2021.

The Ellicott City Master Plan Courthouse Area

*The Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan*²³³ designates the Ellicott City Jail as part of the Court House Area and notes that “any reuse planning should be done so comprehensively and consider the courthouse property’s context with Main Street and the economic importance of Main Street”²³⁴ and to “consider the use of green roofs, green walls and the use of solar panels in building construction”.²³⁵ Despite reuse plans for the surrounding properties, there is no current planned reuse of the land outside the jail. The northeastern slope to the jail property is being converted into a Stormwater Management Area, but no water mitigation is planned within the jail property itself. This presents an unrecognized opportunity to further contribute to flood mitigation as the overwhelming majority of the jail property is an impermeable surface.

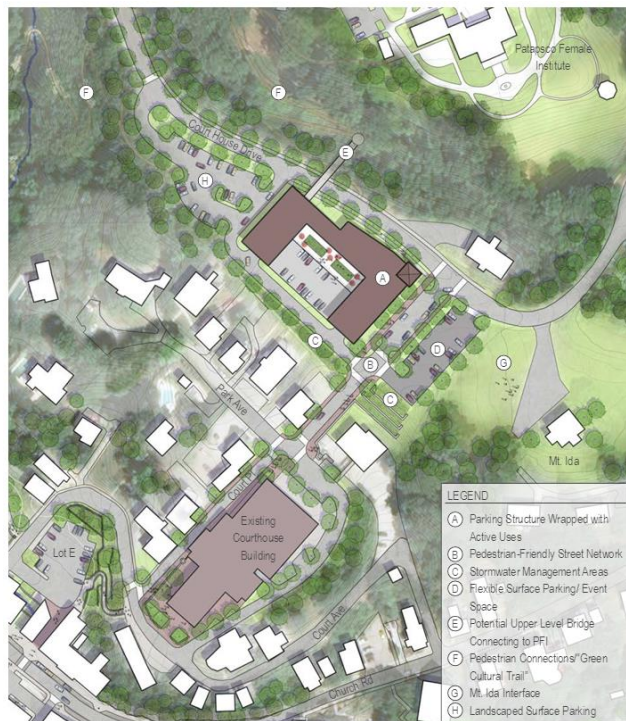


Figure 41. “Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan | Howard County.” Department of Planning & Zoning of Howard County, Maryland. Adopted December 7, 2020.

Hydrology Analysis of the Ellicott City Jail

Using the Howard County GIS Data Catalog’s 2018 contour shapefile for Howard County, a digital elevation model was created using ArcGIS to conduct a hydrology analysis of the Ellicott City Jail.²³⁶ The hydrology analysis determined the waterways within the surrounding floodshed. This revealed that the jail property slopes, particularly the southeastern

²³³ “Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan | Howard County.” Department of Planning & Zoning of Howard County, Maryland. Adopted December 7, 2020 <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/planning-zoning/ellicott-city-watershed-master-plan>.

²³⁴ Ibid., p. 223

²³⁵ Ibid., p. 228

²³⁶ “Topography (Contours) - 2018” *Howard County GIS*. <https://data.howardcountymd.gov/>

slope, which is the driveway, act as critical junctions for regional water flow into Main Street. This also would indicate that the jail was at risk of flooding which would have posed a risk and significantly worsened conditions for those held in its cells. Water accumulation in the lower-level cells would have been an issue as is evident from the water damage present.

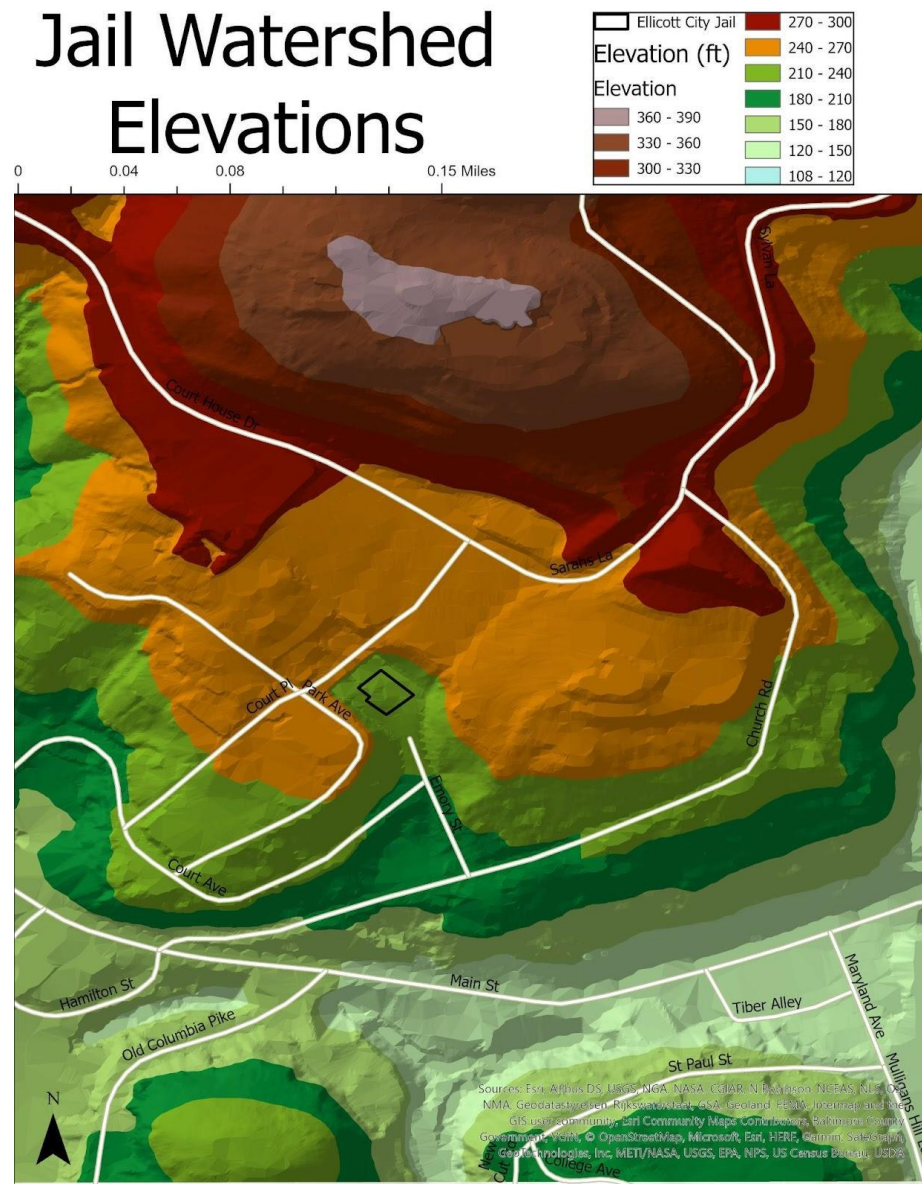


Figure 42. Jail Watershed Elevations *Emory Land Studio*



Recommendations

POWs

It has been rumored that during World War II the Old Ellicott City Jail temporarily housed German Prisoners of War (POWs) who worked on farms in the nearby area. The history of German POWs at the jail is attested to specifically in the book *New City Upon a Hill, A History of Columbia Maryland*, by Joseph Mitchell and David Stebenne.²³⁷ The book recounts an oral history from a local historian, who stated that his aunt and uncle participated in a farm labor program that hired German POWs to Howard County Farmers.²³⁸ According to this account, these prisoners were first housed at Ft. Meade, then at the Howard County Jail. The prisoners were paid 25 cents a day and provided two meals by the farmers.²³⁹ The Howard County family kept in contact with the POWs after they returned to Germany.²⁴⁰ As of yet, no other source has confirmed that the jail was used to house POWs. Attempts to find and contact the source of the oral history were not successful.

There was, however, related evidence that did not preclude the presence of POWs in the jail. First, there is evidence that POWs were employed in the Ellicott City Area, working as farm laborers and being picked up and dropped off by their farm employers at Hardman's Tourist Home, located at the intersection of St Johns Lane and Frederick Road in Ellicott City.²⁴¹ Much of the information concerning POW labor was gathered by the reporter and local historian, Kevin Leonard, from the archives of the Fort George G. Meade Museum, now closed.²⁴²

Second, the Nineteenth Annual Report of Inspection of County Jails of Maryland, 1943, showed an unusually low population of just seven prisoners, suggesting that some of the capacity of the jail may have been used for housing of people other than formal prisoners, though no

²³⁷ David Stebenne, and Joseph R Mitchell, *New City Upon a Hill: A History of Columbia, Maryland*. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2007.pg. 26.

²³⁸ *ibid.*

²³⁹ *ibid.*

²⁴⁰ *ibid.*

²⁴¹ Kevin Leonard, "Fort Meade converted to POW camp in World War II" *The Baltimore Sun*, April 7, 2016, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/ph-ll-history-ft-meade2-20160407-story.html>

²⁴² "WWII Internees and POWs at Fort Meade," WYPR, <https://www.wypr.org/show/on-the-record/2018-06-29/wwii-internees-and-pows-at-fort-meade>. ; Emory Lane Studio would like to also thank Kevin Leonard further for his assistance in searching for additional information regarding POWs in Howard County.

mention of any POWs were made in the report.²⁴³ There was no report published for 1944 or 1945, which are years that could have been reasonable times for any potential POWs to have been housed in the jail.

Third, there is evidence in the inspection reports of the Office of the Provost Marshal General, an organization that dealt with the housing and transportation of POWs in World War 2, that may corroborate the oral history. Specifically, these files confirm the presence of POW farm labor in Howard County. Per a 1944 report dated October 16, there were 133 POWs working in the county, overseen by 15 guards, working on farms in Howard County, with workers beginning their days at 6:40 AM every day.²⁴⁴ In a conditions assessment report from the International Red Cross Committee, there were six “branch camps” associated with the main Ft. Meade camp. Five of the six camps are named and have over 100 prisoners each. There is however, one camp, unnamed with a reported 30 prisoners.²⁴⁵ This is significant because the capacity of the Old Ellicott City Jail at the time was around 30, suggesting that the Old Ellicott City Jail could potentially be the unnamed branch camp listed in this report.

Further research into the history of POWs at the jail is recommended. As of the writing of this document, no conclusive proof that confirms or denies the presence of POWs at the jail has been found. It is recommended that future research focus on locating the current location of archival materials that were once housed at the Ft. George G. Meade Museum and Archives, now permanently closed and not investigated as part of this project. Beyond this, additional resources were contacted and asked about whether they held information related to POWs in Maryland: among these were the Library of Congress, the Maryland Center for History and Culture, the Howard County Department of Corrections, and Maryland State Archives. Two additional independent researchers, who have experience researching individuals held in confinement during World War II, did not have additional leads on where to search. The library of the

²⁴³ Maryland Board of Correction. *Twentieth Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*, 1946. Accessed at University of Maryland Special Collections “Report of the Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland,” no. 12688578 (n.d.).

²⁴⁴ “Army Service Forces, Third Service Command. Dated 16 October 1944” in file: PMGO Inspection Reports, Meade. Inspection and Field Reports: Meade, Maryland. Record Group 389, Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General. Textual records, Subject Files 1942-1946. HMS/MLR A1-461. Container 2667.

²⁴⁵ International Red Cross Committee report on Conditions at Ft. Meade. Mr Paul Schnyder. Visit date: September 27, 1944. (translated) in file: Other Inspection Reports. Record Group 389, Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General. Textual records, Subject Files 1942-1946. HMS/MLR A1-461. Container 2667.

Maryland Historical Society was also searched and showed no evidence of having information related to POWs in the jail.

