

## **Element 8: Cultural, Historical, and Tourism Amenities**

### **Goals & Objectives**

**Goal:** Identify and conserve Freedom’s architectural, historic, cultural, and scenic heritage.

**Goal:** Develop strategies for intelligent use, conservation, and when appropriate, preservation, of Freedom’s heritage.

**Objective 1:** Utilize public-private partnerships to encourage conservation opportunities and activities.

**Objective 2:** Continue to promote public education and outreach for tourism and historic preservation opportunities.

**Objective 3:** Utilize state and federal resources to identify, catalogue, and encourage protection of notable cultural and historic resources in the Freedom Planning Area.

### **Historic Properties, Buildings, and Sites**

Historic resources and natural attractions give a community its identity. These resources provide a sense of who we are, where we came from, and where we may be going.

Conservation of these important assets helps us to understand the present as a product of the past and as a modifier of the future. Protecting these buildings and landscapes conserves tangible and visible links with a community’s past, conserves places that are important parts of a community’s identity, and retains important resources that may provide historical information about how an area was settled, developed, or declined, all while serving as a harbinger of what is to come.

The Freedom community has a number of historically-significant sites that, along with the scenic views, open spaces, reservoirs, and other environmental resources, are major components of its unique character. Currently, there are approximately 1,730 historic sites in Carroll County that are included on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP). Of these sites, 156<sup>1</sup> lie partially or fully within the Freedom Community Comprehensive planning area (including Sykesville). Seven of these properties are on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and 15 properties are eligible for NRHP designation. Across the County, preservation easements have been placed on 37 historic resources. Freedom contains 7 of these sites which are protected by Maryland Historic

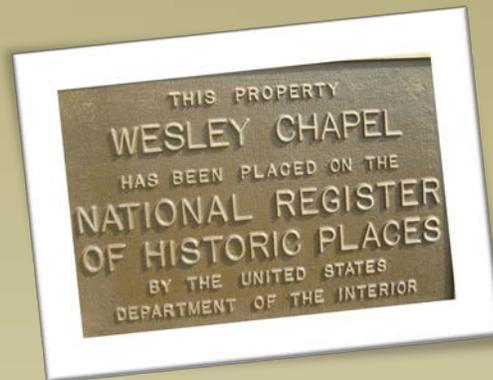
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<sup>1</sup> Carroll County has 152 recorded historic sites, shown in the Historic Sites Map. This number reflects the state record of 156.

Trust (MHT) Easements<sup>2</sup>. (Note: Two historic sites are under agricultural easements, Bennett-Kelly Farm and the Harden-Beasman Farm, also known as Koller Farm, which is in ruin. An agricultural easement preserves the land not the structure.). These NRHP and MHT properties may be viewed in the following tables. A full list of historic sites in Freedom may be found in the Appendix.

**Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church – CARR-167**

“The Methodist movement in America began in Carroll County, Maryland about 1760. Wesley Chapel was erected to serve one of the earliest Methodist congregations in the County, reputedly organized in 1780. The present building reflects the efforts of a mature, established group. The Wesley Chapel is the oldest unaltered Methodist house of worship remaining in the County; one extant building, the Stone Chapel at New Windsor, predates it (1783) but has been extensively altered over time.” “The building has remained substantially unaltered since its construction in 1822, and presents a significant example of early 19th century vernacular church architecture in the rural Piedmont region of Maryland.” Taken from: MHT, Maryland’s National Register Properties. <http://mht.maryland.gov/NR/index.html>



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<sup>2</sup> “As contractual agreements between a property owner and a qualified organization, preservation easements can safeguard historic homes, farmsteads, archeological sites, historic landscapes and other features. Typically, owners of easement properties agree that they must receive MHT’s consent and approval before making changes to the protected building, and before constructing new buildings. Owners also agree to maintain the property and buildings in good condition, and to provide limited access for the public to view the historic structures.” MD Department of Planning, MHT. <https://mht.maryland.gov/easement.shtm>

