

# A Washington County Sampler

## Selected Historical and Cultural Attractions

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*Maryland's Washington County is internationally known for its rich Civil War history. As home to more than 40 museums and historic sites, the area abounds in opportunities to learn about its rich industrial, agricultural, and cultural heritage. Brief descriptions of six selected sites offer a small taste of what visitors can explore.*

### Discovery Station

Located in the former Nicodemus Bank Building on Hagerstown's Washington Street, this stately museum evokes an earlier era with its elegant white marble exterior and grand Palladian windows. A Federal Depository during the Civil War, it now houses an impressive array of programs and interactive exhibits for the entire family. With displays that include the Moller Historic Organ, Civil War Trains, Morse Code, C&O Canal, Mack Trucks, Agriculture, Vision (with the National Institute of Health and National Eye Institute), the Titanic, NASA, Hagerstown's Aviation History, Dinosaurs, and Nora Roberts, there's something for everyone. The goal is to entertain and educate.

**[www.discoverystation.org](http://www.discoverystation.org) – 301-790-0076**

Photo courtesy of Discovery Station





Hagerstown Round House Museum has a wealth of Western Maryland Railroad artifacts and interactive train layouts.

Photos courtesy Hagerstown Round House Museum

## Hagerstown Round House Museum, Inc.

Hagerstown was once known as the “Hub City” for the Western Maryland Fast Freight Line. For more than 50 years, workers at the Hagerstown Roundhouse complex built, maintained and repaired Western Maryland Railroad locomotives and cars. Built in 1939, the Roundhouse was taken down in 1999. Today visitors can view WM full scale locomotives, passenger and freight cars, along with O and HO scale model train layouts and a wealth of WM artifacts. Interactive train layouts for kids of all ages add to the fun.

[www.roundhouse.org](http://www.roundhouse.org) – 301-739-4665

## McMahon's Mill Civil War & American Heritage Museum

This Williamsport attraction, located near the Antietam Battlefield, is a museum plus campground with easy access to the C & O Canal and Potomac River. The museum’s collection includes “memorabilia” from the McMahon-Ellis families and friends, such as weapons, antiques, coins, art, jewelry, ceramics, Victrolas and sundry items commonly used during the 1800s through early 1900s. Notable items include Civil War and earlier firearms – black powder muskets, pistols, flintlocks and rampart guns, a precursor to sniper weapons.

[www.mcmahonsmill.com](http://www.mcmahonsmill.com) – 301-223-8778



## Miller House

This early 19th century, Federal Style townhouse on Hagerstown's Washington Street serves as headquarters for the Washington County Historical Society. Built in two sections, the house is sited on an earlier structure that once served as a home and pottery business. The first section was built by William Price, an attorney, C & O Canal advocate and grandfather of etiquette's Emily Post. The second section was built by Dr. Victor Miller, who used the building to house doctors' offices, including his own. After he and his wife passed away, their sons donated their share of the property to the Historical Society. Special collections include tall case and shelf clocks from Hagerstown clockmakers, Bell Pottery, 19th century dolls and antique cars. Also a part



Photo courtesy of Miller House

of the Washington County Geo Cache Trail.  
[www.washcomdhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.washcomdhistoricalsociety.org)  
 301-797-8782

Photo courtesy of Washington County Museum of Fine Arts



## Washington County Museum of Fine Arts – [www.wcmfa.org](http://www.wcmfa.org) – 301-739-5727

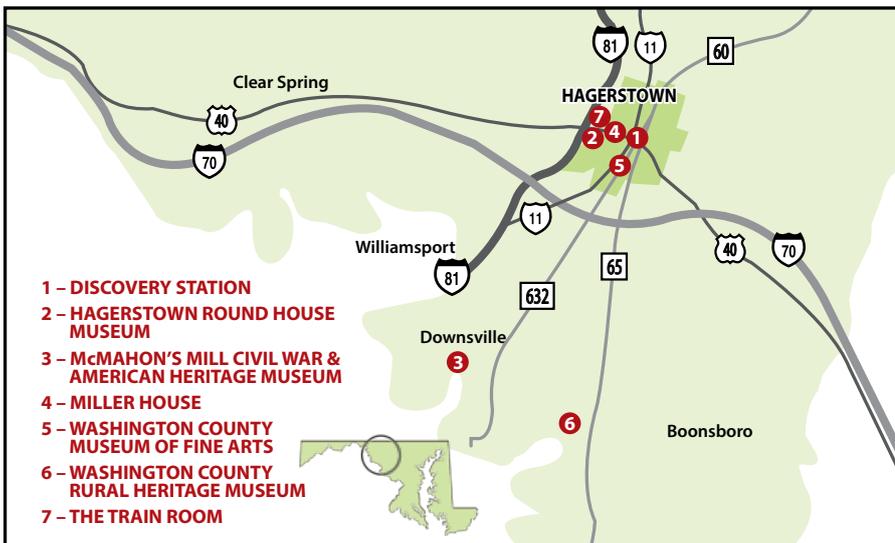
This classic, neo-Georgian building known as “The Gem in the Park” sits among lush, landscaped gardens in Hagerstown's City Park. Housing more than 7,000 paintings, drawing, prints, sculpture and other works of art from all over the world, it has been recognized as one of the finest small museums in the United States. Expatriate artist William H. Singer and his wife Anna Brugh Singer established the museum in 1931 with a collection that includes notable works reflecting American, Dutch and

French trends in the arts during the late 19th century. The museum maintains an active rotating schedule, plus long term exhibits showcasing significant examples of American Decorative Arts, European Old Masters and Art Glass, and holds two annual juried exhibitions open to amateur and professional artists – The Cumberland Valley Photographic Salon and Cumberland Valley Artists Exhibition. Other events include two annual exhibits of works by local students, concerts and lectures.

## Washington County Rural Heritage Museum

Boonsboro's Agricultural Education Center is home to this growing complex that evokes an earlier era when life revolved around farm, family and community. Pre-1940 rural life in Washington County is the focus of the first building. The second features larger farm equipment and implements showing the progression from human-to-horse-to-motor-driven machinery. A windmill marks the site of the Rural Heritage Farmstead, and the Rural Heritage Village continues to expand with structures that now include a church, log home, country store, post office and more. Heirloom plants grow within the German Four-Square garden, with plots of potatoes, rye, wheat and berries nearby. A Conestoga wagon once used to travel the National Road from Baltimore to Wheeling is part of the collection. Visual tours of the site can be viewed at:

[www.ruralheritagemuseum.org](http://www.ruralheritagemuseum.org)  
 or call: 240-420-1714 (weekdays)  
 240-420-1713 (weekends).



The Washington County Rural Heritage Museum depicts an earlier era when life revolved around farm, family and community. Top photo: organ, loom, spinning wheel, and quilts. Bottom photo: vintage garage exhibit.

To learn more about these and other Washington County historical and cultural attractions, go to [www.marylandmemories.com](http://www.marylandmemories.com) or call the Hagerstown Convention Visitors Bureau at 301-791-3246.