
MYERSVILLE

Walking Tour



Myersville, Maryland

This walking tour will introduce you to the historic homes and buildings of Myersville, Maryland. It cannot include every property, so it is focused on those of known provenance. You can begin the self-guided tour at any house in the brochure. Properties are identified by street number. All the properties on the tour are on Main Street except the Myersville Community Library, on Harp Place which is in the northern part of town.



7 Main Street. The Doub House.

This was the home of long-time Myersville Mayor Grayson Doub. He served as Mayor from 1952 to 1964 and again from 1966 to 1972. This

brick two-story home was constructed before 1930 and remains in the Doub family today.



9 Main Street. The Eccard House. This Federal style home dates from the 1860's. It is of brick construction with walls that are three bricks thick, which was not unusual for the time. It was built in the four-rooms

up and four-rooms down style with a two story porch in back which has been enclosed. Like many homes of the time, it has two front doors. The Eccard family lived in the house through much of the 20th century and one member of the family recalled the trolley tracks that ran just feet from her front door and how the plates would rattle on the shelf when the trolley went by.



24 Main Street. The Wheeler Smith House. This is a two story-four-bay brick house built before 1900. It has a one story porch with a central cross gable. There is a two story wing in the back of the house. In

1905 it was the home of Wheeler Smith, a farmer who operated Merlee Dairy from the property in the 1920's. More recently this was the home of the Calvin Waters family. Waters was a farmer who owned much of the land in the southern part of Myersville. About 10 feet northwest of the house is where the first structure, a log house, was built in about 1750.



109 Main Street. The Brown House. This brick Colonial Revival home was originally built by carriage maker John T. Hildebrand in 1905 for he and his wife, Sophia Brown. She was the daughter of Joseph Brown a Myersville merchant. The roof is slate and

the window openings have segmental arches. This is one of several large residences built after the Myersville and Catoclin Electric Railway was constructed. Since 1953 it was the home of Ann and Joe Brown, no relation to the earlier Joseph Brown. The later Joseph Brown was a well-known local surveyor.

Highlights in the History of Myersville

- 1750** The first settler of the Town of Myersville built a cabin on property on the southwest end of town near what is now 24 Main Street, in about 1750. Over the next 150 years the community added more homes, stores, and businesses until, by the turn of the 20th century, Myersville was a thriving community.
- 1904** The Town of Myersville was incorporated by an act of the General Assembly of Maryland on March 17, 1904, with a Burgess and three Alderman form of government. The population of the town was 150 at this time. The first run of the Hagerstown and Frederick Railway through Myersville was in December of 1904.
- 1905** *The History of Myersville* by Ira Moser was published.
- 1913** Myersville got it's first telephone exchange.
- 1915** First electric street lights in Myersville.
- 1919** A large fire on January 4 destroyed many businesses in the center of town. The community recognized the need for a water system and a fire department.
- 1925** The Myersville Fire Company is organized.
- 1931** The town acquires a 1916 American LaFrance Fire Engine, the towns first fire engine.
- 1936** A three inch water main is run down the west side of Main Street and a six inch water main is run down the east side. Fire hydrants were then put in place in town.
- 1938** A sewer line was installed on both sides of Main Street.
- 1964** Town code is changed to a Mayer and five Council member form of government, replacing the Burgess and three Alderman form of government.
- 1968** Interstate 70 is constructed.
- 1970** The population of the town is 468. Throughout the 20th century homes and businesses filled in along Main Street.
- 1971** *The History of Myersville* by Thomas Rose and Charles Martin was published.
- 2000** Town population grows to 1,382 making Myersville the fastest growing municipality in Maryland.
- 2007** The Myersville Municipal Center is completed.
- 2015** The Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society is established.
- 2018** Over the past thirty years the Town expanded it's boundaries to include the neighborhoods of Ashley, Meadowridge, Deerwoods, Canada Hill, the Townhouses of South Mountain, and Saber Ridge with plans for new developments underway.
- 2019** The Myersville Community Library opens its doors on Harp Place with H&F Trolley Car 150 inside.

