



Evergreen Heritage Center

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THE EVERGREEN HERITAGE CENTER located near Route 36 in Mount Savage traces its history to circa 1780 when settlers located on an expanse of land to be known as Federal Hill. Deeds to the property, now referred to as military lots, were received by several of those early settlers in the 1790s (including the Ridgely, Grimes, Winter, and Trimble families). Over the next eight generations, Federal Hill would be home to tobacco and corn farmers, coal miners, and plantation owners. The unique qualities of Federal Hill today are due largely to the present owners who have sought to preserve the historical ambience of the property.

Foremost among the historical highlights on the property is the large turret topped white house, originally built circa 1780 by the Grimes family. One section of the original log structure was replaced by George Winter in 1822 when he erected a stone addition in the Federal style. This remodeled home was part of a plantation that included outbuildings for use by the family, their servants and slaves. In 1869 the property was acquired by Joseph Arnold Trimble, a neighbor to the Winter's family whose son Winfield renovated the plantation. Winfield planted acres of crops, several orchards, and thirteen varieties of

evergreen trees. In 1882 when Winfield had completed his renovations, he named the new farm Evergreen in honor of the fledgling evergreen trees he planted there. Winfield's descendants are the current owners: Donald, Marianna and Janice Keene.





Today Evergreen is a six room museum that allows visitors to see hundreds of artifacts, deeds, and documents collected by the Trimble family over a 200 year span of time. According to Janice Keene, “The Trimble’s were ‘keepers,’ saving everything through the years including grocery lists, bills for their first carriage and their first car, their player piano, and even mortuary services.” There are also hundreds of historical documents at the museum and memorabilia from the Maryland Agricultural College, forerunner of the University of Maryland. Most recently, the Keene family has opened the 200 year old Historic Evergreen Barn, built using hand hewn logs that still retain their bark. The Maryland Historical Trust describes the barn as “an extremely fine and carefully preserved barn with numerous interesting features.”

In order to build upon the unique qualities of Evergreen, the Keene family and community partners formed the Evergreen Heritage Center Foundation in 2008. The Foundation is dedicated to utilizing the Evergreen facilities to provide hands-on indoor/outdoor learning opportunities for students of all ages. A “Growing Green” initiative will support research and education in environmental sciences, including a solar powered green house and adjacent classroom.

The Evergreen Museum (including the historic barn and Trail) is open on select Sundays from May through October. The remaining scheduled days this season include September 20th and October 18th and the hours are 1 pm to 4 pm. The Evergreen Museum is also available for private tours or for meetings and events. The Center can accommodate up to 50 people and catering is available upon request.

For more information contact Janice Keene, 301-687-0664 or janicekeene@evergreenheritagecenter.org. The address of the Evergreen Heritage Center is 15603 Trimble Road, Mount Savage, Maryland 21545. Trimble Road is approximately one mile from Mount Savage off Slabtown Road, seven minutes from Frostburg, and twenty minutes from Cumberland.