

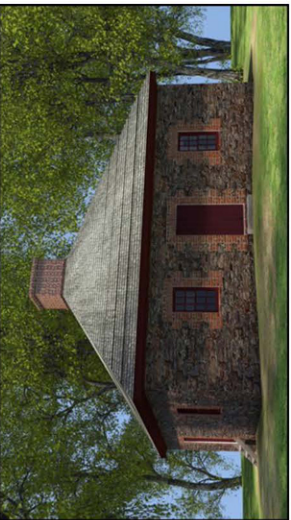
For more information on this research project visit www.aacounty.org/ct. This page includes a digital Story Map with maps, photos, and a detailed discussion of Generals Highway history.

[Exposed stone foundation at the Savoy site.](#)



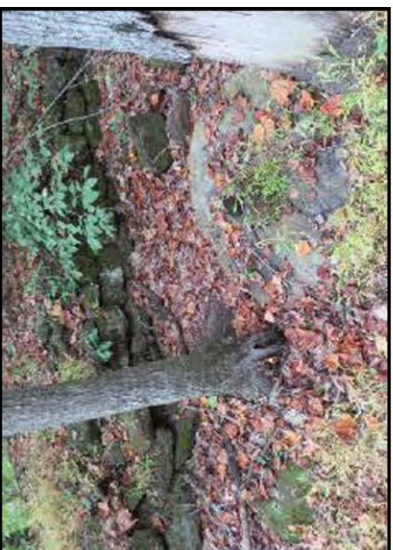
This project also shed light on individuals largely forgotten over time, such as black tenant farmers Charles and Anne Savoy. Archaeologists excavated the circa 1870s-1880s dwelling they inhabited on their agricultural property (below).

[Digital reconstruction of slave quarters discovered in 2014 at Belvoir Plantation \(Created by a team led by Dr. Julie Schablitsky; view at \[www.youtube.com\]\(http://www.youtube.com\)\).](#)



Another important discovery was a 34' x 34' stone slave quarter built in the 1780s at the Belvoir plantation owned by Dr. Upton Scott (below). Historical research tells us that between 15 and 30 enslaved workers labored at this plantation at any given time in its history.

[Stone foundation and mill stone found at the Bacon Ridge site.](#)



Archaeologists also uncovered a number of previously unknown or undocumented historic sites in the course of its investigations. These important discoveries included industrial sites such as an 18th- and 19th-century grist mill at the Bacon Ridge site (below).

[Prehistoric projectile points recovered from excavations.](#)



Although Generals Highway is known for its colonial history, the corridor has been inhabited for nearly 10,000 years. Fifty-six previously identified prehistoric archaeological sites are located within the project area of Generals Highway and an additional twelve prehistoric sites were identified by this study. These prehistoric sites represent a time span from the Early Archaic to the Late Woodland periods. Some have been destroyed or heavily compromised as a result of development, while many remain intact.

[Archaeologists excavating shovel test pit at the Rising Sun Inn site.](#)



produced many important finds.

A methodical and carefully planned investigation was initiated to learn more about this historic road. Archival research, advanced mapping, and targeted archaeological excavations (below) produced many important finds.

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The cultural landscape of Generals Highway played a significant role in the development of Anne Arundel County and in the development of networks from Annapolis to the rest of the State. This historic 8-mile road is the surviving remnant of a colonial post road that originally led to Baltimore and points beyond, such as Philadelphia. Before the construction of Ritchie Highway (Rt. 2) and Crain Highway (Rt. 3) in 1927, followed by Veterans Highway (Rt. 67) in 1933, it was the main thoroughfare from Annapolis.

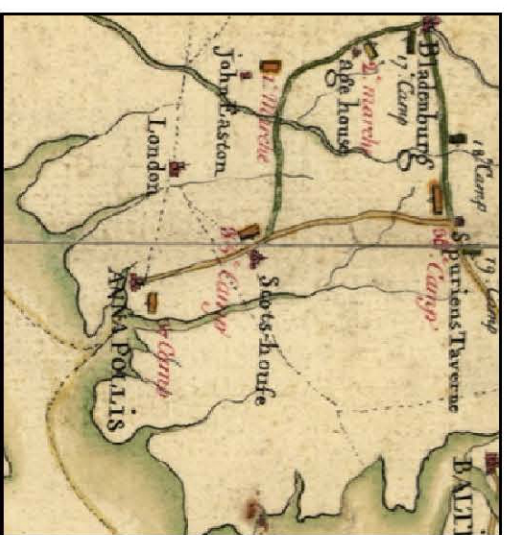
journey to the Continental Congress in Annapolis.

