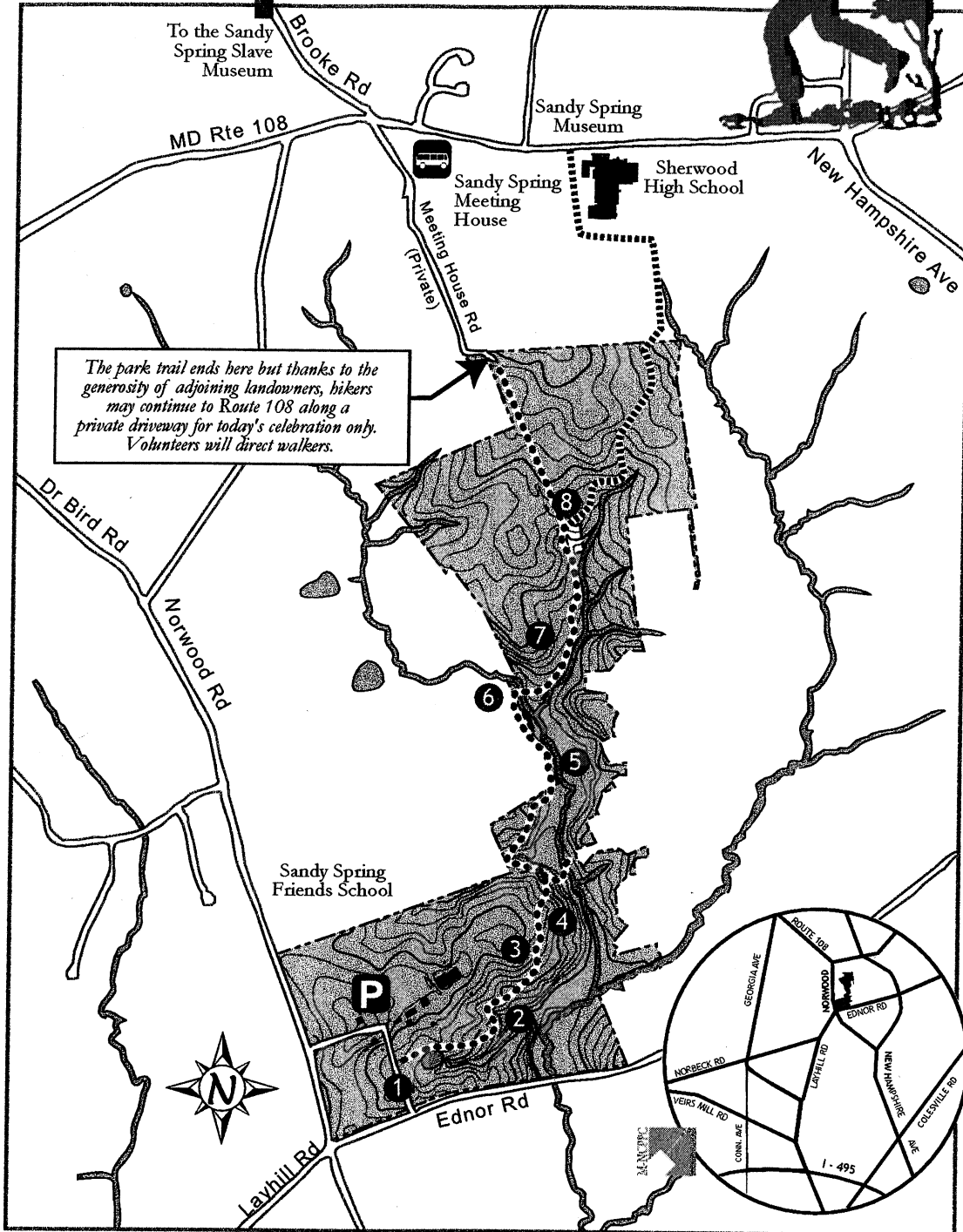


Sandy Spring Rural Legacy Trail



The park trail ends here but thanks to the generosity of adjoining landowners, hikers may continue to Route 108 along a private driveway for today's celebration only. Volunteers will direct walkers.

