Foundations of Historic Frederick Walking Tour script

[adopted February 2023]

(Overall Theme: The sites, institutions, and events that define Frederick County)

Introduce yourself; ask participants to introduce themselves and share where they live, because where they live may shape the narrative.

Make sure the group knows this is a 90 minute walking tour that will cover seminal historical aspects of the County and the City through a series of stops in the historic district of downtown. However, it's not linear or chronological - we're going to jump from century to century as we move from street to street.

Alert participants that we will be crossing streets and blocking sidewalks, so there is a need to be mindful of others.

*The following script is intended to provide ample historical interpretation of 275 years of change in Frederick. There are essential concepts that every guide should convey (underlined); the remainder of the narrative should be used as appropriate. You don't need to read or memorize the script exactly, but all of a guide's commentary should be factual.

Stop 1.A: Museum of Frederick County History

We're standing at what now is called the Museum of Frederick County History. Construction on this building began in 1824 and finished in 1825; it served as a private home for Dr. John Baltzell and his wife, Ruth. The two had 10 children but six lived to adulthood. Dr. Baltzell used the basement to see his patients, which originally had a street entrance on the Maxwell Alley side where the annex now sits. We know Baltzell owned slaves who worked as house servants; at his death one enslaved woman named Hester and three children were listed among his property.

The second owner was Alexander Hanson and his wife, Susan; they purchased the property in 1854 after Dr. Baltzell's death. Census records show that one of their grown sons, George, along with his wife and eventually five children, lived here with the parents. George was a lawyer and Hanson added the annex structure on the east end of the house in 1858 to function as George's

office. Both Hanson men were southern sympathizers; the 1860 Census lists five enslaved persons at the residence.

Susan Hanson died in 1864; Alexander died in 1868. George subsequently sold the house to John Loats in 1870 before moving back to Kent County. Loats was a prominent businessman who served as the first president of the Pennsylvania Railroad, which was a Frederick line; he owned a prosperous tannery on Carroll Creek for many years, served on boards of banks and insurance companies, and owned huge tracts of land, including land he donated to establish Mt. Olivet Cemetery - he was a founder. But, in 1875 Loats became a widower for the second time. When he died in 1879, he had no direct heirs and his Will instructed that the house become a home for orphan girls, which he funded through a cash gift as well. It opened in 1881 and remained in operation until 1956.

More than 100 girls lived at the Loats Female Orphan Asylum - later called the Loats Home - during its 75 years in operation. They ate, slept, and entertained in the house as well as attended school in the building for many years before eventually enrolling in public schools. Girls had to be at least three years old to be eligible and, at 18, the girls were given a stipend, some clothes, and help finding work.

After the orphanage closed the building was vacant until 1959 - the Historical Society of Frederick County purchased the building as its new headquarters and we've occupied it since then. There have been improvements to the building over the years, but the external footprint you're seeing is the same as it was in 1825 when Dr. Baltzell and his wife moved in.

Stop 1.B (in front of the Museum building): Native Americans to European Settlement

You can't talk about the history of the United States without acknowledging the country's first inhabitants: the Native Americans. Unfortunately, the historical record is limited before European settlers began moving into the area in the 1700s; but archaeological studies have identified several places along the Monocacy River where Eastern Woodlands Indians lived and hunted as early as the year 900 CE, including a large village site at Biggs Ford (near Walkersville) and smaller settlements, like the Rosenstock Site near Frederick's Municipal Airport. Some of the last Native Americans to inhabit Frederick County were the Piscataway-Conoy, an Algonquian tribe who occupied an area in the southern part of the county, on what is now known as Heaters Island, which is near Point of Rocks. They arrived around the turn of the 18th century but eventually moved out of the area when an outbreak of smallpox devastated the group. The Tuscarora tribe migrated north to this area from North Carolina, but tensions between the tribe and the European settlers here at the same time motivated them to move elsewhere.

By the 1730s - when European settlement in this area started to expand dramatically - virtually all of the Native American tribes were gone.

Nevertheless, if you're from Frederick, then you're already familiar with Native American influence, on names if nothing else: Tuscarora Creek, Catoctin Mountain, and Monocacy River reveal some of that heritage.