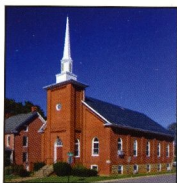


111 Main Street. This is a rusticated concrete block building in the Colonial Revival style. It was built in 1913 by John T. Hildebrand for his father-in-law Joseph Brown. It has projecting gables and a slate roof.



200 Main Street. The Shank House Hotel.

The Shank House Hotel is a two story frame house, built around 1882. It has a five-bay east elevation with a center front door and a porch that originally wrapped around three sides of the house. This is one of 5 houses in a row that have the same profile. The vinyl siding probably covers the rusticated wood siding that was shown in a 1905 photo. In that picture the siding was painted in alternating colors, giving a striped appearance. The Shank House was a hotel and boarding house from 1890 to the mid 1920s.



201 Main Street. The Myersville Church of the Brethren.

This church was built in 1913. It is a one-story brick building with a raised stone foundation and a projecting tower on the west side of the entrance. The roof is patterned slate. It is believed the steeple is a more recent addition. It has a cornerstone inscribed "Schwarzenau" with the date 1913. Schwarzenau, Germany was the birthplace of the German Baptist sect known as the Brethren. Myersville resident Robert Ridgley, one of the founders of the Myersville Church traveled to Germany to secure the cornerstone for the new building. Stones used in the foundation were taken from the remains of the old Morgan paper mill on Monument road.



203 Main Street. This was the site of a tavern constructed in 1796. Myersville merchant Joseph Brown would later build his store next door. During the Civil War this was the home of Militia Captain Aaron Poffenberger. He stored the rifles for the militia.

A Connecticut regiment came to Myersville took charge of the rifles and placed Captain Poffenberger under arrest accusing him of being a "session sympathizer." He denied the charge and declared himself a Union man. Poffenberger was released but the rifles were turned over to the companies of the Home Brigade for guard duty. The old tavern was torn down sometime after 1905 by John Caleb Leatherman, who built the house which is currently on the property, in 1909.



205 Main Street. Shepley's Store. This building was first operated as a store by Joseph Brown, by Peter Langdon and later by Carlton Leatherman. It then became known as Shepley's Store when John Shepley took

over, followed by his son Elmer Shepley. Elmer's wife Miriam operated the store until 1962, when it closed. The Shepley store was a central gathering place in the community for many years. People came to the store to play checkers, gossip, read the news and even to work on math problems.



300 Main Street. Myersville School. This was the second school in Myersville, it was built in 1906. There is an inscribed block at the top of the building which lists it as "School No. 4. Election Dis. No 6. Built

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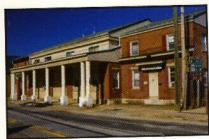
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and diagonal projecting bays on the northeast and southeast corners of the second story. Lawson Bittle was the original proprietor. The Post Office was located in the store for several years in the early 20th century. There were several other proprietors of the store over the years including George Castle who reportedly did not allow "loafers" and kept it cold to discourage people from hanging around. This is currently an apartment house.



308 Main Street. The Myersville Motor Company. This rusticated concrete block building was built about 1916 as the town's first auto dealership and repair garage. The Myersville Motor Company

was first operated by Guy and Charles Bidle who sold Hudson, Dodge, Essex, and Willys Overland cars from 1916 to 1920. It was then owned by the Rice brothers from 1920 until 1927. Wilbur Summers operated the garage until 1957 when it was bought by Charles and Frank Poffenberger who sold cars and gasoline and repaired cars. In recent years it was a general store, a chocolate shop, and is now JB Seafood.