History of Generals Highway

Generals Highway acquired the inspiration for its name due to its association with the Revolutionary War, George Washington, and Count de Rochambeau. Rochambeau and his troops marched along the road on the way from Annapolis to Yorktown in 1781. Washington was known to use the road repeatedly, particularly after the Revolutionary War, when he would journey to the Continental Congress in Annapolis.

Generals Highway (MD-178):

A Journey Along an Historic Road



Generals Highway (MD-178) is an 8-mile road with a long and significant history that stretches from Annapolis to the Severn River in Anne Arundel County.

This historic thoroughfare includes Native American villages, colonial dwellings, plantations, taverns, Revolutionary and Civil War sites, and the 19th- and 20th-century homes and businesses that lined the adjacent Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad.

Image: Carte générale des camps et marches et des troupes françaises sous les ordres du Lieutenant General Comte de mbeau, June 9, 1781.

Anne Arundel County
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CULTURAL RESOURCES DIVISION

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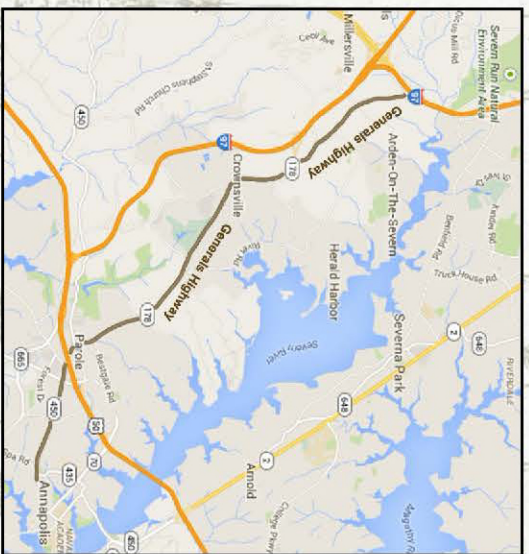


Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division is responsible for managing and protecting the county's historic buildings, districts and sites, archaeological resources, historic cemeteries, and landscapes along scenic roads.

The Division documents and maintains the County's Inventory of Historic Properties; manages its Historic Tax Credit Program; administers and creates easements, covenants, and plat notes to protect resources; supports archaeological investigations in the County; and provides technical assistance to individuals, historic property owners, heritage organizations, and County agencies.

The focus of this intensive research project was to identify, locate, record, assess, study and share with the public the range of archaeological and cultural resources within a one-mile buffer of Generals Highway (Route 178).

This collaborative cultural landscape study was funded by a Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) grant from the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT). It involved extensive archival research, advanced cartography, and archaeological testing.



Between 2013-2017, Anne Arundel County's Cultural Resources Division, in partnership with the Maryland State Highway Administration, conducted a multi-year investigation of historic Generals Highway.

Background Image: Collis Survey of the Roads of the United States of America, 1789.

Archaeologists and architectural historians documented many significant historic sites along Generals Highway. Several of these sites are shown on the 1878 Hopkins Atlas at left. This map also depicts the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad, property owners, and natural features.



1 Bacon Ridge Site-Native Americans traversed the Generals Highway 9,000 years ago. Archaeologists found prehistoric stone tools such as this mortar and pestle. A ruin of an 18th-century grist mill was also found here.



2 Rising Sun Inn-This 1753 tavern provided food, drink, and lodging for travelers on their way to Annapolis. It has been the headquarters of the Daughters of the American Revolution since 1916.



3 Belvoir-This 18th-century house and surrounding tobacco plantation were owned by the Ross and Scott families. In 2014, archaeologists discovered a 34'x 34' slave quarter built on the property in the 1780s.