**EL8\_Table 1: Freedom Historic Sites – National Register of Historic Places**

<b>MIHP NO</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>LISTED DATE</b>
<b>CARR-167</b>	Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church	1011 Liberty Rd	1984
<b>CARR-653</b>	Moses Brown House	6736 Ridge Road,	1980
<b>CARR-269</b>	Springfield Presbyterian Church	7300 Spout Hill Rd	1986
<b>CARR-91</b>	Branton Manor	2819 Old Liberty Road	1978
<b>CARR-1024</b>	Sykesville Historic District	Main St.	1985
<b>CARR-1643</b>	Warfield Complex, Hubner, and T Buildings	5th St	2000
<b>CARR-1672</b>	Bennett-Kelly Farm	5842 Oakland Rd	2004

**EL8\_Table 2: Freedom Historic Sites – Maryland Historic Trust Easement Program**

<b>MIHP NO</b>	<b>EASEMENT NAME</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>	<b>RECORD DATE</b>
<b>CARR-1294</b>	Bloomfield	402 Obrecht Road	1991
<b>CARR-1252</b>	Springfield Hospital Gatehouse	7283 Cooper Drive	1997
<b>CARR-239</b>	Fenwick House	Arrington Road	1993
<b>CARR-1487</b>	Sykesville Black Schoolhouse	524 Schoolhouse Road	2000
<b>CARR-265</b>	Sykesville Train Depot	7618 Main Street (MD851)	1989
<b>CARR-1212-1223</b>	Warfield Property	5 <sup>th</sup> Street; Main Street	2004
<b>CARR-1719</b>	Sykesville Freedom Firehouse	Sykesville Road	2003

Combined, these structures and sites add up to a valuable amenity with considerable cultural, ethnic, and economic value accruing to residents of the Freedom community. Some notable sites include the buildings that make up the Springfield Hospital Center and

**Moses Brown House – CARR-653**

“The Moses Brown House is significant as an example of late 18th-early 19th century Carroll County architecture in transition both in style and in the status of the person for whom it was erected. The original section of this two part house is a 2 1/2-story log structure which was erected about 1785 and is notable for the very high pitch of the roof, corner fireplaces (one of which retains an original mantelpiece), and much original extant simple Classical influenced woodwork (particularly the mantelpiece with the ogee frieze in the west first floor room). As the owner prospered, the second portion of the house, a stone structure, was erected. Built about 1814 (the year recorded in the date stone), this stone section exhibits a volumetric and stylistic sophistication in woodwork found in new houses of this period in southeastern Carroll County.” Taken from: MHT, Maryland’s National Register Properties.

<http://mht.maryland.gov/NR/index.html>



Photo from Wikipedia.org

Warfield Complex and the Sykesville Train Depot (now Baldwin's Station Restaurant). The lands around the former B&O train stop are envisioned by the town plan to include tourism, commercial and recreation uses. There is opportunity in the Springfield/Warfield complex to preserve the multiple buildings that are NRHP eligible and create an attractive space for all users.

### Springfield Presbyterian Church – CARR-269

“The Springfield Presbyterian Church is a significant landmark of community history and religion in Sykesville. The structure served as the area's first school as well as the building of worship for the Presbyterian congregation. The church has had a number of influential Marylanders associated with it including George Patterson, renowned for his agricultural experimentation at his estate "Springfield," who donated the land for the church, and Frank Brown, past Governor of Maryland. The church is also one of the best examples of the rural interpretation of early 19th century Classicism in Carroll County. Despite its widespread popularity, this style was not employed widely in the county; its influence is most apparent in major public buildings such as Springfield Presbyterian Church and the County Courthouse.” Taken from: MHT, Maryland's National Register Properties.  
<http://mht.maryland.gov/NR/index.html>



County Photo



**Branton Manor – CARR-91**

“Branton Manor is interesting for its odd combination of three architectural styles and for some of the features of its different structures. The central section is very narrow, apparently built to fit the space between the two earlier sections. Though smaller than many of its type, it is a representative of the Federal style so popular throughout Carroll County and other areas of Maryland from the late 18th century until the third and fourth decades of the 19th century. The west section is one of the few examples in Carroll County of a tidewater house form common elsewhere in 18th-century Maryland. The section is unusual in the house form, though, having two corner chimneys rather than end chimneys and being constructed of stone rather than the more common brick or frame. The other 18th century section to the west of the center is a German house type with evidence of a pent roof, its asymmetrical fenestration and its smaller scale second story. In addition to these factors in relation to style, Branton Manor appears to be largely unaltered (except for the east section).” Taken from: MHT, Maryland’s National Register Properties. <http://mht.maryland.gov/NR/index.html>