If you look at a map of Maryland or the eastern United States today, it's easy to recognize Frederick at a pivotal location; it's a crossroad for east and west as well as north and south. It's basically always been that way. Trade routes through the area appeared in the 18th century, particularly for fur trading, and transportation networks expanded as populations expanded.

Frederick got its start with the help of a man named Daniel Dulany [IMAGE]. He was an Irish immigrant who arrived in Maryland by ship at St. Mary's County in 1703 (Wikipedia). Dulany left Ireland at about 18 years old and without much in the way of possessions or money; he paid for his passage by agreeing to work as an indentured servant, which he did - as a law clerk - for three years (Wikipedia).

Dulany eventually became a lawyer himself, and his career was very successful so that he became one of the richest men in Colonial Maryland. He also was a member of Maryland's General Assembly for 20 years and accepted several political posts from Lord Baltimore, who governed Maryland at the time. Critically - for Frederick - Dulany also was an investor in land and sometime speculator.

One of his land purchases was a tract called Tasker's Chance in isolated, heavily forested Western Maryland. On that land, Dulany surveyed streets and building lots into a community he named Frederick Towne, which he hoped could become a market town at a crossroads with wagon trails heading north, south, east, and west. Frederick Towne officially was founded in 1745.

The first family to buy lots from Dulany included John Thomas Schley and his wife, Margaret, who immigrated from Germany [NOTE: "Germany" did not exist as a country then; we use the name for simplicity]. They purchased four lots – two on Patrick Street, which is one block south, where they built their home and two for the business they started, which was a tavern - we're not certain where those lots were, but it's assumed Patrick Street as well.

What's particularly interesting about Dulany's layout is that, for the most part, the city footprint is almost exactly the same now as it was over 200 years ago. Most of the street names haven't

changed either. Any number of settlements became towns then cities, but Dulany had the foresight to create what we now call a "planned community." So, that's the beginning of Frederick; let's move down our sidewalk so that we're across from the Lutheran church opposite us to get the story moving, too.

Stop 2: Evangelical Lutheran Church (walk west from the Museum building so you are across from the Lutheran Church)

We are standing along Church Street; that's not an accident. <u>Dulany knew he needed to entice</u> people to move to an area that was essentially uninhabited at the time, and to accomplish this he gave away premium lots to churches in what became the middle of the town he envisioned. Offering these lots to churches encouraged fledgling congregations and their member families to move into the new town. Such was the case with Evangelical Lutheran Church, across the street. This congregation was organized in 1738 and originally gathered in a settlement called Monocacy several miles north of Frederick. In 1746, they accepted Dulany's offer of this site and built a log church.

The congregation grew rapidly so that by 1752 work began on a larger and more permanent stone church. However, construction took over a decade to complete, delayed by supply and labor shortages during the French and Indian War. The new church finally opened for services in 1762 and served the congregation for over 90 years. In 1854, part of that structure was taken down to make way for the present sanctuary with its twin spires.

<u>city's growth.</u> As we continue our tour, we will pass several churches that benefited from Dulany's generous and strategic scheme. The Lutheran and Reformed Churches were both attended primarily by German families. German language services could be attended in Frederick until the turn of the 20th century. English settlers who migrated to Frederick from Tidewater Maryland established the Episcopal and Methodist congregations as well as the Catholic Church where they were joined by Irish families. Scotch Irish settlers founded the Presbyterian Church. In the early 19th century, free and enslaved Blacks organized their own religious institutions on All Saints and Third Streets.

In the early months of the Civil War, the Federal Government selected Frederick as a strategic site in which to establish hospitals for treating wounded soldiers. The central military hospital in Frederick was located at the Hessian Barracks, known as General Hospital #1. That hospital was in use throughout the entire war. In the wake of the Battle of Antietam in September 1862, three buildings on East Church Street became General Hospital #4 and housed wounded

soldiers until January 1863: Evangelical Lutheran Church, Winchester Hall (point across the street), and the Methodist Episcopal Church, which stood where the parking garage is now located. Inside Evangelical Lutheran Church, the parishoners protected the newly-built interior by erecting a false floor of wooden planks overtop the pews [IMAGE].