LGBTQ

It is recommended that further research be done to better understand what LGBTQ+ history, if any, is definitively associated with the Ellicott City Jail. The statewide LGBTQ+ Historic Context Study, completed in 2020, has already made a thorough investigation of significant events in Maryland's queer history, but it included nothing directly related to the jail. Given the very nature of incarceration, it seems highly unlikely that there was never any same-sex attraction or intercourse that took place within the jail during its 100+ years of holding inmates, but the exact nature of that activity needs further elucidation. Power dynamics and imbalances are an especially fraught part of the sexual politics of prison: same-sex relationships may be consensual between inmates; at other times, sexual favors may be coerced in return for preferential treatment, either by inmates or by jail staff. Sexual abuse and assault remain among the worst problems at prisons and jails around the world.

The state of Maryland is no stranger to such institutional abuse. In 1967, 2 teenage boys who had escaped from the Victor Cullen Reformatory in Sabillasville, Frederick County, alleged “widespread homosexuality” in a public accusation that alarmed the government. Governor Spiro T. Agnew formed a commission to investigate prison conditions in the state,²⁴⁶ although its report was unable to be found for this project. A report on state prison conditions published in 1966 by a state commission did not mention the Ellicott City Jail. Considerably more attention was focused on the Patuxent Institution, a facility in Jessup that housed “defective delinquents” for indeterminate sentences.²⁴⁷ Prisoners were referred to as “patients,” and their time in the facility was determined by their response to treatment that would supposedly rehabilitate them. A profile in the *New York Times* in 1972 referred to it as a “clockwork-orange” prison, in reference to the novel and film about a young criminal subjected to inhumane torture to “cure” him of his

²⁴⁶ Preservation Maryland, “Planting the Rainbow Flag: Places of LGBTQ History in Maryland,” 2022, 28, https://www.preservationmaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PM_LGBTQ_FINAL_pages.pdf

²⁴⁷ Jonathan Rodeheffer, “Just What Is the Treatment at Patuxent?,” *Baltimore Sun*, September 12, 1971, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/536422028/40C74558A02E4A88PQ/443?accountid=14696&sourcetype=Historical%20Newspapers>

deviance.²⁴⁸ Among their many complaints, Patuxent inmates testified that staff demanded sexual favors for preferential treatment, up to and including declaring someone fit to be released.²⁴⁹ While the power dynamics in Patuxent made prisoners uniquely vulnerable to such coercion, it would be naive to assume that such abuses did not occur elsewhere within the county. The nature and extent of any such activities at the Ellicott City Jail, however, remains unknown.

No concrete evidence so far has been found for inmates being held at the Ellicott City jail specifically for “sodomy,” or same-sex intercourse. One arrest in 1976 was made for two men charged with kidnapping, assaulting, and robbing an 18-year-old boy in the Daniels ruins, but evidence of prisoners held for consensual sex is lacking.²⁵⁰ Further investigation is needed into understanding the extent to which the Daniels area was known for cruising and consensual sex; residents complained as recently as 1999 that men were having sex in the park area.²⁵¹ A state commission in 1970 first proposed decriminalizing voluntary same-sex intercourse,²⁵² and in 1975, Howard County became the first county in the state to include sexual orientation as a demographic factor protected from discrimination.²⁵³ Despite these findings, knowledge of the Ellicott City Jail’s LGBTQ+ history can only be described as incomplete, with more work needed to form a narrative.

African American History, Slavery, and Underground Railroad

There is a need to gather more facts and research into Joe Nick, to build and develop a proper comprehensive story and background as it relates to the jail and the underground network.

²⁴⁸ Phil Stanford, “A Model, Clockwork-Orange Prison,” *New York Times*, September 17, 1972, <https://www.nytimes.com/1972/09/17/archives/a-model-clockworkorange-prison-prison-the-patuxent-team-reviewers.html>

²⁴⁹ Jonathan Rodeheffer, “Inmates Cite Perversion,” *Baltimore Sun*, August 3, 1971, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/533906169/1187F646CCCCF45EDPQ/15?accountid=14696&sourcetype=Historical%20Newspapers>

²⁵⁰ “Kidnapping Charged to Two in Sex Case,” *Baltimore Sun*, August 24, 1976, <https://www.proquest.com/docview/535529465/B84B60CF8F2F497FPQ/73?accountid=14696>

²⁵¹ “Residents Complain About Park, But Officials Don’t See Problem,” *Baltimore Sun*, March 8, 1999, <https://www.baltimoresun.com/1999/03/08/residents-complain-about-park-but-officials-dont-see-problem/>

²⁵² Robert G. Fisher, “The Sex Offender Provisions of the Proposed New Maryland Criminal Code,” *Maryland Law Review* 30, no. 2 (Spring 1970): 91, <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/56357046.pdf>

²⁵³ Susan Ferentinos and Benjamin Egerman, “Maryland LGBTQ Historic Context Study” (Baltimore: Preservation Maryland and Maryland Historical Trust), September 30, 2020, 100, <https://www.preservationmaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/maryland-lgbtq-historic-context-study-september-2020-full-web.pdf>

Moreover, it would be helpful to gather more resources and identify other African Americans and local individuals who aided freedom seekers and were held in the jail.

Lynchings and Mob Violence

It is recommended that signage be placed on the premises highlighting the legacies of lynchings at the Ellicott City Jail. These signs should tell the stories of the four individuals that were victims of lynching, near lynching and threatened violence. These narratives should be written in a holistic manner, be broadly sourced, and promote a human understanding of these individuals while also noting the relationship between lynchings, racial violence, and justice. Furthermore, the signage should highlight the efforts of the State of Maryland to recognize the history of lynchings in the state. Lastly, efforts should be made to contact any descendants of Nicholas Snowden, Jacob Henson Jr., William Hatwood, and Lawrence Wallace.

Flooding and the Ellicott City Jail

The eastern section of the jail property serves as a funnel for water running off of the grounds. Gravity pulls water from the surrounding area down the northeast slope to the driveway in the southeastern portion of the property. From here, runoff continues down impermeable surfaces to Main Street and contributes to flooding issues there. The driveway could potentially be converted from asphalt to a more permeable surface. More research would be needed to determine the best material.

Appendices

A. Bibliography

“Chatham”- Circa 1915. (Reproduction of a photograph) PC3 L 1990.3 - Ellicott City Jail. L 1995.23. Howard County Historical Society, Maryland.

Department of Correction. *Fifteenth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1939.

Department of Correction. *Eighteenth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1942.

Department of Correction. *Twentieth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1946.

Department of Correction. *Twenty-first Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1947.

Department of Corrections. *Twenty-second Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Corrections, 1948.

Department of Correction. *Twenty-seventh Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1953.

Department of Corrections. *Twenty-eighth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Corrections, 1954.

Department of Correction. *Thirty-third Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1959.

Department of Welfare. *First Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1925.

Department of Welfare. *Second Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1926.

Department of Welfare. *Third Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1927.

Department of Welfare. *Fourth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1928.

- Department of Welfare. *Fifth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1929.
- Department of Welfare. *Eighth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1932.
- Department of Welfare. *Ninth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1933.
- Department of Welfare. *Fourteenth Inspection of the County Jails of Maryland*. Baltimore: Board of Welfare, 1938.
- Equal Justice Initiative. "Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror." *Equal Justice Initiative*, 2017. <https://eji.org/wp-content/uploads/2005/11/lynching-in-america-3d-ed-110121.pdf>
- Findagrave.com. John Laing, 1816/17-1897
- Ferentinos, Susan, and Benjamin Egerman. "Maryland LGBTQ Historic Context Study." September 30, 2020. <https://www.preservationmaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/maryland-lgbtq-historic-context-study-september-2020-full-web.pdf>
- Fisher, Robert G. "The Sex Offender Provisions of the Proposed New Maryland Criminal Code: Should Private, Consenting Adult Homosexual Behavior Be Excluded?" *Maryland Law Review* 30, no. 2 (Spring 1970): 91-113. <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/56357046.pdf>
- Herman & Carr, (Insurance) Agents, Ellicott City Maryland. "Insurance Survey of Howard County Properties for County Commissioners of Howard County. Ellicott City, Maryland." September 1944, Ellicott City. – 1944. L. 1990.40 Howard County Historical Society, Maryland.
- Harcourt, Felix Alexander Richard. "Kleagles, Kash, and the Klan: Maryland and the Decline of the Klan, 1922-1928." Order No. 1463665, The George Washington University, 2009.
- Hodge, Frederick Webb, ed. *Handbook of Native Americans North of Mexico* Vol. 2, N-Z. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1910.
- Holland, Celia M. Ellicott City, Maryland: Mill Town, U.S.A. Ellicott City, MD: Historic Ellicott City, Inc., 1970.
- Holland, Celia M. Howard County - Ellicott City -- Jail, December 1959, 9.1.1.144, Box: 1, item: 144. Celia M. Holland papers, 0031-MDHC. Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Maryland.

Holmes, William F. "Whitecapping: Agrarian Violence in Mississippi, 1902-1906." *The Journal of Southern History* 35, no.2 (1969): 165-85.

Howard County Circuit Court (Criminal Docket) 1865-1891, Liber WWW 2, MSA C969-2, MdHR 14736.

Howard County Circuit Court (Criminal Docket) 1891-1922, Liber JHO 3, T1037-1, HF/10/11/090.

Howard County Circuit Court (Criminal Docket) 1923-1941, Liber HBN 4, T1037-2, BA/06/30/058.

Howard County Circuit Court (Criminal Docket) 1938-1952, Liber BM JR 5, T1037-3, OR/08/01/049.

Howard County Government, Maryland, "Corrections | Howard County," accessed October 27, 2023, <https://www.howardcountymd.gov/corrections>.

Irwin S. Porter and Sons, Architects, Engineers, Washington DC. Plans, Elevations, Schedules for the renovation of the Howard County Jail. (Multiple Blueprints). June 20, 1952. Howard County Historical Society, Maryland.

Jacobsen, Phebe. "Researching African American Families." Maryland State Archives (MSA), n.d. https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se14/000000/000048/researching_african_american_families.pdf.

Jennings, Francis. "Glory, Death, and Transfiguration: The Susquehannock Indians in the Seventeenth Century." *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 112, no. 1 (February 1968): 15-53. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/986100>

Kusterer, Janet, and Victoria Goeller. *Remembering Ellicott City: Stories From the Patapsco River Valley*. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.

Kusterer, Janet, and Victoria Goeller. *Then & Now: Ellicott City*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 2006.

Laing, John. Baltimore. Map of Union Wharf, property of the Baltimore Steam Packet Company. 1892. M 183, Large. Special Collections of the H. Furlong Baldwin Library of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore.

Language of Slavery - Underground Railroad (U.S. National Park Service). <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/language-of-slavery.htm>.

- Lazarick, Len. "Howard County Slavery: Born on the Fourth of July, It Wasn't Always a Free County." July 4, 2020. <https://marylandreporter.com/2020/07/04/howard-county-slavery-born-on-the-fourth-of-july-it-wasnt-always-a-free-county/>.
- Luckenbach, Al. "A 'Delmarva Adena' Mortuary Complex at Pig Point." *Maryland Archaeology* 49, no. 2 (September 2013): 3-14. <https://www.losttownsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/2013---A-Delmarva-Adena-Mortuary-Complex-at-Pig-Point.pdf>
- Luckenbach, Al, and Lauren Schiszik. "The Raven Site (18HO252): An Early 18th Century Plantation in Howard County." *Maryland Archaeology* 42, no. 2 (September 2006): 15-23. <https://www.losttownsproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/ravensite.pdf>
- Mathews, Edward B. *The Counties of Maryland: Their Origin, Boundaries, and Election Districts*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press, 1907. <https://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000630/pdf/am630.pdf>
- Memorandum from Montgomery Parks to Montgomery County Planning Board, September 14, 2023. https://montgomeryplanningboard.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/MCPB_Ednor-Soapstone-Quarry_OPEN_2023-09-14.final_-1.pdf
- National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom "ArcGIS Web Application." (U.S. National Park Service), . <https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=64dac0019fd64bda85b7a06387df26c5>.
- Nichols, Joseph Howard, Richard W Bush, and the Howard County Genealogical Society. Patriots and Pioneers of Howard County, Maryland., the Courthouse and the Jail. Vol., The Courthouse and the Jail. HCGS Special Publication, 98-1. Columbia, MD. (Box 274, Columbia 21045): Howard County Genealogical Society, 1998.
- Preservation Maryland. "Planting the Rainbow Flag: Places of LGBTQ History in Maryland." 2022. https://www.preservationmaryland.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/PM_LGBTQ_FINAL_pages.pdf
- Radoff, Morris L. "Howard County." In *The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland* Vol. 1, *The Courthouses*, 100-103. Annapolis: Hall of Records Commission, 1960. <https://archive.org/details/countycourthouse00rado/page/100/mode/2up>
- Records of the Office of the Provost Marshal General. Record Group 389. Subject Files 1942-1946. HMS/MLR A1-461. Container 2667. National Archives, College Park.
- Ridgely, Margaretta S.H. – Bills and Letters – John Laing. Reconstruction of gates at 'Hampton'. Special Collections of the H. Furlong Baldwin Library of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore.

- Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. November 1894. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn03599_002/.
- Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. April 1899. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn03599_003/.
- Sanborn Map Company. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Ellicott City, Howard County, Maryland. May 1910. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn03599_005/.
- Stebenne, David and Joseph R. Mitchell. *New City Upon a Hill: A History of Columbia*, Maryland. Charleston, SC: History Press, 2007.
- Sykes, Gaither H. Project Consultant for the W.P.A. of Maryland. Multiple photos. July 1936. 18, Photo. 1 & 5 -- Howard, Ellicott City -- Howard County Jail improvements, April 1936-July 1936, 5.3.5.22, Box: 5, Folder: 22.0. Work Projects Administration in Maryland records, 0009-MDHC. Special Collections and University Archives of the University of Maryland.
- Tyson, Martha E. *A Brief Account of the Settlement of Ellicott's Mills*. Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1870. <https://archive.org/details/briefaccountofse00tyso/mode/2up>
- Underground Railroad - "About the Network to Freedom, (U.S. National Park Service)." <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/undergroundrailroad/about-the-network-to-freedom.htm>.
- "Underground Railroad Maryland Network to Freedom," "US National Park Service" <http://npshistory.com/brochures/ugrr/md-ugrr-2019.pdf>.
- 1860 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicotts Mills 2nd District, dwelling County Jail; NARA microfilm publication M653.
- 1870 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicott city 2nd Election District, p. 808A, dwelling 150, family 147, Henry Henson; NARA microfilm publication M593_568.
- 1880 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicott City, enumeration district (ED) 102, dwelling 210, family 219, John Ray; NARA microfilm publication T9.
- 1890 United States Cenus of Union Veterans and Widows of the Civil War, Ellicott City, enumeration district (ED) 119, house 256, family 256, Jacob Henson; NARA microfilm publication M123.
- 1900 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicott City, enumeration district (ED) 81, sheet B-4, dwelling 86-87, family 87-88, Walter S Hinmon; NARA microfilm publication T623.

1910 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicott City, enumeration district (ED) 50, sheet A-2, dwelling County Jail, James E. Hobbs; NARA microfilm publication T624.

1920 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicott City, enumeration district (ED) 57, sheet A-5, household 108, Charles M. Cumberland; NARA microfilm publication T625.

1920 United States Census Prince Georges, Maryland, population schedule, Brentwood, enumeration district (ED) 96, sheet 3B, household 53, dwelling 53, family 61, Lawrence Wallace; NARA microfilm publication T625.

1930 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicott City, enumeration district (ED) 14-3, sheet A-13, dwelling 276, family 245, Charles M. Cumberland; NARA microfilm publication T626.

1930 United States Census, Prince Georges, Maryland, population schedule, North Brentwood, enumeration district (ED) 43, sheet 2B, house 110, James Wallace; NARA microfilm publication T626.

1940 United States Census, Howard County, Maryland, population schedule, Ellicott City, enumeration district (ED) 14-3, sheet 6-B, household Jail; NARA microfilm publication T627.

United States, Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served With The U.S. Colored Troops, 1861-1866, Nicholas Snowden; NARA microfilm publication M1824 Roll 104.

Wilmer, Allison, J.H. Jarrett, and Geo. W.F. Vernon. *History and Roster of Maryland Volunteers War of 1861-1865 Volume II*. Baltimore, MD; Press of Guggenheimer, Weil & Co., 1899. Reprinted Silver Spring, MD: Family Line Publications and Harmans, MD: Toomey Press, 1987.

WYPR, "WWII Internees and POWs at Fort Meade," <https://www.wypr.org/show/on-the-record/2018-06-29/wwii-internees-and-pows-at-fort-meade>.

B. List of Wardens

Name of Warden	Confirmed Working Years	Notes
Wheeler Clark	1851 – at least 1857	First warden of the jail under Sheriff Seth Warfield
William Sullivan	1860	
John T. Ray	1862 – at least 1885	Present at the jail the night of the lynching of Nicholas Snowden.
John J. Lilly	1894 – 1895	Warden at the time of the lynching of Jacob Henson Jr. but was <i>not</i> present the night it happened. Rather, Deputy Warden Robert H. Holtman, was in charge.
George M. Gearhart	1896	
Walter S. Hinmon	1898 – 1904	
James Crook	1904	
James E. Hobbs	1907 – 1910	Became Sheriff.
Edward Leishear	1910 – 1911	
William Easton	1912 – 1914; 1927	
Charles M. Cumberland	1920 – 1930	
Otto Neuman	1922	Present at the jail for the near lynching of Lawrence Wallace
Edward W. Day	1931 – 1937	
Arthur Wessel	1938	
Harry L. Cross	1938 – 1945	Later worked as Deputy Warden, until he was at least 80 years old.
George E. Taylor	1940 – 1941	
H. Winter Barron	1942	Deputy warden in 1939.
Julius wheeler	1951	
Kenneth Cross	1952 – 1955	Son of Harry L. Cross
Jack Newcomer	1956	
Vernon Hare	1958 – 1963	
Henry Riemsnyder	1961	“Acting warden”
Norman O. Howard	1967 – 1968	Also was the sheriff
Charles E. Mann	1969 – 1972	
Thomas Hobbs	1972 – 1975	
Herbert B. Parker	1976	

C. Jail Census Records

1860 Census for the County Jail. All were awaiting trial.				
Name	Age	Sex	Race	Place of Birth
John Cramblott	25	Male	White	Maryland
Joseph Cramblott	18	Male	White	Maryland
Isaac Day	20	Male	White	Maryland
Henry Myers	25	Male	White	Germany
Solomon Smith	67	Male	Black	Maryland
Hettie Smith	19	Female	Mulatto	Maryland

1880 Census. Not specified as the County Jail.						
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
John Ray	Head	White	Male	62	Maryland	Jailer
Mary E. Ray	Wife	White	Female	56	Maryland	Keeping house
Laura Ray	Daughter	White	Female	30	Maryland	Seamstress
Josephine Ray	Daughter	White	Female	25	Maryland	At home
William Ray	Son	White	Male	22	Maryland	Stone cutter
Jane H. Ray	Daughter	White	Female	18	Maryland	At home
Reberta J. Ray	Daughter	White	Female	16	Maryland	At school
Calhaun Ray	Son	White	Male	14	Maryland	At home
Samuel Morse	--	Black	Male	30	Maryland	--
George Carter	--	White	Male	14	Maryland	--
John Brooks	--	White	Male	24	Alabama	--
David Blue	--	Black	Male	70	Maryland	Servant
Uption Mullins	--	White	Male	38	Maryland	--
Riehard Thompson	--	White	Male	70	Marland	--
Michael Maler	--	White	Male	30	Ireland	--

1900 Census for Emory Street. Census takers separated the family from the inmates.						
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Walter S. Hinmon	Head	White	Male	54	Maryland	Warden-County Jail
Rbecca J. Hinmon	Wife	White	Female	34	Maryland	--
Clayton D. Hinmon	Son	White	Male	9	Maryland	--
Minnie L. Hinmon	Daughter	White	Female	6	Maryland	--
Elsie M. Hinmon	Daughter	White	Female	5	Maryland	--
Henry Johnson	Servant	Black	Male	35	Virginia	Cook
Walter S. Hinmon	Warden	White	Male	54	Maryland	Warden- County Jail
Joseph Brown	Inmate	White	Male	41	Maryland	--
Ralph Higginthorn	Inmate	White	Male	53	Maryland	--
Harry H. Woodward	Inmate	White	Male	26	Maryland	--
Robert F. Grimes	Inmate	Black	Male	33	Maryland	--
Auther Williams	Inmate	Black	Male	16	Maryland	--
Elizabeth Kirby	Inmate	Mulatto	Female	55	Maryland	--
David Dorsey	Inmate	Black	Male	11	Maryland	--

1910 Census for Emory Street						
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
James E. Hobbs	Head	White	Male	54	Maryland	Sheriff
Susan R. Hobbs	Wife	White	Female	54	Maryland	--
Joseph L. Hobbs	Son	White	Male	32	Maryland	Foreman- railroad
Thomas G. Hobbs	Son	White	Male	22	Maryland	Motorman- Electric road
Joseph E. Hobbs	Son	White	Male	19	Maryland	Apprentice carpenter
Susan L. Hobbs	Daughter	White	Female	18	Maryland	--
Edward Leishear	Boarder	White	Male	61	Maryland	Warden- County Jail
August Gillgush	Boarder	White	Male	75	Germany	Pauper- County Jail
Lloyd Gorsuch	Boarder	Black	Male	69	Maryland	Pauper- County Jail

1920 Census for the County Jail						
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Charles Cumberland	Head	White	Male	51	Illinois	Warden- County Jail
Mary Cumberland	Wife	White	Female	49	Maryland	--
Charles Cumberland Jr	Son	White	Male	15	Maryland	--
Rebecca Cumberland	Daughter	White	Female	12	Maryland	--
William Cumberland	Son	White	Male	8	Maryland	--
Agnes Cumberland	Daughter	White	Female	8	Maryland	--
Catherine Cumberland	Daughter	White	Female	6	Maryland	--
Pearl Kerger	Daughter	White	Female	25	Maryland	--
Mary Kerger	Granddaughter	White	Female	7	Maryland	--
Petta Kerger	Granddaughter	White	Female	4	Maryland	--
Joseph Kerger	Grandson	White	Male	2	Maryland	--
James Hupsley	Prisoner	White	Male	29	Maryland	--

1930 Census for Willow Grove Avenue						
Name	Relation	Race	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Charles M. Cumberland	Head	White	Male	62	Illinois	Warden- County Jail
Mary A. Cumberland	Wife	White	Female	59	Maryland	--
William F. Cumberland	Son	White	Male	19	Maryland	Chauffeur- Taxi
Ruth M. Cumberland	Daughter	White	Female	19	Maryland	--
Catherine E. Cumberland	Daughter	White	Female	16	Maryland	--
William R. Clatteraruck	Jail	White	Male	42	Virginia	Painter- Compact Work
Russel S. Slater	Jail	White	Male	25	Maryland	Chauffeur- Taxi
Norman M. Bailey	Jail	White	Male	20	Virginia	Chauffeur- Taxi
John E. Rolbin	Jail	White	Male	30	Ohio	Laborer- Farm
James L. Sullivan	Jail	White	Male	32	Maryland	Mechanic- Garage
Charles B. Rud	Jai;	White	Male	19	California	Laborer- Farm
Neal Hammond	Jail	Black	Male	37	Maryland	Laborer- Farm
Benjamin Bell	Jail	Black	Male	18	Maryland	Laborer- Farm
William Spears	Jail	Black	Male	36	Washington D.C.	Chauffeur- Truck

1940 Census for County Jail. All the Relation to Household were either "alone" or crossed off					
Name	Race	Sex	Age	Place of Birth	Occupation
Ernest Myers	Black	Male	27	Maryland	Helper- Farm
Leroy Johnson	Black	Male	20	Maryland	Laborer- Golf Course
Arthur Rollins	White	Male	29	Tennessee	Laborer- Farm
John Walker	White	Male	29	Virginia	Laborer- Soil conservation
Joe Barrett	White	Male	32	Maryland	Nurseryman
Benjamin Myers	White	Male	25	Maryland	Soil conservation
[?] Davis	White	Male	22	Tennessee	Helper- Dairy
Bernard Wallenhorst	White	Male	59	Maryland	
Jayey Mills	Black	Male	22	Maryland	Laborer- Surplus tire company
Henry Barron	White	Male	50	Washington D.C.	Cook- County Jail

D. Project Team

Team Leads:



Rachel Bissett – Team Lead/Researcher
Masters of Historic Preservation
rbisset1@umd.edu

Rachel Bissett is a second-year graduate student at the University of Maryland. She has a background in Mid-Atlantic archaeology as well as experience utilizing GIS for archaeology and historic preservation purposes. She currently works as a graduate assistant in the Archaeology Lab at UMD, cataloging and studying imported and local tobacco pipes from the Kippax Plantation.