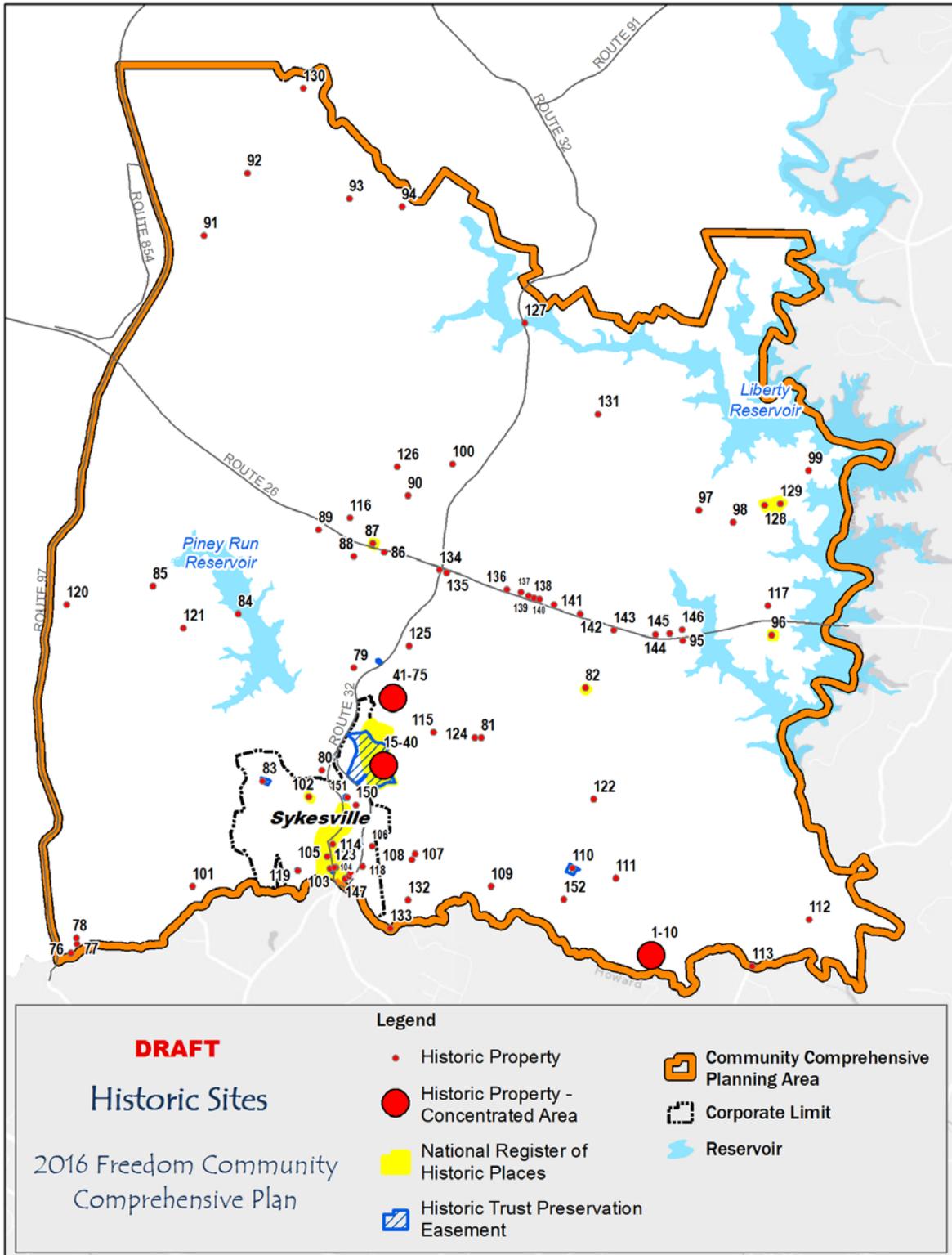
Photo from MD National Register Properties