As we move forward, we should acknowledge one person for much of what we know about Frederick. A man named Jacob Engelbrecht [IMAGE] was born in this city in December 1797 and lived here all his life; between 1818 and his death in February 1878 in kept a diary, making notations about who died, built a house, got elected, how hot or cold it was, and so many other mundane details that offer a remarkable window into history.

Stop 3: Winchester Hall (walk west to the front of Winchester Hall)

This imposing structure is the home of Frederick County government now. Dulany's Frederick Town did extremely well early on, and in just three years - in 1748 - the State recognized the concentration of population here and created Frederick County; it encompassed virtually all of the western part of the State. Five new counties eventually formed out of the original Frederick County boundary. (note: Carroll, Garrett, Washington, Allegany and Montgomery Counties)

The building originally housed the Frederick Female Seminary, an all-girls boarding school started by a New England school teacher named Hiram Winchester. The first location of the school was in a rental property somewhere on Market Street in 1840, but Winchester knew he needed a better, specific style of building for the school he wanted to create. So, after raising money with a public lottery he was able to build first the East Wing in 1843 then the West Wing and central connection in 1857. INterestingly, the curriculum included English, rhetoric and composition, geography, geology and mathematics as well as philosophy - certainly an enlightened curriculum for girls during that era.

The school closed in 1893 and leased its facilities to the Women's College of Frederick. One of Hiram Winchester's former students, Margaret Scholl Hood [IMAGE], began supporting the new college with endowment funds, challenge grants, and campaigns to raise funds for buildings. Later, she purchased land less than a mile from here and donated it to the college, which eventually became a campus site. In 1912, the college's board of directors voted to rename their institution in her honor, and in May 1913 the school officially became Hood College. Unfortunately, she died in January of the same year, before the official name change, but she left another bequest to the school in her Will to support more buildings. Hood welcomed its first male students in 1971.

One-liner: The lot occupied by the parking garage across the street was the location of the original Methodist church; the new church is on 2nd Street about three blocks away.

Stop 4: Kemp Hall (walk west to the corner and cross over to the opposite corner so the whole building is in view)

The building we just passed is called Kemp Hall; the German Reformed Church on the other side of our street (point to it) commissioned the building in 1860 as its parsonage and Sunday School facility - Kemp was an elder in the church. It's more notable, however, for its connection to the Civil War.

Abraham Lincoln's election as president in 1860 set in motion a series of events or actions that led to the Civil War. Several southern states seceded even before Lincoln's inauguration, and in April 1861 South Carolina militia bombarded and seized Fort Sumter, which was a federal (Union) installation on an island just off the coast at Charleston. Maryland was considered a southern state but also a border state, and there were sympathizers for both sides in every community. The elected political body in Maryland hadn't chosen a side yet, but that vote was coming.

Northern Frederick County was very much pro-Union, but research suggests in Frederick City maybe one third of the people supported the Confederacy. In Annapolis - Maryland's capital and the city where the governor lived and the State's General Assembly met - the mood was different. Annapolis - like other port cities that thrived on trade with southern states - had southern sympathies. Baltimore, another port city, had suffered rioting in April 1861 and federal soldiers occupied the city. So, Governor Thomas Hicks called a special session of the General Assembly to debate and vote on secession, and he chose Frederick as the meeting place.

The original plan involved using the courthouse one block from here, which now is Frederick's City Hall and we'll get there shortly, but that building proved inadequate - too small for both chambers of the assembly. So, the session meetings moved to newly built Kemp Hall, with one body meeting on the second floor and the other on the third. The session lasted throughout the spring and summer of 1861; legislators came and went as meetings were called.

President Lincoln was determined to keep Maryland in the Union, not least because Washington, DC would be surrounded by southern territory otherwise. So, he declared martial law in Maryland and suspended the writ of habeas corpus, which is a legal and Latin term meaning, basically, the government needs to have a good reason to arrest and detain you. And, then Lincoln ordered federal troops to arrest Maryland legislators with southern sympathies as they traveled to or from Frederick. As a result, there were too few legislators to meet the quorum requirement and a vote on secession never occurred, which left Maryland in the Union.