Rachel researched and wrote the *Daily Life and Conditions* and *Women and Gender* sections and was the editor of the report.

Joe Tannir – Team Lead/Researcher
Masters of Architecture and Historic Preservation
jtannir@umd.edu

Joe Tannir is a fourth-year dual degree Architecture and Historic Preservation (Path B master's degree student at the University of Maryland). He is currently a graduate teaching assistant in the architecture school and has worked as both a teaching assistant and research assistant in the UMD Preservation Program. Prior to attending graduate school, he worked for over a decade as a survey analyst at the U.S. Census Bureau. His strengths and interests include archival and building research.

Joe researched and wrote the *Architectural History* and *POWs* section of the report and designed the informational posters.



Researchers:



Janet T. Adesina – Researcher
Masters of Historic Preservation
jadesin1@umd.edu

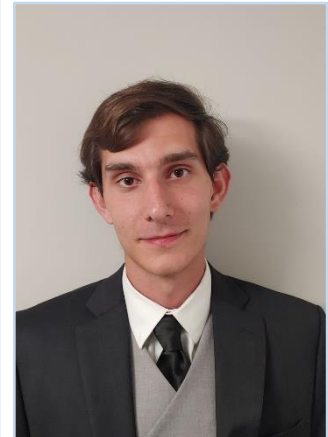
Janet T. Adesina is a trained Architect and second-year graduate student at the University of Maryland Historic Preservation Program. She presently works as a graduate assistant at the Maryland National Capital Parks and Planning Commission, engaging in various historic area work permit reviews, tax credits, section 106, and historical research. Janet is also currently engaged in research and community works in Lakeland, College Park, utilizing 3D documentation and photogrammetry to document the historic structures within the community.

Janet researched and wrote the *African American History, Slavery, and The Underground Railroad* section of the report.

Justin Mohammadi – Researcher
Masters of Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation
jmohamma@umd.edu

Justin is a third-year dual degree graduate student at the University of Maryland studying Applied Anthropology and Historic Preservation with a focus on Mid-Atlantic Historical Archaeology. Justin utilizes digital documentation methodology to aid in the visualization and preservation of historic sites.

Justin researched and wrote the *Lynchings and Mob Violence* and *Flooding and the Ellicott City Jail* sections of the report.



Chris Hutter – Researcher
Masters of Historic Preservation
chutter@umd.edu

Chris is a graduate student in the third and final year of their Masters of Historic Preservation at the University of Maryland. Prior to entering the graduate program, they received their B.A. in Liberal Arts from St. John's College in Annapolis. They worked as a graduate assistant for the 1856 Project by researching documentary evidence illuminating the lives of plantation owners and enslaved workers on the land that became the UMD campus.

Chris researched and wrote the *Early History* and *LGBTQ+* sections of the report.

E. RFP



PRESERVATION MARYLAND

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Research Services

Preservation Maryland, a nonprofit organization headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, is soliciting proposals for professional research services to conduct historical research and prepare a historic context statement on the historic Ellicott City Jail located at 1 Emory Street, Ellicott City, Maryland 21043.

Preservation Maryland requests that interested parties respond to the solicitation by **5:00 P.M. ET on Friday, October 13, 2023**.

1. CLIENT

Preservation Maryland is Maryland's oldest, largest and most effective preservation organization. The organization works to protect the state's irreplaceable heritage while creating a more equitable & sustainable future. Through strategic programming focused on preserving place, championing change, and growing the historic preservation trades workforce, the organization uses the best of our past to solve some of today's biggest issues, creating measurable impact on the lives of current and future Marylanders. To learn more, visit www.preservationmaryland.org.

2. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Owned by Howard County, the old Ellicott City Jail sits adjacent to the former Circuit Court in Ellicott City. Built in 1851 and 1878, it is a contributing resource in Ellicott City's historic district tucked between the Tiber and Patapsco River valleys. Until slavery's end in 1864, the core served as the site where officials held freedom seekers and individuals charged with enticing enslaved persons to act against slaveholders. Afterwards, use as a county jail continued until the early 1980s, with the Sheriff's Department occupying the building until it was vacated in approximately 2008. It has since remained empty and unused and is slated for mixed-use redevelopment.

Preservation Maryland is partnering with county and state government and local stakeholders to pursue adaptive reuse of the jail to activate the area and support the surrounding community. The current plan envisions rehabilitating the structure under a lease with the County into collaborative space for Preservation Maryland and other preservation and conservation nonprofits, public multi-purpose space for community meetings and events, and a Center for Climate, Heritage, and Preservation Studies. The project will also engage diverse voices in the site's interpretation and provide publicly accessible contemplative space around the building to commemorate and memorialize those once unjustly incarcerated onsite and tragically lynched on the grounds.

3. SERVICES AND SCOPE OF WORK

As part of Preservation Maryland's efforts to understand and tell the full story of the site, Preservation Maryland is seeking consultant services to conduct historical research and prepare a historic context statement. Sited at 1 Emory Street -- or 3709 Park Avenue -- Ellicott City, Maryland, 21043, the property (parcel 0243, tax map 025A) comprises the approx. 8,000 sq. ft. structure and surrounding 9,975 sq. ft. of County-owned land and has been referred to as the Howard County Jail, Ellicott City Jail, Emory Jail, and Willow Grove throughout its lifetime.

The goal of this project is to establish context for what has occurred onsite, the implications of these events, and the people involved in them to inform interpretive and educational materials and installations.

3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 248, Baltimore, Maryland 21211
o. 410-685-2886 f. 410-539-2182 e. info@presmd.org

Objectives include:

- Identifying the social, cultural, economic, political, environmental etc. conditions that existed from the building's construction until the conclusion of its use as a jail in the 1980s
- Identifying notable figures associated with the site, whether as inmates, jailers, community members, officials, etc.
- Establishing a timeline of events
- Locating historical depictions of the jail and its surroundings

Anticipated work to be undertaken may include but is not limited to:

- Reviewing documentation and sources already collected by Preservation Maryland, i.e.:
 - MIHP files
 - NRHP historic district listing
 - Historical maps
 - Congressional Record of Proceedings
 - Newspaper clippings
 - Maryland State Archives microfilm and entries
- Compiling research, including historical photographs and primary sources, on the following topics:
 - Use of site before construction of the jail
 - Construction and architectural history
 - Relation to the Underground Railroad
 - The lynching of Nicholas Snowden and Jacob Henson and near lynching of James Clark
 - German prisoners of war held onsite
 - Members of the LGBTQ+ community held onsite
 - Other notable figures affiliated with the jail
 - Other notable events that occurred onsite, related to its intended purpose or otherwise
 - Interaction between climate change, the site's development, and the surrounding environment
- Providing a draft report (at least 50% complete) for Client review
- Submitting a final report with time for Client review and approval

4. ANTICIPATED TIMELINE

Item	Deadline
Present proposal for PresMd feedback	Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at 4:00 P.M. ET
Submit finalized proposal	Friday, October 13, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. ET
Begin work upon PresMd acceptance of proposal	Week of October 16, 2023
Present final report	Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. ET
Submit finalized report as single PDF via email to LHouston@presmd.org	Monday, December 18, 2023 at 5:00 P.M. ET

5. INSTRUCTIONS TO RESPONDENTS

All proposals must be submitted as a single PDF attached to an email delivered to LHouston@presmd.org by 5:00 P.M. ET on Friday, October 13, 2023.

Proposals may be brief; however, Respondents should include a breakdown of the work to be completed and deliverables to be submitted in relation to a project schedule and budget.

F. Proposal Budget

BUDGET/COST JUSTIFICATION

PERSONNEL COSTS:

Labor Costs:

Student Labor:

All student labor is charged at hourly adjusted rate of FY 2024 University of Maryland Minimum Stipend Levels for Graduate Assistants and Fellows, 9 Month Stipend Level, Step I, assuming 150 hours/semester workload. [Stipend Memo | The Graduate School \(umd.edu\)](https://umd.edu)

9 Month Half-Time Graduate Assistant, Step 1: \$12,769/contract year.

adjusted to hourly rate of 300 hours of labor/contract year.

$$\$12,769/300 \text{ hours} = \$42.56/\text{hour}$$

Researcher/Team Lead Costs:

Average 14 hours/week, over a 15 week semester: 210 Hours/Semester

Total cost: $\$42.56 \times 210 \text{ Hours} = \$8,937.60$ /Period Per Student

Total Cost, 2 Researcher/Team Leads: $\$8,937.60 \times 2 = 17,875.20$

Researcher Costs:

Average 12 hours/week, over a 15 week semester: 180 Hours/Semester

Total cost: $\$42.56 \times 180 \text{ Hours} = \$7,660.80$ /Period Per Student

Total Cost, 3 Researchers: $\$7,660.80 \times 3 = \$22,982.40$

Assistant Consultant:

Average 10 hours/week, over a 15 week semester: 150 Hours/Semester

Total Cost: $\$42.56 \times 150 \text{ Hours} = \$6,384.00$

Total Cost, 1 Assistant Consultant: $\$6,384.0$

Total cost, all student labor: $\$22,892.40 + \$17,875.20 + \$6,384.00 = \$47,241.60$

Senior Consultant Labor:

Senior Consultant Labor Cost is calculated by using the rate charged by the consultant for a similar RFP in 2020 (1882 Foundation, *Asian Americans in Washington DC, RFP for the DC Preservation League*, Washington DC, 2020), and applying the BLS inflation calculator to find new equivalent rate. [BLS inflation conversion linked here.](#)

Hourly Cost in June 2020: \$50/Hour. Consumer Price Index Inflation Adjusted to \$59.55/hour in August 2023, latest date available.