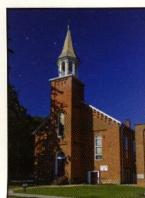
311 Main Street. People's Supply Company. This two story brick building was built in 1919, to replace the original Farmers Mutual Exchange wood frame building which was destroyed by the

Myersville fire of January 1919. The Farmers Mutual Exchange was run by Albert and Cyrus Flook from 1909 until 1924. At that time Walter Falkenstein and Oliver Smouse took over the business and changed the name to the People's Supply Company. Eventually Falkenstein took over the business and operated it until 1965 when he retired. The building has an overhanging canopy supported by doric columns which extend over the sidewalk. The trolley waiting station was located in one portion of the building and is designated by a commemorative plaque. 311 Main Street is now an apartment building with a hair salon in one of the first floor spaces.



313 Main Street. Central Trust Company. Originally the Flook, Gaver, Leatherman, Summers, Grossnickle and Company Banking Institution was housed in this building. The banking house was

founded in 1899 but the original building was badly damaged by the 1919 fire and was rebuilt later that year. In 1920 the bank merged with the Central Trust Company. This bank closed in 1933 during the Great Depression. Many people in town lost much of their money at this time. The building was sold to the Myersville Fire Company in 1936 and a garage was added to the back of the building to house the fire truck. In the 1960's it served as the town office for a time before being sold in 1973 and served as the Myersville Post Office for many years. It then housed various businesses until 2018 when it was sold to the current owner Spectrum Carpet Cleaning.



400 Main Street. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, The first church building on this site was built in 1852 and was destroyed in 1872 by a fire which began in the Hildebrand Carriage Shop next door. The 1874 replacement was built of brick in a simple Romanesque Revival style



408 Main Street. This house was built in the mid 1800's and like others in Myersville, built around this same time, is constructed of brick using the English pattern with alternating rows of headers

and stretchers three bricks thick. The home is side gabled with a relatively low-pitched roof and five front bays on the second floor. Transom lights over both the front and back doors are a mark of the Georgian style. The property is part of a tract of land called "New Saxony." It was owned by Jacob and Susan Young in the 1850s then by Amanda and John Routzahn and William Schildknecht. From 1870 until 1903 it was part of a property owned by John T. Hildebrand and his wife Sophia. It was then owned by Ezra and Catherine Routzahn and by John and Eugenia Horine. In 1951 George and Helen Rice bought the property and lived there until 1981. The smoke house behind 408 Main Street remains in good condition and is used as a potting shed.



410 Main Street. Dr. Browning

House. This house was the home and office of Dr. Ralph Browning and his family. Browning served the area from 1895 to 1925. The house was built by Dr

Browning at the turn of the 20th century. An 1873 Titus Atlas map shows a structure on the property belonging to Dr. Zimmerman, who had his office across the street. Dr. Zimmerman had been a physician for the Union Hospital in New Orleans during the Civil War. Dr. Browning took over the practice from Dr. Zimmerman, who moved to Hagerstown. Dr. Browning was serving the greater Myersville Community during the "Spanish Flu Epidemic" of 1918. His daughter Nunia Browning, a young school teacher who also taught piano in Myersville, was one of the early casualties of the flu. Dr. Browning continued his rounds, visiting those suffering from influenza just a day after burying his daughter. The Browning family lived in the house until the 1950's. K.R. Brandenburg Painting Contractors is located in a building behind the house.



412 Main Street. Isiah Moser


House. This house was built in 1865 and was owned by stone mason Isiah Moser at the beginning of the 20th century.. The two-story house has five

bays across the front and a polygonal bay window on the side. Moser was elected to the first Myersville Town Commission in 1904. He was the father of Ira Moser, who was the publisher of the *Myersville Monitor* and the author of the 1905 *History of Myersville*.



414 Main Street. Monitor Newspaper.

The original office of the Monitor Newspaper which published in the late



and rebuilt again in 1896 after a storm destroyed much of the roof and the interior. The windows have early 20th century stained glass. Adjoining the church is a Christian Education building built in 1966. A cemetery is located behind the church. The congregation of St. Paul's was organized in 1851 as an offshoot of St. John's Church outside of Myersville.