When we're done with the tour, if you're still walking around Frederick, come back to Kemp Hall and take a look at the wayside marker beside the building, which tells the story and has images. We also have a walking tour focused on Frederick in the Civil War where we share this story as well along with several others.

Stop 5: Trinity Chapel & the German Reformed Church (cross Church Street and head to the Reform Church steps where your group can sit during this stop)

Evangelical Reformed United Church of Christ is one of Frederick's oldest congregations, having occupied the site across the street since 1748. The original log church stood behind the stone Trinity Chapel on the Patrick Street end of the lot. At that time, a schoolhouse shared the site, built by the German Reformed congregation, where John Thomas Schley, Frederick's first permanent settler, served as the schoolmaster.

In 1760, church leaders constructed a stone church where Trinity Chapel now stands, and in 1809, Stephen Steiner built the wooden spire atop the stone tower (Note: Steiner's house still stands on the corner of West Patrick and South Jefferson Streets; it's now the home of the Frederick Woman's Civic Club but before that, it was our first location). This is the oldest of Frederick's famed "Clustered Spires [IMAGE]," featured in literary works by Oliver Wendell Holmes and John Greenleaf Whittier and explored in countless works of art. The spire housed a town clock, made by Frederick Heisley [Note: A tall-case clock made by Heisley is on display at the Heritage Frederick museum]. A 14-foot long pendulum powered Heisley's clock. And, the clock kept the city of Frederick running on time until it was removed from the spire in 1931 and donated to the Smithsonian Institution. An electric clockwork replaced the original Heisley timepiece while the historic clock faces remained in place.

In 1848, the congregation built this existing sanctuary across from the older building. At the same time, the congregation also finally made the transition to conduct all of its services in the English language. A faction of the church that desired to maintain German language in their worship organized themselves as St. John's Reformed Church and continued to gather in Trinity Chapel until the early 20th century. During that time in 1881, the old German Reformed Church was demolished, except for the stone tower and spire, and the present Trinity Chapel was built to house the Sunday School.

NOTE: The plaque on the steps of Evangelical Reformed UCC commemorates the first meeting of the Board of Directors, appointed by the congregation's parent body, the Potomac Synod, for

the new Woman's College of Frederick, which more or less succeeded the Female Seminary from our earlier stop and would become Hood College in 1913. Included on this board were Rev. Edmund Eschbach, Pastor of Evangelical, and Adrian McCardell, the father of fashion designer Claire McCardell. At the meeting, held in the parsonage, the board appointed the college's first president, Joseph Henry Apple.

One-liner: The building across the street that looks like a firehouse actually was - it's the location of one of Frederick original three volunteer companies, Independent Hose, which occupied the site between 1846 and 1978. The company actually organized in 1818 and is the longest continuously operating fire company in Maryland.

Stop 6: Current City Hall/ Stamp Act Repudiation (stop group on sidewalk where the metal plaque is set into the sidewalk leading straight up to the fountain)

This structure has served as Frederick's City Hall since the 1980s but originally this area of land was the location of three successive Frederick County courthouses for over 200 years. Francis Scott Key for a time - he spent most of his career in Washington, DC - and Roger B Taney for 20 years practiced law on this spot in courthouses that preceded this building. The city purchased the land in 1750, which originally included three acres between Church Street and Council Street, the next block. The first courthouse was a small, wooden structure built in 1756.

So, that's basic history, but the fun story is the Stamp Act. England's Parliament passed the Stamp Act in 1765, which imposed a tax on all printed materials, including legal documents. It simply served as a tool to extract revenue for England from the British colonies after a lengthy war with France caused huge debts. But, Frederick's local judges refused to enforce or cooperate with the tax. So, in 1765 (eight years before the Boston Tea Party) in the courthouse that stood on this spot at the time, Frederick was in open rebellion against the English King. To show how discontented they were, residents conducted a mock funeral for the English tax collector and burned him in effigy on the courthouse lawn. England's Parliament repealed its own Act one year later after widespread repudiation among all the colonies.