Average 7 hours/week over a 15 week semester: 105 hours/Semester

Total Cost: $\$59.55 \times 105 \text{ Hours} = \$6,252.75$

Total cost, senior consultant labor: $\$6,252.75$

Total cost, all labor: \$47,241.60 + \$6,252.75 = 53,494.35

REIMBURSABLE EXPENSES

Printing:

Binding done on campus at Campus Copy Center. Source: [Copy Centers Pricing | Procurement & Business Services \(umd.edu\)](https://www.umd.edu/copy-centers-pricing)

Bound Booklets:

25-50 sheet double-sided 8.5x11 Booklet @ \$0.315/sheet = \$7.88- \$ 15.75 per book. (prices for 25 or 50 sheet booklets)

Coil binding @ \$1.50

Transparency Cover @ \$1.00

Total Cost/ Booklet: \$7.88 - \$ 18.25 each

@ 30 copies: \$311.40 - \$547.50 for all booklet printing

Total cost, booklet printing: \$547.50

Posters:

48" x 36" Printing on Foam Core: \$112+\$55 = \$167 each x 10 Posters= \$1670

Total Cost for 10 posters: \$1,670.00

Total Printing Cost: \$1670+ \$547.50 = \$2,217.50

Postage:

Cost to send estimated 5 copies to collaborating partners, via USPS Priority Mail (including envelope, this method is not significantly more expensive than sending product via media mail, which was estimated at 5.65 for postage alone)

Source: [Retail Postage Price Calculator Mail Services \(usps.com\)](https://usps.com/retail-postage-price-calculator)

Cost to send printed book via priority mail in-state, using USPS-Provided Flat Rate Envelope: \$10.40. @ 5 copies = \$52.00

Total Postage Cost: \$52.00

Food and Refreshments:

Calculated for 35 people

Panera Bread

Cold Sandwich Assortment (serves 5-7, per order, [costs linked here](#)) @ 65.69* 5 orders = \$328.45

Delivery Cost with tip: \$70

Drinks and desserts, purchased from supermarket, estimated: \$85

Total cost of food and refreshments: \$483.45

Total Food and Refreshments Cost: \$483.45

(Note that UMD Catering Service, Good Tydings, is a possibility, and [pricing may be competitive](#), even with delivery service. Panera or other outside commercial service is the usual for HISP events.)

Venue:

Venue Rental: UMD Architecture Building Rooms. No cost to program.
Preservation Maryland not responsible for making room arrangements. Comparable room, provided here for value comparison is the Pyon Su (Room 2108) at the Stamp Student Union. [Rental costs](#): \$210 for a partial day for individuals outside the university and \$85 dollars a day for a university department. This comparative value is not included in the budget. Emory Lane Studio offers use of its shared office space for all events.

Total Venue Cost: \$0

Total Cost, All Program Costs: \$2,217.50 + \$52.00 + 0 = \$2,269.50

ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS:

Site Visits:

Reimbursement rate of \$0.655/ mile is based off of Maryland Department of Budget and Management guidelines reimbursement for state employees who use private vehicles for State business, from July 31, 2023, ([2023 Privately Owned Vehicle Reimbursement Rates](#))

Visit to DC Workhouse and Reformatory, Laurel Hill, Virginia. (August 31, 2023)

Cost associated with round trip car trip to site from campus: $0.655 * 68$ miles round trip = \$44.54

For 6 vehicles: \$44.54 per vehicle *6 vehicles = \$267.24 transportation cost.

Visit to Old Jail Museum, Leonardtown Maryland. (October 7, 2023)

Cost associated with round trip car trip to museum from campus: $0.655 * 130$ miles round trip = \$85.15

For 6 vehicles: \$85.15 per vehicle *6 vehicles = \$510.90 transportation cost.

Visit to Eastern State Penitentiary, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. (Visit date TBD)

Cost associated with round trip car trip to museum from campus: $0.655 * 265$ miles round trip = \$173.58

For 6 vehicles: \$173.58 per vehicle *6 vehicles = \$1041.45 transportation cost.

Entrance fee for 7 individuals:

[\\$17 Student Admission Fee](#)

Entrance fee: \$17 Admission * 7 Individuals = \$119 total

Total Transportation Costs: = \$1,819.59

Total Admission Costs: \$119

Total Site Visit Costs: \$267.24 + \$510.90 + \$1041.45 + \$119 = \$1,938.59

Research:

Fees and costs associated with research (Archives, Site visit, fees)

Howard County Historical Society: \$35 per use of each collection.

Estimated use of 10 collections: \$35* 10 collections = \$350.00

Total Research Costs: \$350.00

Total Cost, All Administrative Costs: \$1,938.59 + \$350.00 = 2,288.59

GRAND TOTAL, ALL PROJECT COSTS: \$53,494 + \$2,269.50 + \$2,288.59 = \$58,052.09

G. Posters

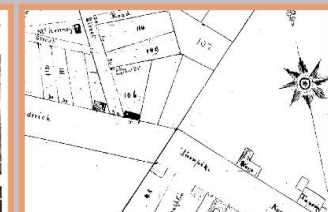
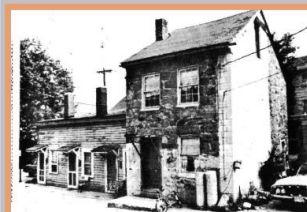
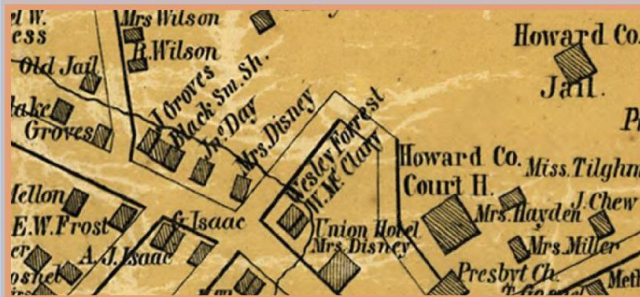
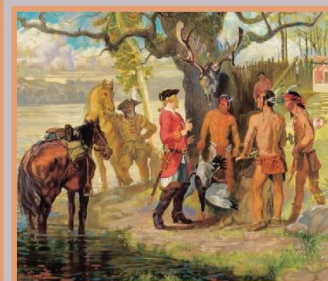
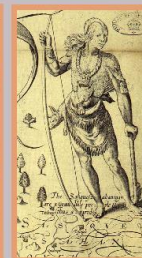
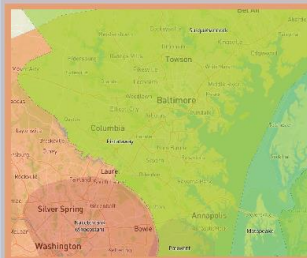
SITE PREHISTORY

The area now known as Howard County has been occupied for thousands of years by indigenous peoples. Projectile points and other artifacts dating back to the Paleo-Indian Period (pre-10,000 BCE) have been recovered throughout the region. Native Americans often hunted and foraged throughout the Patapsco River valley, and shelters have been found where they made camp. When John Smith became the first European to explore the upper Chesapeake Bay in 1608, he encountered the Piscataway people south of modern-day Washington, D.C., and the Conestoga-Susquehannock where the Susquehanna River meets the Bay. Although neither tribe had permanent settlements in what would become Howard County, they both used the area for hunting and gathering materials. The arrival of more English colonists brought infectious diseases, warfare, forced conversions, and a hunger for land that decimated native populations and largely dispossessed them of their territories by the early 18th century.

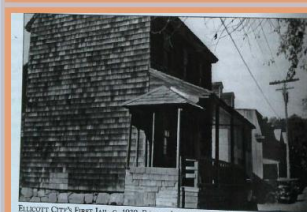
The Patapsco area was largely rural and sparsely populated by white settlers until 1772, when the brothers John, Andrew, and Joseph Ellicott built a flour mill on the river. The brothers convinced surrounding planters to switch from tobacco to wheat, and helped build roads that would take their flour to markets out west and to the Baltimore port. Ellicott's Mills became an important stop for travelers, especially after the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad built its first terminal in the town in 1830. Irvin McLaughlin and his wife, Deborah, opened the Union Hotel as one of several businesses catering to overnight travelers. The hotel stood on a plot of land called "Mount Misery," and included Capitoline Hill in its 10 acres. Business was difficult in the early years, and Irvin was deeply in debt when he died in the mid-1820s. Deborah continued to run the hotel and slowly began to make a profit. She married Edward Disney in 1835; although their marriage lasted less than a year before he fell ill and died in early 1836, her business would afterwards usually be referred to as "Disney's Tavern." In 1840 she officially bought the land for the hotel, and continued to operate it until she sold the business in 1862.

Meanwhile, Ellicott's Mills and the surrounding area were still a part of Anne Arundel County, but were gaining in population and influence. The Maryland General Assembly agreed in 1838 to establish the Howard District of Anne Arundel County, which would achieve full county status when it had established centers of law and government. District commissioners purchased two lots of land from Deborah Disney's property, where the county courthouse and jail were to be erected. A nearby smaller structure was used as the courthouse between 1840 and 1843, when the official courthouse was completed. Construction of the jail did not begin until 1851, probably due to lack of funds, and until its opening, the basement of a house next to the 1840-43 courthouse served to hold prisoners.

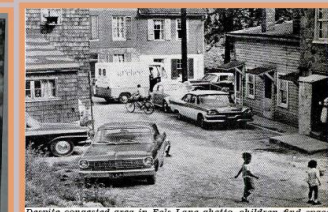
The jail was a single room in the basement where prisoners of all races and genders were held while awaiting trial. Despite restraints in the walls and a wooden fence surrounding the house, breakouts were apparently quite common. The lack of beds, blankets, and adequate lavatory facilities led to the basement jail being declared a public nuisance. The official jail was opened in late 1851, and McKenzie's basement transferred its last prisoner to the institution shortly thereafter. Over the years, the area where the original courthouse and jail stood came to be known as "Fell's Lane." By the mid-20th century it was a predominantly African American community. Residents were forced to live in substandard housing, often with no running water. The neighborhood pushed for better housing conditions, but the county decided to demolish the homes and moved the residents to new subsidized housing. The original courthouse and jail were the only buildings saved from the neighborhood where Ellicott Mills Drive and Parking Lot F now stand. The original courthouse was destroyed in the 2018 flood; the fate of the jail in McKenzie's basement is unknown.



Council Considers Motion To Sell Old Courthouse



INSIDE REPORT ON NATION'S SMALLEST BLACK GHETTO 'LIVE LIKE DOGS,' SAYS YOUTH



EMORY LANE STUDIO



ARCHITECTURE PLANNING & PRESERVATION

THE OLD ELLICOTT CITY JAIL

Images, clockwise from top left: Online map project by Native Land Digital; Susquehannock figure from John Smith's 1612 Map of the Chesapeake Bay; Clovis Point found in Anne Arundel County, courtesy of Jefferson Patterson Park & Museum; Meeting the Piscataway, William Woodward; Martine's Map of Howard County, Maryland, 1860; Plat 2 from "Division of the Real Estate of George H. Wilson, deceased," 1840; J. McLaughlin, 1967; Ibid. Scan from Images of America; Ellicott City by Martha Wright Wier; Howard County Times, March 5, 1970; "Disney's Tavern," Howard County Historical Society, Maryland.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY

The Ellicott City Jail was constructed in three main periods, the original portion in 1851, a large addition in 1878, and a major interior renovation occurring in 1953-1954.

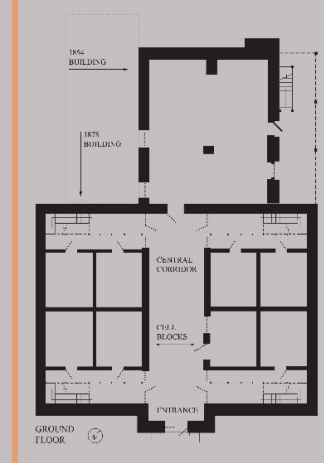
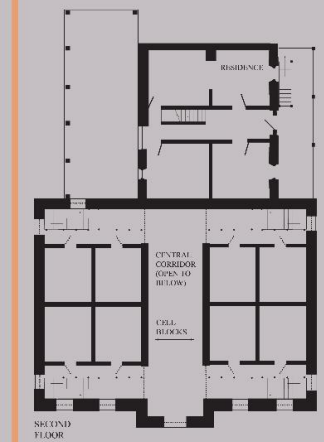
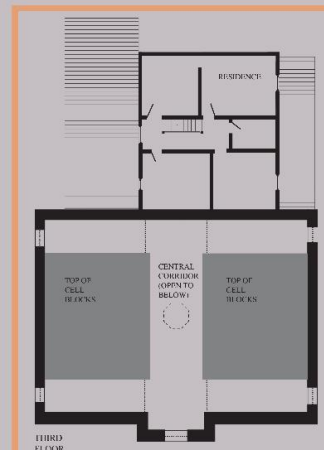
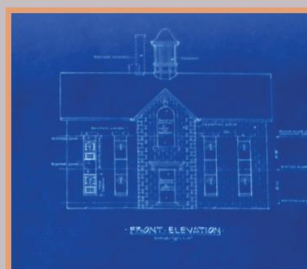
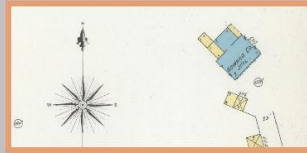
The 1851 jail is associated with the lower two stories of the current structure, in the northern corner of the building. The masonry in this older portion of the building is roughly coursed with variations in block sizes. Stones are hewn, showing prominent point and hammer markings. Work on the original portion of the jail was begun in February 1851 and completed and ready for inspection by the town Board of Commissioners in December of that same year. The 1851 jail was intended as a replacement for an earlier jail that was too small.