## Bennett-Kelly Farm – CARR-1672

“The Bennett-Kelly Farm is significant for its architecture as an example of a type of family farmstead that characterized rural agricultural Carroll County from the mid 19th century through the early 20th century. Its compliment of outbuildings illustrate the evolution of farming practices in the period. The property derives additional significance for its documented association with the use of slave labor, and subsequent operation by a single woman, two aspects of social history that were rare in 19th-century Carroll County. The stone section of the house was constructed c. 1840, probably by Wesley Bennett, a prosperous farmer. The symmetrical moldings with corner blocks, the "Clark" door hinges, the lancet-profile window muntins, and the ramped handrail together suggest a date of c. 1840-1860. Bennett died in 1875, and the property was divided among his daughters, with Caroline Bennett receiving the house. Caroline died in 1909, and her estate indicates that the frame addition had been constructed by this time. Construction details and trim on this section are clearly from the early 20th century, c. 1905-1930.” Taken from: MHT, Maryland’s National Register Properties. <http://mht.maryland.gov/NR/index.html>



Photo from MD National Register Properties



Note: A corresponding listing of historic sites in the Freedom Planning area may be found in the Appendix.

## Creative Placemaking

There is also opportunity to preserve, better utilize and connect these sites through a recently developed concept called Creative Placemaking. Creative Placemaking is a tool being used nationwide that supports tourism and can boost economic activity. It may also be used to reflect the historic character of an area, facilitating community identity and the “sense of place” that has been discussed by the residents of the Freedom area throughout the Plan preparation process.

Creative Placemaking activities capitalize on the unique characteristics of an area, providing social, cultural and economic benefits to residents and merchants. “In creative placemaking, partners from public, private, non-profit, and community sectors strategically shape the physical and social character of a neighborhood, town, city, or region around arts and cultural activities. Creative placemaking animates public and private spaces, rejuvenates structures and streetscapes, improves local business viability and public safety, and brings diverse people together to celebrate, inspire, and be inspired.”<sup>3</sup> The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), which offers grants in support of creative placemaking, demonstrates how beneficial it can be to economic development and offers keys to successful placemaking. Successful Creative Placemaking:

- Is prompted by an initiator with innovative vision and drive
- Tailors strategy to distinctive features of place
- Mobilizes public will
- Attracts private sector buy-in
- Enjoys support of local artists and cultural leaders
- Builds partnerships across sectors, missions, and levels of government<sup>4</sup>

In order to be successful in Freedom, Creative Placemaking must be prompted by a current resident or business owner who is able to utilize these keys for the benefit of the community.

<sup>3</sup> Markusen, Ann and Anne Gadwa. Creative Placemaking. National Endowment for the Arts. P. 3  
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/CreativePlacemaking-Paper.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> Markusen, Ann and Anne Gadwa. Creative Placemaking. National Endowment for the Arts. Pp.4& 5  
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/CreativePlacemaking-Paper.pdf>

### Creative Placemaking Fosters Economic Development

- Recirculates residents’ incomes locally at a higher rate
- Re-uses vacant and underutilized land, buildings, and infrastructure
- Creates jobs in construction, local businesses, and cultural activity
- Expands entrepreneurial ranks of artists and designers
- Trains the next generation of cultural workers
- Attracts and retains non-arts-related businesses and skills”

Markusen, Ann and Anne Gadwa. Creative Placemaking. National Endowment for the Arts. Pp.4& 5  
<https://www.arts.gov/sites/default/files/CreativePlacemaking-Paper.pdf>



Photo from [www.mainstreetmaryland.org](http://www.mainstreetmaryland.org) of ice sculpting event on Sykesville's Main Street

In Sykesville, there are various activities that take place on and around Main Street showing great placemaking examples. First Fridays are used to host events such as concerts and block parties and offer deals and discounts to attract people to Sykesville's historic district. The Historic Colored Schoolhouse, originally a school house for educating African American's in the early 1900s, is now used to educate children of various ethnicities and ages through field trips and tours.



Photo from [www.sykesvillemainstreet.com](http://www.sykesvillemainstreet.com) of Colored School House

Other examples of successful creative placemaking can be found in rural areas around the country.

North Carolina – HandMade in America

“Established in 1993, HandMade in America was the vision of founding Executive Director Becky Anderson, who sought to find creative solutions to the region's economic problems. Focusing on the small, rural towns affected most by the loss of manufacturing, Anderson began analyzing cultural assets in the region and discovered a significant concentration of craft artists working anonymously in studios, classrooms, and galleries. With a grant from the Pew Partnership for Civic Change and input from more than 400 citizens, HandMade was soon established as a guiding force to promote these craft, cultural, and community assets with the purpose of stimulating economic growth.”