One-liner: Take a look at the two mirror-image Federal style houses across Council Street. They date from the 1820s and have been home to several prominent families, including the Ross and Mathias clans, of which the late Senator Charles Mathias was a member. Descendants of the

Mathias family continue to live here today. If you like old buildings and houses, please consider participating in our Art and Architecture walking tour.

In addition, (point) at the end of my finger you can see what is called the Record Street Home; I'm going to refer to it again at our next stop.

Stop 7: Baker Park (walk to West Church Street then west to Bentz Street)

The land you see ahead of us was once the site of mills, grazing fields for cattle, and low-lying swampland along Carroll Creek. Frederick's growth in the late-19th and early-20th centuries inspired city leaders to create a municipal park to preserve greenspace in the midst of new houses and factories. The City acquired the first parcels of the future park in 1916. In 1926, the city looked to purchase the last few sections of land for the new park, which were the site of the old mills along Bentz Street.

Joseph Dill Baker [IMAGE] agreed to donate the cost of these remaining lots to the city, on condition that the buildings be cleared to enable a view to the park and the mountains beyond for the residents of the Record Street Home for the Aged, which we just observed from the courthouse lawn; that property backs up to this street (Bentz). Baker was a philanthropist who made his fortune in the tanning and banking businesses. Besides his contribution for the park, Baker's philanthropy extended to Calvary United Methodist Church, the YMCA, and the Record Street Home.

In the days of segregation, Baker also sought to aid the Black community of Frederick by paying for a new wing on Frederick Memorial Hospital dedicated to admitting and treating Black patients and also giving land for Mullinix Park, which is two blocks south and served Black citizens who were barred from entering the municipal park, which opened in 1927 and was named for its benefactor, Mr. Baker. Its central feature is the Joseph Dill Baker Memorial Carillon, built with funds raised by the citizens of Frederick in 1941 as a memorial to Baker. Originally housing 14 bells, it has been expanded twice, with the addition of 9 bells in 1966 and 26 bells in 1995, giving the instrument a total of 49 bells presently. The carillon is the largest musical instrument in the State.

Stop 8: Tyler-Spite House (walk east on West Church and stop on end of Guess the Dog House facing Tyler-Spite House)

Several houses within view of this spot were once home to the Tyler Family. For more than a century, generations of the Tylers were active in the civic life of Frederick and players in significant moments of state and national history.

From 1797 until 1842, the brick house with its cast-iron dog on the marble steps was the home of Dr. John Tyler. Born in Prince George's County in 1763, <u>Dr. Tyler was a skilled ocular surgeon, one of the first to successfully conduct cataract procedures in the United States.</u> Outside of his medical practice, Dr. Tyler was also engaged in state politics, serving Frederick County in the Maryland State Senate. Dr. Tyler was an anti-federalist and a staunch supporter of Thomas Jefferson. He was selected to be Frederick County's elector in 1804 and 1808, casting his votes in the Electoral College for Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, respectively. After Thomas Jefferson's death in 1826, Frederick citizens held a solemn observance at Evangelical Lutheran Church during which Dr. Tyler read the eulogy.

Today, Dr. Tyler is most remembered for the house that stands next door to his residence. Having acquired title to the lot in 1813, Dr. Tyler learned that the city government was planning to extend Record Street one block south to connect it with Patrick Street. Knowing that the City could not proceed if a structure stood on the lot, he quickly hired a contractor and began building the first two floors of the house that since has become known as the Tyler Spite House. The exact motive of Dr. Tyler's spiteful action is a subject of debate. Some have claimed he didn't want the additional traffic to disturb him as he conducted surgical procedures or his patients as they recovered.

The house had another famous-Frederick owner after Tyler. The Kunkle family, whose patriarch operated the Catoctin Furnace about 10 miles north, expanded the house to include a third story just before the Civil War.