The second major period of construction of the jail is associated with the 1878 expansion to the southeast of the original site, and the addition of a framed expansion of the jailer's residence above the initial 1851 stone structure. The 1878 jail addition was designed by Architect John Laing, an architect and civil engineer originally from Scotland. The layout of the 1878 addition is not documented, but reasonable assumptions about its floorplan can be gathered from visual inspection of today's building, historical photographs, descriptions from newspapers and Board of Corrections reports, as well as, most importantly, notations made on 1952 blueprints that were used for the 1954 interior renovation. Documenting changes to be made to a building that had been mostly unchanged since 1878, these 1952 drawings of the ground floor show outlines of original masonry partitions with instructions to remove or brick up openings.

These plans depict the ground floor of the 1878 addition as containing a single corridor running from the front door to the back with four groupings of cells, each grouping containing two cells per floor, flanking this central corridor. Cell walls were made of brick, and doors faced a smaller corridor that ran along the outside walls of the 1878 building, with the only source of light or air into a cell being the cell door. There was one exception among this grouping on the ground floor, in the eastern cell block: this cell faced the corridor rather than the exterior wall. Stairs were located in each cell block and were likely of a straight run or switchback configuration, leading up to a second story balcony/mezzanine in front of each pair of second floor cells. With a capacity of two people per cell, and a total of 16 cells, the jail could house 32 inmates at maximum capacity. It should be noted that the floor to ceiling heights of the 1878 main jail building were likely higher than those of the 1853 addition, and passage between the two likely only occurred on the ground floor.

The third and final major period of change of the jail came in 1954, with the major renovation of the interior of the jail. In contrast to the quartered solid masonry cell blocks served by a central corridor of the 1878 jail, the 1954 renovation created two full floor plates and eliminated the double height central corridor, though the central corridor and general four cell blocks of the original were retained for the overall layout of the ground floor. This renovation had a rated capacity of 28 prisoners on the second floor alone, with additional cells on the ground floor for women, juveniles, higher security prisoners, as well as a drunk tank. As of 1959, a bridge had been built to a newly finished third floor of the 1878 building, above the holding cells, and was reported to house the headquarters of the county's Civil Defense organization.

The jail ended its use as a site of confinement in 1983, when the new Howard County Detention Center was opened in Jessup with an initial 63 inmates and a capacity of 108.



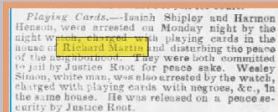
THE OLD ELLICOTT CITY JAIL

Images: Left column, top to bottom: The jail in 2022; Detail from 1899 Sanborn Map, courtesy of the Library of Congress; Business card of John Laing, circa 1878, courtesy of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore; Front, north-facing view of building (north east elevation), from 1936 WPA project, courtesy of the University of Maryland Special Collections; Rear, south-facing view of jail from 1936 WPA project, courtesy of the University of Maryland Special Collections; Front, north-facing view of building (south east elevation) by Celia M. Holland, 1959, courtesy of the University of Maryland Special Collections; Front elevation of building from 1952 blueprints, courtesy of the Howard County Historical Society, Maryland. Right column: reconstructed speculative floorplan of jail, circa 1900, based on 1952 blueprints, historic maps, photographs, and inspection reports.

African American were a very integral part of the development of Ellicott City and Howard County, both the free and the enslaved, were charged with all manner of claims to the circuit and eventually locked in the county jail. Major newspapers like the Baltimore Sun and the Ellicott Times, were key sources used in developing the stories of African Americans as related to the jail. Also the Maryland State Archives Legacy of Slavery, Howard County Center of African American Culture, Maryland Truth Lynching and Reconciliation and the Howard County Lynching Truth and Reconciliation provided various useful connections.

Understanding that he may not get a free and fair trial, Augustus petitioned the Judge and sent an appeal for his case to be transferred from the circuit court to the court of rounds. It is of note that Augustus was a man familiar with the law and its intricacies and insisted on defending his own case, however despite his resolute defense, he was convicted by the circuit court of Arundel county and sentenced to be sold as a slave for seven years out of state in cash in 1862.

Mr. Martins owning a Negro gambling house invokes series of questions, like, Did he have a license? When did the gambling house open? Was it a business venture or just for pleasure? What kind of nomenclature was built within the space that allowed for both white and black to mix? Was it a safe space? How long did it run for? These questions and more would require more research and in-depth studies to answer, as well as understanding the subsequent event and aftermath of Richard Martins arrest and the eventual state of the Negro gambling house.



Assault and Battery.—David Owings, charged with assaulting and beating his wife, was yesterday arrested by officer Ross, and committed to jail for court by Justice Bordley. George Gordon, upon the charge of assaulting and beating his wife, was arrested by officers Barnes and McHenry. Justice Grammer committed him to jail to answer before court.

A Negro Gambling House.—**Richard Martin** was arrested on Monday night by Captain Stone and watchman Airey, upon the charge of keeping a negro gambling house, and disturbing the peace of the neighborhood. He was released on security by Justice Root, to answer the charge before court.

Early Ellicott City BLACK HISTORY

A Historic African American Church, Log Cabin and Knechtung

MARLENA JAREAU, WAYNE DAVIS AND CHRISTINE BULBUL

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Just before they uncovered, were heaped thickly in the soil the plants common between it and its leaves. After the plants were tipped, no new leaves were allowed to develop and the above-ground portion of the taproot was left to wither and decay. The taproot was then severed at its base and the plant was placed in a box and covered with soil. The plants were then placed in a box and covered with soil. The plants were then placed in a box and covered with soil.



Images: Left column top to bottom: Circuit court record for Augustus Collins, Howard County Historical Society, Maryland. Left Column second line: Augustus Collins charged with intent to murder Amos W. Welch, Maryland State Archives. Right column top to bottom: Richard Martin arrested and charged, Howard County Historical Society, Maryland. Right column second line: Early Fillicott City Black History cover, Howard County Lynching Truth & Reconciliation, Inc. Third line: Black History in Fillicott City, and Slavery, Howard County Historical Society, Maryland. Fourth line: Black History in Fillicott City, Howard County Historical Society, Maryland.

SLAVERY & THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

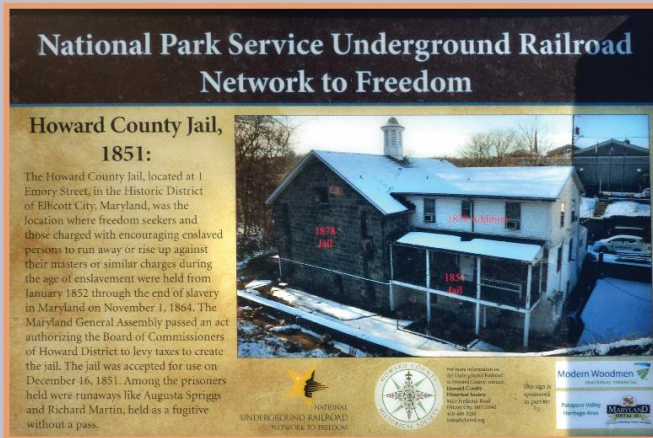
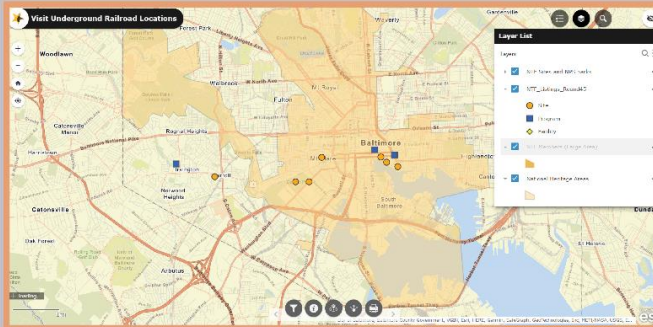
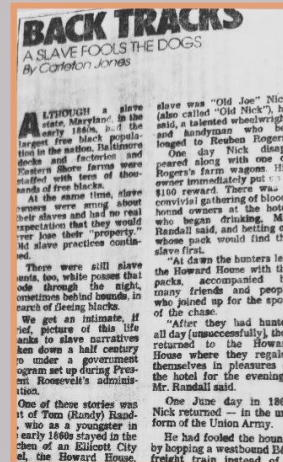
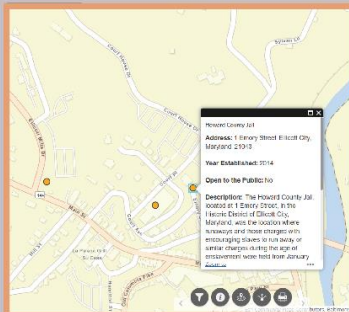
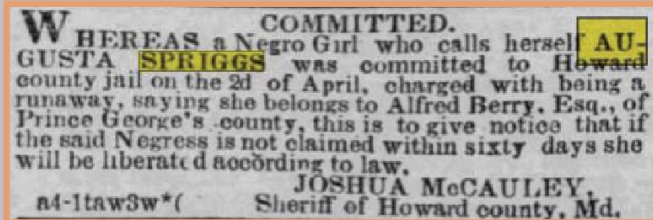
The Underground Railroad was a system of support for freedom seekers beginning in the 1700s, providing a means for the enslaved to reach freedom. It was a system of hidden spaces carved out by free and enslaved African Americans and compassionate whites. Different sects were involved and played vital roles in the functioning and effectiveness of the underground railroad, some guided slaves to safe houses, some hid them on their properties, while some sponsored their transportation, which all formed the intricate network of the underground railroad.

The National Park service has done extensive research and scholastic effort in creating a theme and contextual studies on the underground railroad and the creation of the Network to Freedom, which is aimed at honoring, preserving and promoting the history of resistance to enslavement through escape and flight. In 1998 the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Act was passed to educate the public, provide technical assistance in documenting, preserving and interpreting underground railroad history, to create a network of historic sites; interpretive and educational programs; research and educational facilities all with a "verifiable association" to the Underground Railroad. Following the guidelines and criteria set by the National Park Service the Ellicott city jail is a significant site and contributes to the underground railroad network, the stories of Augusta Spriggs and Joe Nick provide context to this claim. The site was listed in 2018, and incorporated into the NPS GIS.

Various terminologies used in describing escaping African Americans were set and constructed of an enslaving society or by oppressive abolitionists, therefore, words used in discussing slavery and freedom then, reflects how the dominant society viewed African Americans and their efforts toward freedom, such as Fugitive slaves, runaway slaves etc.

In 1857 Augusta Spriggs was locked at the Ellicott City Jail, and a committal notice was placed in the Baltimore Sun by Joshua McCauley being the sheriff of Howard County in 1857 about her. She was said to have escaped from within Maryland and nearby Prince George's County, claimed to have belonged to a lawyer by the name of Alfred Berry. Augusta Spriggs was locked in the Jail and has committal notices required by law a timeline for the individual to be claimed by the owner, and if not they will be released, a 60 day notice was given in which she will be released if not claimed.

