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Chestertown, Maryland



The African American
History and Heritage

GUIDED TOURS

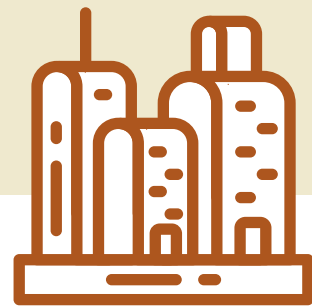
A Rich History

THE TOWN

Founded in 1706, Chestertown is a unique blend of Colonial history, African American heritage, and scholarly charm.

Long past are the days when Chestertown's riverbank was filled with commercial wharves. The town thrived as a trade post. Boats relayed agricultural produce, seafood, and slaves to Baltimore and other ports.

In 1782, Washington College was established. It is the tenth oldest liberal arts college in the nation. Over the years, Chestertown's success can be attributed to the skilled and unskilled labor of many.



THE AFRICAN AMERICAN JOURNEY

Enslaved Africans and African Americans significantly contributed to shaping Kent County's history. In 1664, Maryland legalized slavery. Initially, the county's economy was based on the labor intensive cultivation of tobacco, a cash crop that thrived in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Free people of color were closely connected to the enslaved. They worked alongside one another. They married and raised families. By 1860, Chestertown's free Black population was roughly 1,700 individuals. African American men and women owned profitable businesses even though laws were created to hinder their success.

Maryland abolished slavery in 1864, but its reverberations continue to be felt today.

Services

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY WALKING TOUR

A 60-minute guided tour highlighting Chestertown's extensive African American history.

Rate: \$65.00 per person

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND HERITAGE GROUP TOUR

An African American History and Heritage Walking Tour is available as a private group tour.

Rates available per website

About Us

OUR MISSION

To provide an engaging look into Chestertown's rich African American history.

WHAT WE DO

We are Kent County's only walking tour dedicated to Black history.

Points of Interest

HISTORIC SIGNAGE

Located at the Port of Chestertown Marina, this signage acknowledges Chestertown's connection to slavery.

SCOTT'S POINT

Located on (and beyond) South Water Street, Scott's Point was once a vibrant Black community.

CANNON STREET NEIGHBORHOOD

Cannon Street was once home to several Black owned businesses including Frazier's Barbershop, Claire Jackson's candy store, and the Brite Painting Company.

HENRY HIGHLAND GARNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Built in 1950, this building was Kent County's only African American high school. In 1967 all schools integrated, and it became an elementary school.