Pierce, Christy Crytzer. *North Carolina's HandMade in America*. NEA Arts Magazine. Issue 2011, No. 2. <https://www.arts.gov/NEARTS/2011v2-are-you-ready-country/creative-solutions>



Photos from: [www.arts.gov](http://www.arts.gov)

Partnerships with various entities such as the Historical Society of Carroll County, Carroll County Arts Council, McDaniel College’s Art and Art History Program, farmers and citizen groups could bring creative ideas to historical places and common public spaces that could enhance the Freedom Community.

### Missouri – Oregon County Food Producers and Artisans Co-Op

“In the small Ozark town of Alton, Missouri, the staff of Citizens’ Institute on Rural Design (CIRD) worked with the Oregon County Food Producers and Artisans Co-Op—a multi-functional organization that operates an art gallery, market space, community center, and education facility. Allowing local farmers and artisans to collaborate and supplement their incomes, the Co-op works to sustain the local communities and economies of Oregon County by tapping into the products, skills, and knowledge of its residents. Along with the market, their building also has a certified community kitchen which is used for business incubation, a pay-what-you-can lunch program, and culinary training workshops, and outside there is a large raised-bed garden, which is both an educational outreach tool and a source of fresh produce for the kitchen. A popular community hub, the Co-op hosts frequent events, from local auctions and film screenings to “pickin’ parties” and bimonthly instrumental jam sessions. These programs help to nurture a strong sense of community and place amongst area residents, and there is also an on-site folklife library with a collection of books, art, and music that highlights the cultural history of the Ozark region.”

Project for Public Spaces. Creative Communities and Arts-Based Placemaking.

<http://www.pps.org/reference/creative-communities-and-arts-based-placemaking/>



Photo from Oregon County Food Producers and Artisans Co-op Facebook page

## Tourism Opportunities

Through its various heritage areas and cultural programs, Freedom has much to offer in the way of tourism opportunities. The area’s heritage could be a major attraction when

marketing its unique Civil War characteristics, historic architecture, and Sykesville Main Street. There is even opportunity to capitalize on the unique historic stories that take place in Freedom which accompany its historic structures, such as the land of the Springfield Hospital, the 50 slaves that once tilled it, and the story of Napoleon Bonaparte's brother Jerome and Elizabeth "Betsy" Patterson Bonaparte (previously mentioned in Element 1).

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## **Main Street Program**

Sykesville is one of the four Main Street programs that are located in Carroll County. The National Trust for Historic Preservation National Main Street Center (NMSC) has developed a national network of over 2,000 historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts called MainStreet America™. This program seeks to “[celebrate] the breadth and diversity of our nation-wide network, [create] a better system to recognize different levels of achievement, and [provide] a platform to broaden our movement in scale and impact.” MainStreet America™ is dedicated to improving community quality of life and preserving the unique heritage of downtowns and commercial districts.

NMSC has a proven Main Street Four-Point Approach® that involves a four-part program to coordinate organization, economic restructuring/reinvestment, promotion, and design

### **Sykesville Historic District – CARR-1024**

“The Sykesville Historic District is significant for its architecture, comprising a cohesive collection of commercial, residential, and ecclesiastical buildings dating from c. 1850 through c. 1925; these buildings and their setting retain sufficient integrity to enable the district to convey a sense of a rural Maryland town in the first quarter of the 20th century.

The district also includes a small commercial area characterized by two- and three-story masonry buildings of eclectic Neoclassical and Georgian Revival design, and several two-story shed-roofed frame storefronts. The southern anchor of the district is an outstanding Queen Anne railroad station dated 1883, reflecting Sykesville's importance as an early stop on the Baltimore and Ohio main line.” Taken from: MHT, Maryland's National Register Properties.

<http://mht.maryland.gov/NR/index.html>



which nationally has returned an \$18.00 private investment for each dollar of public investment over its thirty-five year existence. In Maryland, a fifth element, measures to achieve a “Clean, Safe and Green” community, are part of the evaluation and implementation process. “The cumulative success of the Main Street Four-Point Approach® and Main Street programs on the local level has earned this revitalization strategy a reputation as one of the most powerful economic development tools in the nation.”