There is a very popular story or claim of a fugitive slave known as "Nick" also known as the "Old Nick story" based on his popularity and how much it has been told and retold. Truthfully, some loopholes exist contextually in the story and it does require more research work to be done through the Ellicott city time to bring some edge to the story. Nick was said to have escaped from his master Reuben Rogers, and enlisted in the union army. A reward of \$100 was put out for his arrest, but he was never found, eventually he returned to Ellicott city in 1865 after the civil war, but his former slave owner insisted on him being arrested and locked up. He was eventually released by the U.S Marshal from Baltimore and Mr. Reuben was charged to the federal court.



EMORY
LANE
STUDIO

SCHOOL OF
ARCHITECTURE
PLANNING & PRESERVATION

THE OLD ELlicOTT CITY JAIL

Images: Top: Augusta Spriggs, Committal Notice, Baltimore Sun. Second line, left column: NPS Underground railroad network to freedom logo, U.S. - NPS. Second line, right column: Joe Nick, Howard County Historical Society, Maryland. Third line: Howard County Jail listed as a contributing site to the Underground Railroad Network. "AreGIS" NPS, National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Fourth Line: Howard County Jail is highlighted under the National Heritage Area. "AreGIS" NPS "Explore Network to Freedom Listings - Underground Railroad" Fifth Line: Howard County Historical Marker for Jail.

DAILY LIFE & CONDITIONS

The Old Ellicott City Jail was considered one of the worst in the state since its beginnings in the 1850s. Using County Jail Inspections by the Department of Welfare and Board of Corrections, census records, and newspaper articles, the daily life of wardens and inmates and the subpar conditions of the jail were explored and documented.

Under the sheriff's supervision, the warden was the only official employee of the jail for most of its history. Unofficial employees included relatives of the warden, prisoner trustees, and, by the mid-20th century, guards began to be employed by the county. For most of its tenure, the jail operated on a fee system where the warden received 75 cents per day for each prisoner. In 1947, it switched to a salary system where the warden received \$1,200 a year for his duties. Over the years, the salary increased; in 1955, it was \$2,000, and in 1969, it was \$6,125.

There were at least 27 wardens over its history, many of whom served shorter, one- to two-year terms. The two wardens who served the longest were John T. Ray from 1862 to at least 1885, and Charles M. Cumberland from 1920 to 1930. Harry L. Cross was warden from 1938 to 1945 but continued to work as deputy warden until 1963, when he was 80. Many wardens received credit for bettering the jail's conditions during their time. Despite their efforts, the jail remained in a cycle of disrepair with no permanent changes.

As early as 1877, the jail was criticized for not looking "much like civilization, but it belonged rather to the dark ages." Dark, damp, and dirty were the three most repeated descriptors. Natural lighting was a major issue with the jail, and despite electric lights being installed in the 1930s, jail inspectors constantly complained that they could not see into the cells. Poor lighting and ventilation were major issues since the 1878 expansions and could only be fixed if a new jail was built. Toilets and bathing facilities were outside the cells under staircases and usually unsanitary. The bedding was made of straw and more straw was often on the floor than in the bed. Vermin, such as mice and bed bugs, were a constant issue.

There were few opportunities for rehabilitation or jobs for those confined in the jail. For most, the only job available was general jail maintenance. By 1946, a vegetable garden was set up, so some prisoners were allowed outside to tend to it. This was the only opportunity for prisoners to go outside at the time, as there was no exercise yard. In the winter, the jail was heated by coal stoves set up in the main corridor. The warden would allow inmates to gather around but would force them back into their cells at night. In 1951, two inmates took the opportunity to escape while the warden's back was turned so they would not have to go back to their freezing cells.

Escapes were common, but even so, some wardens continued to work off an honor system and allowed prisoners to roam freely around the jail. However, this did not make up for the inmates' conditions in the jail. In 1969, after the major renovations in 1954, a prisoner begged to be sent to the State Penitentiary so he could have a job and a place to exercise rather than be "closed up like a wild animal." In 1972, prisoners wrote a letter of complaint to a circuit court judge asking for better treatment, such as time allowed outside, longer visitation times, better food, and to receive newspapers.



Maryland's 'Worst Jail' Somewhat Cleaner Now

By Ray P. Davis
(Evening Sun Staff Correspondent)

Ellicott City, Feb. 9.—Warden Harry L. Cross is a kind old man, longer said. "And I've only served 35."

He receives \$200 a year for being warden of the Ellicott City Jail, \$60 a month for acting as deputy sheriff, and the 50¢ a day to feed each prisoner.

Awakened from his sleep to comment on the report made last fall by Edgar M. Gerlach, Federal prison inspector, that "Howard county's jail is the worst in the State—the episode of all that a jail should not be," he stretched himself and said:

"When these fellows visited this place and made out that report, we just happened to have forty prisoners here. Sure it looked bad then. But it looks better now, with only six prisoners, doesn't it? And I give 'em three sausage for breakfast and a hunk of fried potatoes that day."

Prisoners Differ

In private, few of the prisoners had different opinions.

But the jail is cleaner now. There is a colored prisoner there who has scrubbed the cement floors and scrubbed the crude wooden table where the prisoners eat—clean enough for him, remodeling in holes where they have carved little incense and obscene words.

"Was this place pretty dirty when you came?" he was asked.

The warden was listening. "I'm in for 80 days," the colored prisoner said. "I've only served 35."

"Born the toilet work," said the warden, shaking one of the two.

Salutary Cuts

We walked up the spiral iron stairway that leads to "solitary cells" on a second floor, a kind of Spanish balcony. And when we had reached the top and come down again, the toilet was still flushing.

On the second floor is a bathroom. Two showers and a tub. Hot and cold running water. But the prisoners yesterday were all locked in one cell—there were four or twelve vacant ones.

"We even have electricity now," said the warden, pressing the button in the black bathroom. He pressed it again. "Must be out of order," he said.

Just Famigated

"We just famigated in there," said the warden, opening a black door of Calcutta. "Can you smell it?"

There was only the smell of old jail.

Ellicott City's magistrate, Louis M. Lombardy, who has quarters when he sees men and women— "but no inmates"—to that left, said, "It's completely antiquated and dirty, as it's just what some of these criminals need."

Sheriff L. Edwin Orr, who lives in Jessup and monitors the jail (Continued On Page 26, Column 8)

Ellicott City Jail Called Worst In State In Inspectors' Report

Branded as 'Epitome of All a Prison Should Not Be'; 4 Other Institutions Hit

By the Associated Press.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 8.—A declaration of being the "worst jail" in the State and "the epitome of all that a jail should not be" was included today in a report to State authorities covering county prisons.

The section of the report compiled by a present and a former Federal prison inspector included a ream of conditions in Calvert, Charles and St. Marys Counties, as well as Howard.

At Calvert County Jail at Prince Frederick it was reported a widow who kept a boarding house ran the institution, depending on her colored of State authorities.

"This jail has long had a reputation of being the 'worst jail' in the State and 'the epitome of all that a jail should not be,'" was a very bad jail order, the jail was dark and dirty and there was evidence of excessive use of disinfectant."

"There is no hot water available anywhere in the jail," the report declared.

Federal Prison Inspector Edgar M. Gerlach and Baltimore County Probation Officer Richard W. Hicks, Frederick it was reported a widow who kept a boarding house ran the institution, depending on her colored of State authorities.

28 INSPECTION OF THE COUNTY JAIL OF MARYLAND

too low to flush out over a ledge at the doorway. It was dark, damp and dirty; badly in need of paint and ready for listing the defects and shortcomings in the first report, the only recommendation listed under "needed repairs or improvements" was "a new jail." It was one of three, for which no other recommendation could reasonably be made. At that time, and probably yet, the main walls might be substantial enough to permit tearing out the interior and installing modern metal equipment for cells and window openings braced and pointed up. It has fourteen cells used for housing prisoners, and half of them dungeons unit for the purpose.

Several times during the inspections this jail was put in the "C" Class due to some effort at improvements, such as provision for bathing, better segregation (or more accurately, some segregation) for women prisoners; better cleaning; limited number of electric lights; but it has always retrograded and in the opinion of the inspector only a new or entirely remodeled jail would be recommended if the institution is to have any curative effects upon the prisoners committed to its care.

Dry-Law Prisoners Enjoy Comforts In Jail



Honor System Is Prevalent With Ellicott City Prisoners

Success Of His Plan Attributed By Warden To Good Food, Buz On Whisky And Assistance Given By His Wife

Warden Edward H. Day, of the Ellicott City Jail, says that the honor system which he has put in effect at the jail is the reason for the success of his plan. He says that the honor system is the reason for the success of his plan. He says that the honor system is the reason for the success of his plan.

Howard County jail grievances voiced

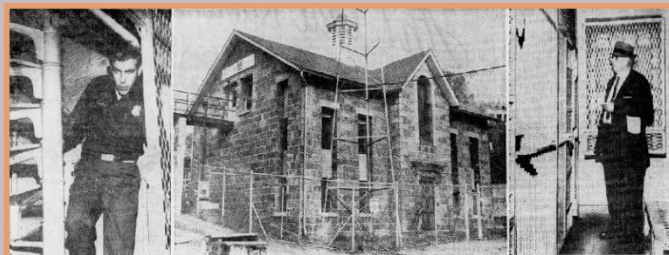
ELlicOTT CITY, Md. (AP)—A group of Howard County Jail inmates who asked the county circuit court to help them obtain outside exercise, newspapers and improved food, have been turned down.

But Howard County Circuit Judge T. Mayfield Hunt suggested Monday that space in the 85-year-old jail be improved for exercise.

Ten inmates, lead by 21-year-old Glenn M. Bunn who is awaiting trial, testified Wednesday that food was "ill prepared," they were denied outside exercise and access to newspapers.

Sheriff Charles C. Seneaney said his prisoners were "not getting newspapers unless we are ordered by the court."

Hunt ruled the inmates were not being denied constitutional rights.



Arundel Educator Defends Proposed Pay Hikes At Top

Snack Bar Provides 'Meals' For Jail

Black, Decker Challenges Tax Bill



THE OLD ELLICOTT CITY JAIL

Images: Column 1, from top to bottom: "Hot-Weather Days At Ellicott City Jail." The Evening Sun, August 7, 1928; "Maryland's 'Worst Jail' Somewhat Cleaner Now." The Evening Sun, February 9, 1945; "Howard County jail grievances voiced." The Capital, July 25, 1972. Column 2, from top to bottom: "Ellicott City Jail Called Worst In State In Inspectors' Report." The Evening Sun, February 5, 1945; Department of Correction, Nineteenth Annual Report of the Inspection of the County Jail of Maryland. (Baltimore: Board of Correction, 1943), 28; "Honor System Is Prevalent With Ellicott City Prisoners." The Baltimore Sun, September 21, 1931. Bottom: "Snack Bar Provides 'Meals' For Jail." The Evening Sun, April 16, 1969.

Before the 1954 renovations, women in the Old Illinois City Jail faced challenging conditions, primarily due to the lack of proper segregation. Proper segregation, as jail inspectors acknowledged, was impossible since all the cells were joined together and so men and women could not be separated. A designated cell for women existed, but it offered minimal privacy since men could roam freely in the jail and see into the women's cell. Privacy was initially maintained with a blanket hung over the cell bars until a wooden panel was installed in 1948. The women's cell also sometimes acted as a cell for juveniles and sick prisoners. Jail inspectors recommended that women spend no more than a night in the jail.

Using Howard County Criminal Dockets spanning from 1865 to 1952, the reasons for women's trials at the circuit court revealed that larceny was the most common charge, followed by insanity and assault. Almost 40% of women were found not guilty, or their trials were dismissed. Almost 30% of these women spent time in the jail before their trials and for their sentences, 15% of which were sentenced to the Howard County Jail. These women were able to be identified because of the dockets including the phrase "cepi in jail", meaning someone was arrested and taken to jail.