- Rural Legacy Trail - 1.5 miles
- Future Northwest Branch Trail
- P** Parking
- Shuttle Bus Return To Woodlawn
- Park Boundaries & Topography
- Streams & Water

- Points of Interest Along the Trail**
 - In depth descriptions are on the back side of this map.
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Woodlawn Manor & Barn | 5 Creek Crossing |
| 2 The Woods | 6 Stream Crossing |
| 3 The Brambles | 7 Farm Fields |
| 4 Crossing of Paths | 8 The Sandy Spring |

Welcome. The Sandy Spring Rural Legacy Trail celebrates the history of Sandy Spring and commemorates the involvement of Montgomery County residents in the Underground Railroad.

Imagine The time is the 1850's. The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, have helped make Sandy Spring a prosperous farming and commercial center. The Friends Meeting House, built in 1817, is the center of religious and community life. Even though slavery will not be abolished in Maryland until 1864, the Friends have disowned any member who continues the practice of slavery. In Sandy Spring, free blacks own their own homes and have organized churches, schools, and an array of social clubs although such public gatherings are extremely dangerous in this anti-abolitionist county. Local patrols and slave catchers stalk the fields and woods. Quakers and free blacks assist escaping slaves via the secret "Underground Railroad"—a system of people and places organized to help slaves escape to freedom. Rumor has it that the fugitive slave, Dred Scott, is staying in the log cabin home of Enoch George Howard while the US Supreme Court deliberates whether or not Scott should be returned to his owner in Missouri. (A county attorney, Montgomery Blair, unsuccessfully defends him.)

You are escaping to freedom and have made it to Woodlawn (the start of the trail). Now you must travel through woods and skirt the edges of farm fields to safely reach the Sandy Spring itself. *Can you do it?*



The Trail Route

1. Woodlawn Manor & Barn. This Georgian style brick house was built around 1800 by the Thomas family, prominent Quakers of the area. From 1820 to 1920 it was owned by the Palmer family, also Quakers. Dr. William Palmer was one of the founders of the Mutual Insurance Company of Sandy Spring.

The unique stone barn was constructed in 1832 by master stone mason, Isaac Holland. Local lore holds that the barn was used as a hiding place for escaping slaves. The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission has plans to make the barn into a Visitors Center for the Underground Railroad/Quaker Heritage Trail.

2. The Woods. Slaves seeking freedom would usually begin their journey in the Spring under the cover of a rain storm. The rain washed away tracks and made it difficult for dogs to follow a scent. You would have tried to get away from open spaces and main traveled roads, and head toward heavily forested areas where you could not be seen from a long distance.

3. The Brambles. A good place to hide while resting on your journey would have been a large bramble patch. Dogs, horses, and men all shy away from brambles because they stick to fur and clothes and make traveling very uncomfortable. Burrowing a hole into a thorny bush like Brer Rabbit would have been a good way to take a short nap without being detected.

4. Crossing of Paths. The danger here is that it is easy to get disoriented in among the trees and to lose your way. If you were following an underground railroad route the path to take may have been marked with secret signals such as bent tree limbs or stones piled in a certain way. This portion of the trail was made possible through a donation of land from the nearby Sandy Spring Friends School. The path to the left goes to the school.

5. Creek Crossing. Escaping slaves faced many obstacles. Since most did not know how to swim, creeks and rivers were formidable barricades. For smaller creeks like this one, one had to make do with wading or hopping across stones, unless a bridge could be found.

6. Stream Crossing. Creeks might be crossed with stepping stones but rivers and streams posed more of a challenge. A hidden boat or kindly ferryman sometimes provided a way across. A bridge will soon be provided at this location by Winchester Homes, developer of nearby Ashton Preserve, but until then trail users must cross at their own risk.

7. Farm Fields. Open fields were dangerous since you could be seen from a far distance, so you would have kept to the wooded edges of the field. But if the field was grown tall with corn or tobacco it provided excellent cover and you could cross through the middle without fear.

8. The Sandy Spring. The local community took its name from this spring which provides fresh water filtered through a sandy soil. Every farm and home nearby had a path leading to this spring. The water feeds a creek which flows into the Northwest Branch of the Anacostia River. The concrete archway over the spring was constructed by Asa Stabler in 1914. The date over the spring, 1745, refers to the time that the local Quakers first formed the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting.