One-liner: The iron dog became popular stoop ornaments in the mid-1800s, and this dog is one of only two original iron dogs from that period still in Frederick. He is a copy of a marble sculpture in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. Part of the folklore around this dog is that young girls who lived in this house used to ask passersby to guess the dog's name, to which they would respond, "No, Guess," before revealing the name of the dog - Guess.

Stop 9: All Saints Parish Hall and Pythian Castle (walk east to Court Street and turn right/south; stop in front of All Saints parish hall)

All Saints Episcopal Church predates the city of Frederick by three years. In 1742, the General Assembly created All Saints Parish, which covered all of Western Maryland and part of today's Montgomery County. The first church was built of brick on an unnamed street on the south side of Frederick along Carroll Creek. Long after that church was abandoned, the street on which it stood has maintained the name All Saints Street.

When this church was completed in 1814, the colonial All Saints building was dismantled, though the graveyard around it continued in use until Mount Olivet Cemetery was founded in 1854. The lot adjacent to the old graveyard was acquired by a white Methodist congregation who built a church where Black families also were permitted to worship. All Saints allowed the Black Methodists to use part of their graveyard for burials. In 1864, the Black Methodists purchased the building from the white Methodist congregation and in 1870, incorporated themselves as Asbury Church. The present Asbury building, which can be seen on the hill two blocks distant, was constructed in 1921 at the heart of Frederick's Black neighborhood along West All Saints Street. All Saints erected a third building in 1855, after which this structure was converted to a parish hall.

Turning to look across the street, the three-story building with "Pythian Castle" inscribed above the door was built in 1912 by Frederick's chapter of the Knights of Pythias. This fraternal organization emerged in 1864 and grew rapidly after the Civil War, a period known as the "Golden Age of Fraternalism." The letters F, C, and B carved into the keystones above the third story windows stand for fellowship, charity, and benevolence, the motto of the Knights of Pythias. Despite this sentiment, Black people were not admitted as members of the Knights of Pythias. In 1920, another Pythian Castle for a Black chapter of the organization was built on West All Saints Street, two blocks south from this location. The building is occupied by private condominiums now.

Stop 10: John Hanson statue and home (walk south to Patrick Street and cross over to the courthouse plaza)

Here is the current Frederick County courthouse, and the statue in the center of the plaza is of John Hanson. Is anyone familiar with John Hanson? John Hanson was born in 1715 in Charles County, MD. He became a public official representing southern Maryland but eventually moved to Frederick in 1769 to work as a surveyor. He led several protest meetings as the colonial relationship with England unraveled and became a leader among the group we now call our Founding Fathers. In 1779 Hanson was elected Maryland's representative to the Continental Congress and later signed the Articles of Confederation in 1781, which outlined the first organizing principles of our democratic form of government. In the same year, his peers elected

Hanson to be the first president of what was called "the United States in Congress Assembled," which was our national governing body that arose after the Second Continental Congress and before our Constitution. That's why Hanson sometimes is called our first president.

The home he owned in Frederick stood on this site at the corner of the present courthouse building. The original building sat on this lot until the 1980s when they began to build the new courthouse. At that time, the building had gone through several owners, one of whom had gutted the interior to redo the property. But, the structure eventually became so dilapidated that the building wasn't safe and had to be torn down. When they built the new courthouse building they included a copy of the exterior of John Hanson's home, which houses offices now and connects to the rest of the court building.

Incidentally, Hanson also was a distant cousin of Alexander Hanson, who a few generations later became the second owner of the house where we started our tour.

Stop 11: Weinberg Center for the Arts (cross Court Street and stop in front of the Weinberg)

This is the Weinberg Center for the Arts now, but the building opened as the Tivoli Theater in 1926 as a modern movie palace for Frederick [IMAGE]. The theater had 1,500 seats and a 16-foot screen as well as an orchestra pit for live performances. The Tivoli also was equipped with a 656-pipe Wurlitzer theater organ that provided atmospheric sounds for accompanying silent films, including car horns, horse hooves, train whistles, and bells. The organ still is in use today at the Weinberg and is the only theater organ in its original installation in the State of Maryland.