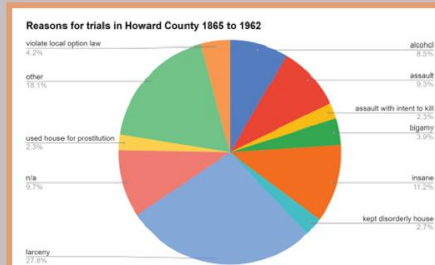
About half of those committed to the jail were sentenced until a fine was paid. Many of those fines were paid the same day or the next. Most sentences received a couple of months, with two and three months sharing the highest percentage. Only three women were sentenced to the jail for a year, including Annie Gallary in 1892, Emma Jackson in 1904, and Maud Weytowich in 1931.

Newspaper articles supplemented information on women in the jail, including women who did not appear in the criminal dockets, although details were often limited. Some stories received more news coverage than others. In 1894, Rebecca Williams was convicted of murdering her husband with rat poisoning. Annie Breitenback was held as a witness for her husband's trial in 1920. Her mother disapproved of her marriage to a black man and fought to get it annulled. In 1922, May Belle Pease and lover W. Carter Crommiller were held at the jail after confessing to murder. However, both accused the other of actually shooting the man. Crommiller was convicted of the shooting but blamed Pease until the end.

Some women, like Annie Breitenback, were held for reasons other than for trial. Laura Jones was found wandering the woods, unable to recall her name or where she was from, and was held in the jail until they figured out what to do with her. In 1945, a 14-year-old girl was held for falsifying her age in a marriage license. Due to her age and gender, she was kept in the warden's wing of the jail. While there, she was assaulted by a male prisoner trustee who was in charge while the warden was away.

In a few cases, women stayed in the jail voluntarily. The wardens' families stayed at the jail and some of the wives helped run the jail. In 1931, Mrs. Lehman and her two children chose to spend the night with her husband while he was held for trial. The same year, a woman named Ruth Wilson came to the jail to marry inmate Charles Ottavino. The ceremony was held in the warden's residence.

Two notable stories include Sadie Wiegand, arrested for abandoning her baby in 1928, and Mary T. Goodwin, convicted for deserting her infant in 1931, and provided insight into how gender may have influenced women's arrest and trials. These are the only two stories that directly relate to gender, however, more research is needed to fully understand women's arrests and incarceration at the Old Hillcot City Jail.



Mrs. Sadie Wiegand Tells Intentions In Note To Warden

Is Held On Charge Of Abandoning Baby—On Hunger Strike

A note stating that she was going to take poison, followed by another expressing regret that she had done so, have been received by Wardens Charles Cumberland from Mrs. Sadie Wiegand, who has gone on a hunger strike in the Howard County Jail at Elbert City.

Mrs. Wiegand, who formerly lived in Aberdeen, was recently held in \$2000 bail for the action of the grand jury at the September term of the county court, charged with abandoning a baby.

Received Note Yesterday
Warden Cumberland said he received the note expressing an intent to take poison yesterday. He said he immediately questioned Mrs. Wiegand, but that she would not talk.

When the second note arrived, the warden said he sent for a physician, who examined Mrs. Wiegand and reported that he could find no indications of poison. The warden said Mrs. Wiegand was apparently in good health.

The hunger strike, the warden said, began yesterday morning, and since that time Mrs. Wiegand had refused the food taken to her.

Baby Found On Lawn
Mrs. Wiegand was held in connection with the finding of a baby on the lawn of William P. Steager, near Ellerslie City, the night of August 3. An automobile was seen to drive up to the property and the baby was afterward found in a basket.

Mrs. Weigand was taken into custody today in Baltimore and turned over to Chief of Police Julius J. Wouch, of Elkton City. She was held for grand jury action by Justice of the Peace Frank C. Higginbotham.

Damaging Testimony Against a Colored Woman.

[illegible]

White Bride Objects to Separate Cell Hellicott City Jail.

[illegible]

A Wanderer.—An unknown white woman has been placed in the county jail, having been captured in the woods near ElkrIDGE Landing, where she had been hiding for some time. Justice J. N. Gordon committed her on the charge of insanity. She cannot or will not give any account of herself, and all the information obtained is conflicting. She says she has lived at Savage with her mother, and again that she came from Baltimore. In appearance she is about 30 years old, with a scar between her eyes, and the finger next to the small finger of the left hand is cut off at the first joint.

**Weapon With Which J. Bernard
Pattison Was Killed Sought
At Savage, Md.**

Man And Woman Held For Crime

Accuse Each Other Of Firing Fatal Shot.

Preparations will be made today to drain the quarry hole at Savage, Howard county, in an attempt to find the pistol with which J. Bernard Pattison, of that village, was shot to death on May 11. The authorities believe the recovery of the weapon may fasten the crime on one of the two prisoners who are charged jointly with the murder.

Mrs. May Belle Pease, mother of three children, and W. Carter Cronmiller, who have been intimate for the last five years, are being held at the Elliott City Jail. Both have confessed implication in the crime, but each blames the other for the shooting.

Accused Stick To Stories.

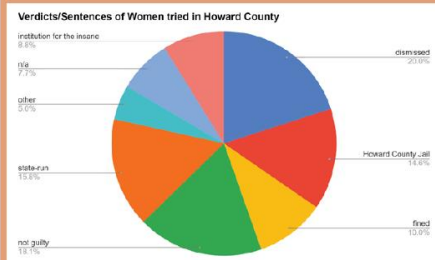
James Clark, State's Attorney, Joseph Dougherty, of a private detective agency, and James A. Manning, headquarters detective, remained at the jail several hours yesterday and questioned Cronmiller and Mrs. Pease.

Mrs. Pease, 29 years old, repeated the statement that the shots were fired by Crommiller. She said Crommiller found Pattison at her home. Angered, he dragged Pattison to the woods and shot him, she said. Pattison had gone to the house, she declared, for a wicker suitcase which he had left there. The suitcase, however, was found in the woman's home.

Will Be Questioned Again.

"Mrs. Pease stuck to her statement that Cronmiller did the actual killing," said Detective Manning. "She recounted her previous statements again in the presence of Cronmiller. He denied them and said it was she who fired the shots."

The couple will be questioned again today.



State of Maryland
16th Sept 1897 Peremptory for selling on
Sunday to Robt White. Bench warrant issued
17th Sept 1897 Indictment. True Bill. 20th Sept 1897
held in jail. Same day Joseph Sakes &
Sarah Sakes each recognized in \$200. for
Sarah Sakes to appear from day to day. 24th Sept
1897 Plea not guilty. issue joined. Jury empaneled.
Same day indicted not guilty.



EMORY
LANE
STUDIO
FINE ARTS STUDIO
PAINTING



THE OLD ELLICOTT CITY JAIL

Images: Top and Bottom Charts, by Emory Lane Studio. From Left to Right: "Woman in Jail Says She Means To Take Poison," *The Evening Sun*, August 16, 1929; "A Poisoning Case," *The Baltimore Sun*, August 25, 1894; "Will Drain Quarry To Recover Poison," *The Baltimore Sun*, August 7, 1922, Middle Row, Left to Right: "I Loves Colored Husband," *The Washington Post*, December 21, 1910; "A Wanderer," *The Ellcroft City Times*, August 29, 1879. Bottom: Howard Coates Circuit Court (Criminal Records). Sarah Sikes, 1897. Liber WB 2, p. 72. MSAC96-2. MdJIR 14736.

CLIMATE & GEOGRAPHY

Geography

Ellicott City is situated at the bottom of a steep valley carved by four river branches: the Tiber, Hidon, Autumn Creek, and New Cut. These branches join in the valley and empty into the Patapsco River. The valley forms a topographical funnel for any runoff from the area above. Much of the land surrounding the valley has been developed and acres of impervious land only add to the amount of runoff. As of 2019, 65.2% of the Tiber Branch watershed was developed land, and 30.9% of that land consisted of impervious surfaces.

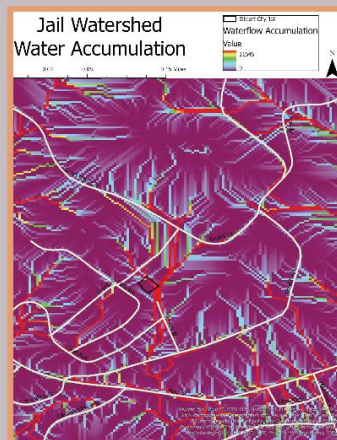
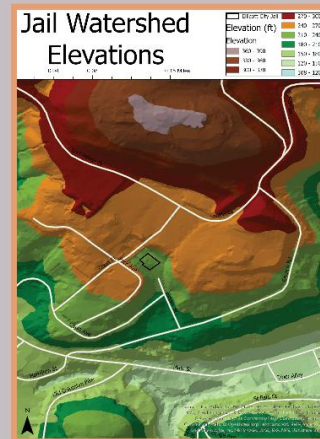
History with Flooding

Ellicott City has had a long history with flooding. Flooding in Ellicott City has been divided into two categories: bottom up and top down. Bottom-up flooding is caused by the Patapsco River swelling from its banks and engulfing the town. Before 1952, this was the most common type of flooding. Top-down flooding is caused by heavy rains which send floodwaters rushing from the top of the watershed down the valley.

There have been 15 to 18 significant floods in Ellicott City's past, depending on the source, including floods in 1786, 1817, 1868, 1894, 1901, 1917, 1923, 1933, 1942, 1952, 1972, 1975, 1998, 2006, 2011, 2016, and 2018. The 1868 flood, called "the Great Flood of Maryland," inundated Ellicott City with 21.5 feet of water, destroying 32 buildings and killing 43 people. In 1972, rain from Hurricane Agnes caused the Patapsco River to overflow and cover Ellicott City in 14 feet of water, damaging 200 buildings along the Patapsco and killing seven people.

The Ellicott City Master Plan Courthouse Area

The Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan designates the Ellicott City Jail as part of the Court House Area and notes that "any reuse planning should be done so comprehensively and consider the courthouse property's context with Main Street and the economic importance of Main Street" and to "consider the use of green roofs, green walls and the use of solar panels in building construction". Despite reuse plans for the surrounding properties, there is no current planned reuse for the land outside the jail. The north eastern slope to the jail property is being converted into a Stormwater Management Area, but no water mitigation is planned within the jail property itself. This presents an opportunity to further contribute to flood mitigation as the overwhelming majority of the jail property is an impermeable surface.



EMORY
LANE
STUDIO
ARCHITECTS
PLANNERS

SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE,
PLANNING & PRESERVATION
FUTURE PRESIDENT OF MARYLAND

THE OLD ELLICOTT CITY JAIL

Images (top to bottom): "Ellicott City Watershed Master Plan"; GIS Outputs, derived from Howard County GIS 2018 2.0 Contours; "Ellicott City, Maryland flooding: Dangerous flood waters hit city still recovering from 2016 flood" CBS News, May 27, 2018.

H. Acknowledgments

The students of HISP 650 would like to thank Professor Michelle G. Magalong and Teaching Assistant Vincent Turner II for their guidance and assistance on this project. Also, to Delaney West de Neyra for her constant support. We would also like to acknowledge Geeta Shanbhag from the Howard County Historical Society, Chris and Hannah Lane from the Maryland State Archive, and Doug McElrath at the Hornbake Library Special Collections. Additional thanks are due to Dr. Rachel Salyer of the National Archives and Records Administration II, College Park, and Kevin Leonard, historian and journalist, for their assistance in researching the history of German POWs in Maryland and Micah Connor, Library Associate and Research Coordinator of the Maryland Center for History and Culture, Baltimore for assisting with research into the past of John Laing.