## **Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area and Journey Through Hallowed Ground**

### **Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area**

Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) is comprised of three Maryland counties – Washington, Frederick, and Carroll. It is a nonprofit that is a part of the Maryland Heritage Areas Program. The mission of HCWHA is to “promote the stewardship of our historic, cultural, and natural Civil War resources; encourage superior visitor experiences; and stimulate tourism, economic prosperity, and educational development, thereby improving the quality of life in our community for the benefit of both residents and visitors.”<sup>5</sup> Being in the HCWHA allows businesses and organizations to use state grants, loans, and tax incentives to undertake projects that support the heritage area's goals and capitalize on the area's significant Civil War-related history.

The Freedom area is notable in this program for its role in the Confederate advance to the Battle of Gettysburg. The northern route taken by the Confederates cut through the heart of Freedom along what is currently MD-32, allowing for the movement of over 60,000 troops from the southern end of Carroll County to Gettysburg. The Battle of Gettysburg in July, 1863 is generally seen as the turning point in the Civil War, when the Union victory ended Lee's invasion of the north. It is notable due to the number of casualties and for the strategic value of the campaign and for the tactics employed. It was also the inspiration for Lincoln's famous Gettysburg address. There may be a tourism opportunity along this route to mark its historical significance and create an attraction.

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<sup>5</sup> *About.* Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area. <http://www.heartofthecivilwar.org/about>