The Tivoli also became Frederick's first air conditioned building in 1940. Edward Thomas, a patron of the theater, traveled to Hollywood with his friend, W.H. Brann of Walkersville, to enter Brann's racehorse, Challedon, in the Gold Cup Race. Brann and Thomas attended a party before the race where studio executive Jack Warner was in attendance. Learning that Warner planned to bet \$50,000 on the favorite, Thomas convinced him to bet instead on Challedon. When Challedon came in first place, Warner asked Thomas how he could repay him for the good tip. Thomas asked him to pay for air conditioning to be installed in the Tivoli, and Warner obliged his request.

The Tivoli continued as an arts venue into the 1950s, but the building began to lag in use and fell into disrepair with the rise of television and large movie theaters. By the late 1950s, Dan and Alyce Weinberg purchased the property in the hopes of restoring it, but the project didn't really take off until the 1970s. A major flood occurred in 1976 that brought thousands of gallons of water out of Carroll Creek and up Market Street, engulfing buildings along Patrick Street and filling the interior of the Tivoli up to about three feet of water - the water lifted the pipe organ

from the orchestra pit onto the stage. <u>Subsequently, the City became a partner in the restoration and public and private funds were committed to restore the Tivoli to its 1920s glory - that project was a cornerstone accomplishment in the rejuvenation of downtown Frederick.</u>

The Weinberg's donated the property to the city under the stipulation that it continue operating as a cultural and performing arts center, which is named for the couple. It's been a central home of arts and culture in Frederick for three generations and counting.

Stop 12: Square Corner (walk east to the corner and cross Market Street and stop a few steps south)

We learned when we began our tour that Frederick has been a crossroads; we're standing at the actual cross - this is called Square Corner. If you travel north, you're heading to Pennsylvania; south is Washington, DC and northern Virginia; east is Baltimore and Annapolis; west is Ohio and what was the frontier. These couple blocks have been prime real estate in Frederick for two centuries because of the two roads that intersect here. Banks have occupied this corner since 1818; major retail merchants and specialty shops lined these streets as early as the 1810s and still do.

<u>Patrick Street - east/west - was the first paved road in the city and was incorporated into the National Road project, which was the first highway built by the Federal Government, in 1811.</u> It connected Baltimore to Ohio and helped reinforce Frederick's position as a market town on the path west. There was no by-pass or Interstate - you drove right through downtown. The Union and Confederate armies marched in and out of Frederick on these roads.

Until a few years ago, a little further down the street an original mile marker still stood, which informed travelers they were 45 miles from Baltimore. It was destroyed by a car but the pieces are in the Society's collection. Frederick was an ideal location to stop and rest during a journey. (Point at "FSK Hotel") A hotel occupied that location for 172 years, beginning in 1803; it's condos now.

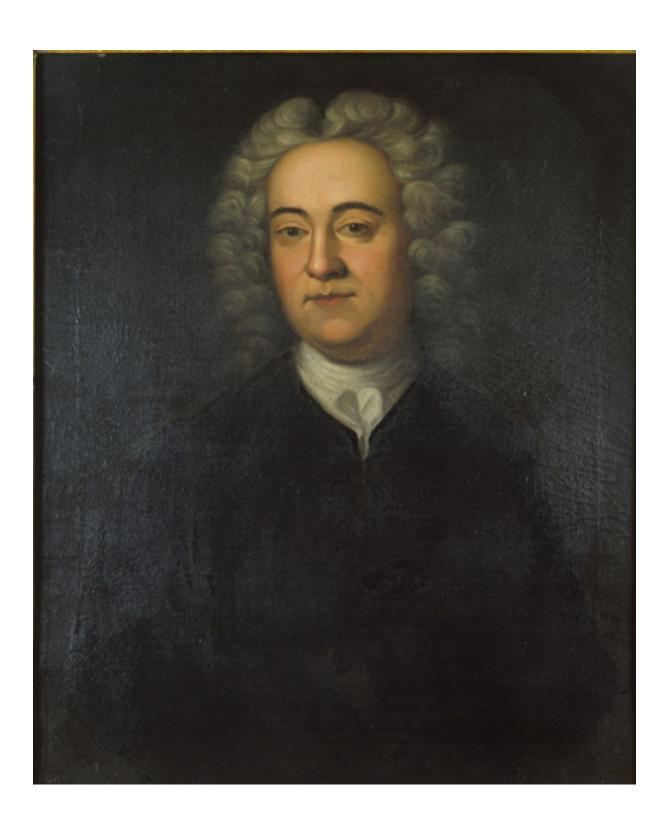
One-liner (three buildings south toward the creek) For over a century, Federated Charities has served Frederick County through its own community services and programs as well as by fostering non-profit organizations that fund critical community impact efforts. Margaret Janet Williams donated the house to Federated Charities after her death in 1922.