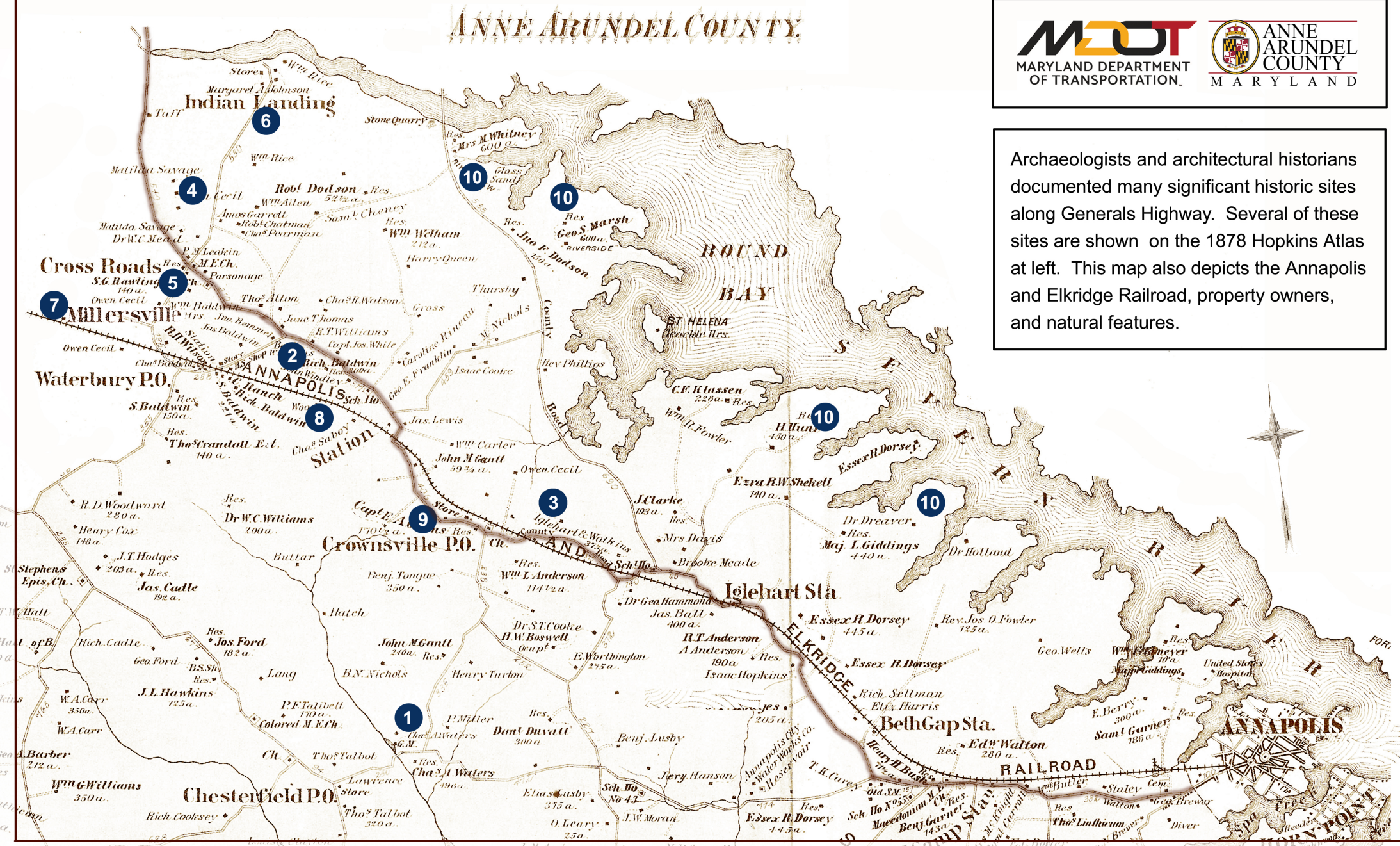
4 Brooksby Point-In 1777, the English missionary and circuit rider Francis Asbury began conducting sermons here in the home of John Sewell. Asbury later became one of the first two Methodist bishops in America.



5 Bunker Hill-An early 19th-century slave cabin still stands on the 200-acre plantation owned by wealthy merchant William Henry Baldwin. There are only a few documented slave cabins remaining in the State.



6 Indian Landing-This 1683 tobacco inspection port served several surrounding plantations. The tobacco barn at left once stood on nearby Hockley in the Hole and was moved to Historic London Town and Gardens.



7 Millersville Post Office-Designated in 1841 and named for Postmaster George Miller, the post office was located along the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad. Now called the Childs Residence, it is the County's South Shore Trail Ranger Station.



8 Savoy Site-Archaeologists excavated the dwelling of Anne and Charles Savoy, African Americans who operated a 10-acre farm in the 1870s-1880s. These buttons and beads were among thousands of artifacts recovered.



9 Crownsville Hospital-This mental hospital complex for African American patients was built on a 556-acre parcel in 1911 and has a controversial history. Patients grew willow and manufactured baskets and furniture here in the early 20th century.



10 Herald Harbor, Sherwood Forest, Epping Forest, and Arden on the Severn-These residential summer resorts date to the 1920s. This Sherwood Forest cabin is a typical dwelling that survives from this time period.