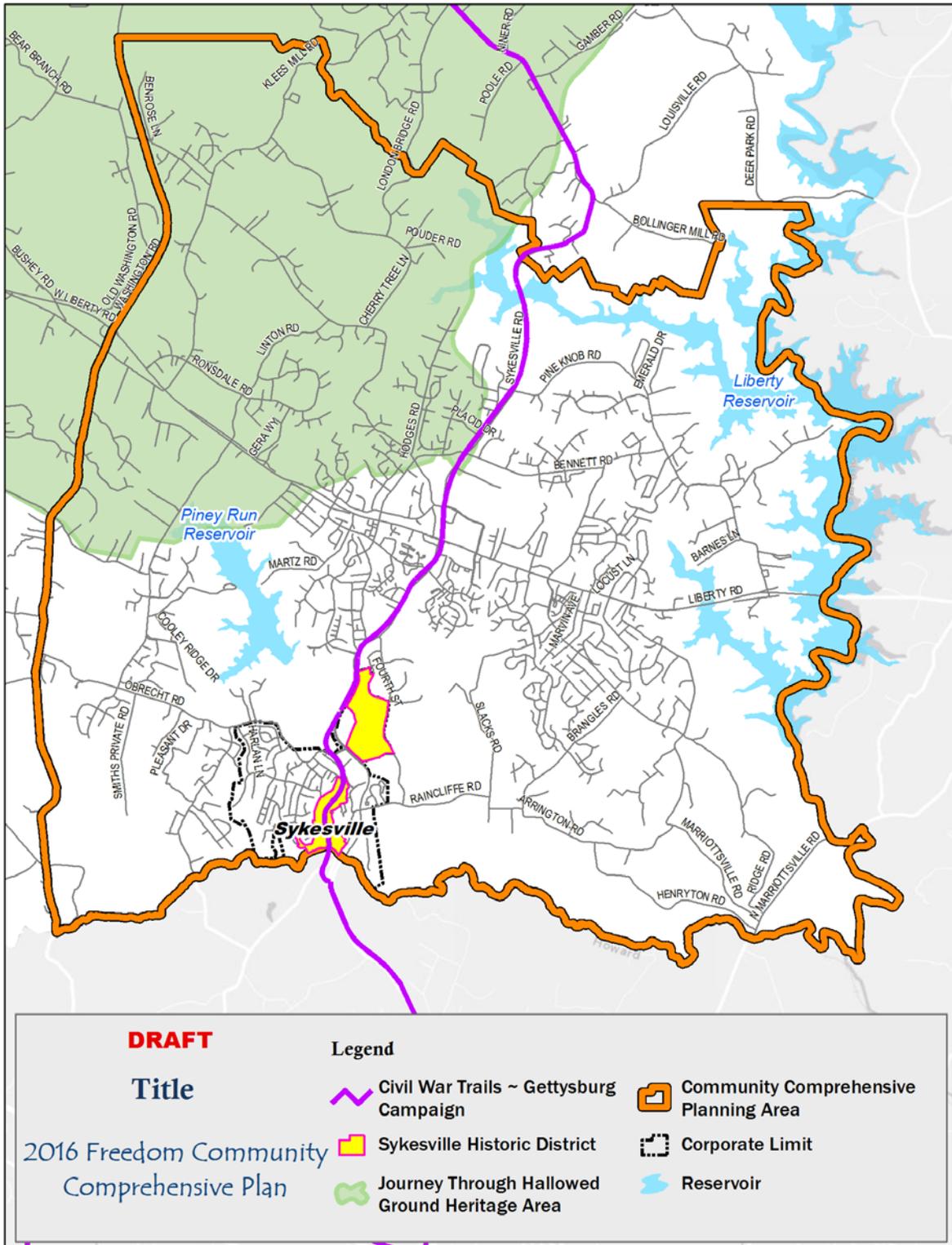


Figure 1: Gettysburg Campaign Marker along Sykesville Main Street

## Journey Through Hallowed Ground

Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) is a historic corridor encompassing sites of national significance associated with the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, presidential history, the Civil War, as well as Native-American and African-American heritage. JTHG is made up of a 180-mile long, 75-mile wide area stretching into four states, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia and Virginia. The JTHG Partnership is a non-profit dedicated to raising awareness of American heritage in a region that has more history than any other region in the nation. The area is a National Heritage Area that includes award-winning programs for students of all ages.<sup>6</sup> The northwest portion of the Freedom area is a part of this corridor. The historic sites in this area should be examined for significance. Various events, creative spaces, and attractions could be created that may attract tourists and businesses.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.hallowedground.org/>



## Recommendations

The following recommendations capitalize on the considerable resources already available in the Freedom community, while also presenting a means to enhance the existing and future character of Freedom.

1. Promote intelligent and appropriate use of historic resources in the Freedom community
  - Promote the adaptive re-use of historically-significant buildings to preserve the history of the community while also serving residents of the neighborhoods in Freedom.
  - Consider using creative placemaking as a tool to support tourism and economic activity.
  - Consider development review modifications to encourage new buildings and subdivisions to respect historically recognized properties and sites through creative design and placement of new roads, buildings, signage, landscaping, etc.
  - To achieve the countywide Master Plan’s goal to preserve Carroll County’s “historic experience”, the various historic buildings within the Freedom area should become the focus of conservation initiatives and protection strategies.
2. Identify and promote bicycle and pedestrian connections, where possible, to key historic, tourism, and scenic destinations that will yield the greatest impact on the community as a whole.
  - Connecting destinations through bicycle and pedestrian facilities will promote recreation, tourism, and economic growth activities.
3. Continue to work and coordinate with the Town of Sykesville.
  - Seek to capitalize on opportunities to utilize the many cultural and historical sites and resources within the municipal limits of Sykesville, including a portion of the Warfield Complex.
4. Develop programs for the Freedom area that will encourage and enhance historic preservation.
  - It is important for the Freedom community to recognize and support historic preservation in the creation of livable communities and to help promote

preservation through the stewardship of its own historic resources. Opportunities exist in the area of placemaking in rural communities.

- The Freedom area should benefit from countywide regulations that aim to foster and facilitate inter and intra governmental cooperation and assure appropriate funding both for personnel and for the maintenance and interpretation of buildings and sites in an effort to preserve and enhance its heritage resources.
5. Facilitate economic development by providing mechanisms for the public and private investment in historic properties.
    - Historic preservation can play an important role in the economic development of the Freedom community in general and the expansion of the tourism industry in particular. Public decision making should consider the potential for renewal and the value of investments in existing infrastructure. Economic incentives for the preservation, maintenance, and adaptive re use of historic structures that are currently either functionally or economically inefficient should be sought.
  6. Promote historic preservation through public education and outreach.
    - This includes the education of public officials and private citizens in the Freedom area on the benefits and methods of preservation, as well as the history, value, and unique qualities of the properties.
    - The history of the communities and the region in general, are vital to the understanding of, appreciation for, and preservation of our historic resources. This education process should start when young and should be ongoing.
  7. Various events, creative spaces, and attractions could be created that may attract tourists and businesses.
    - Consider utilizing exiting historic structures coupled with the arts in education such as dramatic plays, skits, artwork, and music to create attractive places.
    - There may be a tourism opportunity along MD-32, the northern route taken by the Confederates to the battle at Gettysburg, to mark its historical significance and create an attraction.