Stop 13: Lee Bridge (walk south on Market to the creek then east to the bridge)

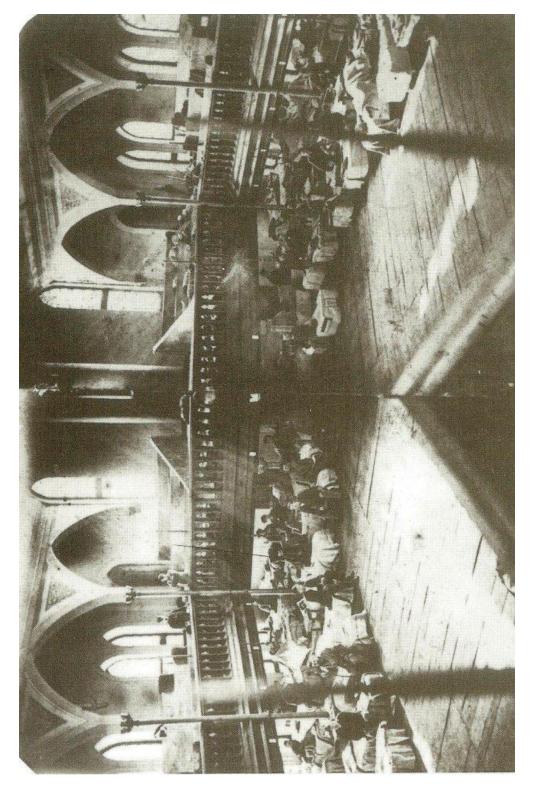
The large suspension bridge at the center of the Carroll Creek Promenade opened in 2006 and is dedicated to William O. Lee (1928-2004) [IMAGE]. The bridge connects downtown with East All Saints Street, ending on the latter near the site of the colonial All Saints Church where Black families in Frederick established Asbury United Methodist Church in the early-19th century. Early in Frederick's development, the area south of Carroll Creek was the nucleus of a vibrant Black community, with businesses, churches, schools, and civic organizations. William Lee grew up on West All Saints Street, served in the United States Navy during World War II, and returned to Frederick to teach physical education at Lincoln High School until it was integrated and became West Frederick Junior High. Lee then became assistant principal and later principal, serving as a mentor to hundreds of students during his education career. In 1986, voters elected Lee to the City's Board of Alderman where he served two terms, championing causes for better housing and access to public services. Lee also was dedicated to preserving Frederick's Black stories, collecting photographs and artifacts from the community, and he led the creation of African American Resources and Cultural Heritage Society, usually called AARCH. A significant amount of Lee's extensive collection of photographs, documents, and artifacts from Frederick's Black community is in the collection held at Heritage Frederick. The bridge opened two years after William O. Lee's death, and now in his memory, serves as a vital link symbolically connecting the two Fredericks that were separated by Carroll Creek.

Heritage Frederick's African American History Tour explores All Saints Street in depth. AARCH also provides tours and is developing a museum preserving Frederick's Black history.

And, that's the end of our tour. Thank you for joining me; I hope these stops through downtown Frederick have helped show the foundations of Frederick as it arose and grew over 275 years from a colonial wilderness to a bustling city that still retains a small town feel. I've mentioned once or twice that we offer other walking tours with different features and emphases, and we'd be glad to have you come back and walk with us again.

















An early view of Frederick's "Clustered Spires" from Barber and Howe's *Our Whole Country*, published in 1861.