NOTICE TO RURAL LEGACY TRAIL USERS!

The Sandy Spring Rural Legacy Trail is **NOT COMPLETELY FINISHED**. Although a rough pathway has been identified and cleared for today's celebration, difficult areas still remain.

Trail users may walk from Woodlawn Manor all the way to the Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House at Maryland Rte. 108, a distance of 1.5 miles. Shuttle bus rides will be available to return to Woodlawn.

Is there an easier way to get to the Sandy Spring?

The easiest way to get to the Sandy Spring is to walk south from the Sandy Spring Meeting Friends House, proceed along Meeting House Road and then cross an open area to the Sandy Spring. The distance is approximately .7 miles. The Sandy Spring Friends Meeting House is a shuttle bus stop. There is a limited amount of parking at the Friends Meeting House.

Portions of the Meeting House Road are privately owned and maintained and are open to the public for today only. Please remain on Meeting House Road and respect the privacy of adjoining landowners.



Emmet, Eileen

From: Emmet, Eileen
Sent: Tuesday, March 18, 2003 10:41 AM
To: 'joseph.connor@wap.org'
Cc: Wright, Gwen
Subject: RE: Woodlawn Barn

Thank you for your email. There will be a public meeting this Thursday, March 20, 2003 at 7:30 pm at the Sandy Spring Museum to present the proposed reuse of the Stone Barn as a visitor and information center and trailhead for the Sandy Spring Rural Legacy Trail and the Montgomery County Quaker and Underground Railroad Heritage Cluster. I will include your email with a packet of community concerns when this proposal goes before the Planning Board, currently planned for May 29th.

Eileen Emmet, AIA
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 eileen.emmet@mncppc-mc.org

-----Original Message-----

From: joseph connor [mailto:joseph.connor@wap.org]
Sent: Monday, March 17, 2003 10:59 PM
To: Emmet, Eileen
Subject: Woodlawn Barn

Please include provision for performing arts space in the proposed conversion of the historic Woodlawn barn. Some years ago there were discussions between the Sandy Spring Theatre Group and MNCPPC representatives concerning the possibility of converting the Woodlawn barn to a performing arts facility. Unfortunately, the discussions foundered on the issue of finances.

The Sandy Spring Theatre Group was formed in 1949 and has been performing ever since - for the last several years, in the Wheaton area. The Group returned to its eponymous roots last Fall with a production of Ben Franklin at the Sandy Spring Museum. Since then the Group has had little success in finding suitable space in the Sandy Spring area.

Joseph Connor
 17805 Dominion Dr
 Sandy Spring, MD 20860

joseph.connor@wap.org

Emmet, Eileen

From: Emmet, Eileen
Sent: Monday, March 24, 2003 10:01 AM
To: 'Schaeffer, Elaine'
Subject: RE: Woodlawn Cultural Park

I will mail you the information I have that were handouts at the meeting. At the present time, I don't have anything else available in a form that can be mailed, i.e. no floor plans or other drawings. There will be a briefing on the projects this Wednesday evening, March 26th in the auditorium at 8787 Georgia Avenue for the Historic Preservation Commission and the public is welcome to attend. You can call (301) 563-3409 for more information. Following that, the next public presentation is currently scheduled for a Planning Board hearing on Thursday, May 29. No traffic studies are anticipated at this time. We are only planning a handful of new parking spaces at the Stone Barn barnyard and that area is already used for overflow parking when events are held at the Manor House.

Eileen Emmet, AIA
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-----Original Message-----

From: Schaeffer, Elaine [mailto:Elaine.Schaeffer@FairfaxCounty.gov]
Sent: Thursday, March 20, 2003 9:13 PM
To: Emmet, Eileen
Subject: Woodlawn Cultural Park

I was not able to make the meeting this evening and was wondering if you could forward me any handouts, maps, or other information that was distributed or that you have available on the proposed use of Woodland and the two identified projects. Also, do you have any projections on increase in traffic on Ednor Road?

Please email me at: Elaine.Schaeffer@fairfaxcounty.gov
or mail to: Elaine Schaeffer
320 Ednor Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905

Telephone: 301-924-7447

Thanks.
Elaine Schaeffer