401 Main Street. The Poffenberger/Bittle House. This is believed to be the third house on the property. The first was a log house which was later expanded and covered in siding. It was moved to the back of the property directly across from the current post office on Wolfsville Road. The property was owned in 1873 by Enoch Poffenberger and his second wife Sarah Ann Gladhill. The second house on the site was a brick house, built by the Poffenbergers and owned by several different families until it was purchased by the Bittles, who owned it for most of the 20th century. That house was damaged by the 1919 fire and the current house was built on the foundation of the original house.



403 Main Street. The first telephone exchange was located in this house, which was pictured in the 1905 *History of Myersville*. It is currently a private residence and a barber shop.



404 Main street. This property was part of the original survey "New Saxony." At one point it was part of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church property.



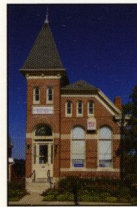
406 Main St. Hildebrand Property. The lot and house are believed to be the site of the old carriage shop owned by John Hildebrand and by Simon Raymer among others. The large brick house was likely built by Hildebrand in the first decade of the 20th century. He built several other similar homes in Myersville at that time.



407 Main St. This home was originally a log cabin. In the back yard of this property was a well which provided water for several nearby neighbors. In 1936, the town water system was installed providing water from springs in the mountain.



1890's and early 1900's was located at this site. There was a fire that reportedly consumed the Monitor archives and much of the building. It is believed that part of the original structure lies within the current house which has seen a small expansion and the addition of a balcony and faux stone cladding in the years since the Monitor was published here.



415 Main Street. Myersville Savings Bank/Grossnickle Insurance. Built in 1902, in a combination of Romanesque and Renaissance Revival styles, this was originally the home of the Myersville Saving Bank. It has a hipped roof tower in the front and two bays of round arched windows on the side. The roof is slate.

The Myersville Savings Bank was founded in 1898 and the bank was located in this building until 1973, at which time the new Myersville Bank Building was built, (now First United Bank & Trust). The bank survived the Great Depression of the 1930s, while the other banking institution in town did not. The building is currently the location of the C. Basil Grossnickle Insurance Agency.



418 Main Street. The Kinnaman Harness and Shoe Shop was located in this structure, which was built in the last quarter of the 19th century. Originally one story in front it has been expanded to two stories in the back. John Kinnaman and his daughter Laura operated the switchboard for the telephone company in this house from 1922 until the dial system was installed in 1946. It is now a private residence.



419 Main Street. Kline Wood Works. Known for many years as Kline Wood Works this was formerly the store of George Bittle from 1890 to 1946. Bittle sold groceries, hardware, drugs, patent medicine, notions, shoes, boots, and warm clothing. He had an ice house on the ground floor in the back. The store was likely built after 1875 and had a recessed entrance when it was the Bittle Store. The second story served as a community hall and as the meeting room for a local professional union. The front entrance of the building was the scene of an attempted burglary and shooting of the proprietor. George Bittle was not killed but the incident and resulting trial caused a sensation in the region. Since it has been Kline Wood Works there was a serious fire in the building in 1967 and it had to be largely rebuilt. Reportedly about 50 members of the community came together and helped Kline rebuild his business.



422 Main Street. This was the home of Robert Ridgley, well known teacher and a strong advocate of prohibition. He was a controversial figure with strong views, who was often taunted by young men

because of his long hair, which earned him the nickname "Buffalo Bill." He would ride his white horse through the mountains locate stills and report them to the authorities. For each still he "broke" he put a white stone in his front yard. He once shot a local teenager whom he caught stealing his stone trophies.



506 Main Street. Linebaugh

House. This house was lived in for many years by wagon maker and farmer Jonathan Linebaugh. After his death in 1864, his wife Catherine Shank Line-

baugh remained in the home until her own death. At that time all surviving family members moved to Ohio, where their descendants live today.



507 Main Street. The Cyrus Flook

House. This house was built about 1900 in the shingle style, with several gables and dormers. Cyrus Flook was a prominent Myersville businessman in the early 1900s.

He operated the Farmers Mutual Exchange from 1909 to 1929 and was one of the founders of the Flook, Gaver, Leatherman, Summers, Grossnickle & Co. Bank.



509 Main Street. Eldridge House.

This was the home of George Eldridge, who operated a livery stable renting out horses and wagons to salesmen who came to Myersville on the trolley. A horse and

buggy rented for \$1.25 a day. Paul Bittle opened his funeral business in this house in 1946. The funeral business then moved across the street when the new Bittle Funeral Home was completed in 1961.



513 Main Street. Horine House.

This is one of the oldest homes in Myersville. Built in the 1850s by the Harp family it is remembered primarily as the Horine property. It was lived in at one time by

Cyrus Routzahn who operated a funeral business there, making coffins on the second floor of the wash house, which is still standing. Then it was owned by Alvey and Betty Horine. Betty Horine taught piano lessons and played the pump organ at Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. Alvey Horine was a school teacher who was granted the first teacher's Life Certificate issued by the State of Maryland in 1902. There is a summer kitchen on the property. The renovated barn in back was once part of this property. Alvey Ruppensberger,

Betty and Alvey Horine's grandson, converted the barn to a home with an apartment in the bottom level. It is now a single family home.



517 Main Street. The Harp House. This Victorian Farm House was built in 1910 by Charles Webster Harp and his wife Mollie Routzahn Harp. The chestnut

woodwork was cut by Harp himself on the family sawmill. Charles had a thrashing business and the Harp family owned much of the land around the house. There is an original stained glass window on the staircase landing. The original wash house is still on the property. The house was in the Harp family until 2007.



601 Main Street. Mt. Zion United Methodist Church Parsonage. This home serves as the parsonage of the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. It was purchased from John Eldridge in 1956 for \$12,000. It is almost the mirror image

of the St. Paul's Lutheran parsonage. Both homes are believed to be Sears Catalog models.



603 Main Street. Mt. Zion United Methodist Church. The history of Mt Zion United Methodist Church actually began at Jerusalem, one of the earliest settlements in the Middletown Valley, located at the intersection of

Route 40 and Easterday Road, northwest of Myersville. A Union Church was built at Jerusalem and used by Lutheran, United Brethren and Reformed Congregations. It was later purchased by the United Brethren Church. They worshipped there until 1852. Construction began on the United Brethren Church at the present site in 1851 and it opened in 1852. Mt Zion was all but demolished by a storm in 1890, then rebuilt in 1891. In 1916 the sanctuary was remodeled. There have been a number of changes to the building over the years, including the addition of the education building in 1993, now occupied during the week by Creative Children's Center. In 1969 the United Brethren and the Methodist Church joined together to become The United Methodist denomination.



8 Harp Place. The Myersville Community Library. opened in August of 2019. The 7,000 square foot library includes a community room and two study rooms and is the home

of Trolley Car 150. In the first half of the 20th Century, Trolley Car 150 was part of the H & F system which ran through Myersville on its way from Frederick to Hagerstown.

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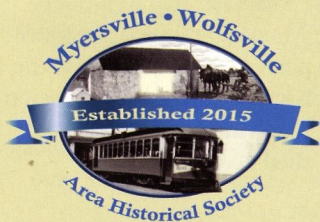
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About the Myersville- Wolfsville Area Historical Society

On March 26, 2015, a group of citizens from the northern region of the Middletown Valley met to establish the Myersville-Wolfsville Area Historical Society (M-WAHS).

The purpose of the M-WAHS is to preserve the rich cultural heritage of the region, to protect the historic buildings and landmarks in the towns and countryside, and to educate future generations about the historic legacy of this beautiful valley.

The M-WAHS sponsors programs on topics relating to local history. Has mini-programs at the regular monthly meetings and sponsors an annual Christmas Country Church Tour in December. The meetings are open to the public and new members are welcome.

You will find research, photographs, articles related to local history, and other information on our website: mwhistory.com. We also have a Facebook page: Myersville & Wolfsville Area Historical Society.

Thanks to our sponsor:

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