



Charles Village
A Victorian Community in the Heart of the City
Walking Tours



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Walking Tours

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Introduction

One of America's best-preserved collection of late Victorian townhouses and civic structures is located within Baltimore City's greater Charles Village community.

These historic and beautiful houses -- with other architectural landmarks, abundant green space, carefully planned commercial areas, historic sites, hidden gardens, numerous ethnic restaurants, several thriving business districts, and interesting residents -- make the greater Charles Village community a unique and significant part of Baltimore's past, present, and future.

Conveniently situated in the heart of Baltimore City, minutes from downtown's business district and Inner Harbor, and adjacent to the Johns Hopkins University and the Baltimore Museum of Art, the greater Charles Village community is composed of several diverse neighborhoods, including Charles Village, South Charles Village, the Old Goucher Historic District, Harwood, Abell, and the Greenmount Avenue corridor.

Charles Village has been home to governors, diplomats, authors, baseball Hall of Famers, and so many mayors that at one time the section of Maryland Avenue that passes within the community boundaries was known as Mayoral Row.

In the tradition of its former residents, the 10,000 plus people who now live and work in this ten-square block area are forward-thinkers and doers. While paying careful attention to preserve its historic roots, they are working together to build a better community in which to work, shop, learn, play, and live.

Today, the greater Charles Village community is a proven leader in neighborhood self-determination as a strategy for community vitalization.

You are invited to discover the spirit of this historic Victorian suburb, which has evolved into a successful urban village. Take one, or more, or all of these inter-related walking tours of the greater Charles Village community. Each contains a narrative highlighting points of interest as it guides you along the way.

Historic Background: From Victorian Suburb to Urban Village

The historic communities of greater Charles Village are home to some the finest examples on the East Coast of late Victorian townhouses and other structures from the 1800s and early 1990s.

The name Charles Village is a relatively recent designation, coined by resident and former Baltimore Sun reporter Grace Darin, in 1967. Originally, in the late 1800s, this 50-acre area was known as Peabody Heights. The name was a tribute to George Peabody, the benefactor of the Peabody Institute of Music, dedicated in 1866 and located in Baltimore's Mt. Vernon Place [just south of the Washington Monument on Charles Street]. By this appellation and also by advertising "high ground," "attractive views," and "cool summer breezes," the developers of Peabody Heights hoped to attract some of Baltimore's wealthiest citizens to the City's first suburb.

This new neighborhood was created by combining and carving up the large estates of Huntington, Merryman's Lott, Hailes Addition, and Edwards Lott. Some of these names are still retained by streets and buildings in the community today.

The Peabody Heights Company correctly predicted that the population of Baltimore was expanding northward and they sought to capitalize on this expansion, not only by offering land on which to build houses, but by strictly regulating the size and type of buildings that could be erected. Every lot within the Peabody Heights area was subject to these restrictions, which included that all buildings be set back from the front building line by at least 20 feet (thus

allowing for lawns), and that "nuisances" be prohibited, which meant things like slaughter houses, saloons, and even "buildings calculated to increase rates of insurance on adjacent property."

The restrictive building codes established by the Peabody Heights development company had three effects: the building requirements helped to establish a beautiful Victorian community; they prohibited a wide range of goods and services that were seen as too urban; and they scared off prospective builders.

At least until 1896. That's when a man named Francis Yewell began to develop a large section of Peabody Heights. Almost immediately, Yewell and company began work on dozens of houses; and for the next 30 years, stately two- and three-story row houses were built, all proving that fine homes could be created and sold under the original Peabody Heights restrictions.

By April 1897, the houses were being advertised for sale in a price range of \$3,500 to \$7,000, and were promoted as being just a short ride from downtown on the newly constructed streetcar line. Eventually, some of the grander and more majestic houses, such as the ones in the 2900 block of Charles Street, would go for as high as \$15,000 or even \$23,000.

As the community grew, churches, schools, and a branch of the Enoch Pratt Free Library were built in Peabody Heights. The Johns Hopkins University moved from its downtown location to its present site in what was once William Wyman's estate, next to the park that still bears his name.

By the 1920s, Peabody Heights and the surrounding area became increasingly developed, with apartment buildings replacing some homes that had been built only 20 years before. As the community expanded, the original restrictive covenants, which in part limited commercial development, were challenged. In the 1930s, a bitter zoning battle was resolved with the creation of a commercial strip in the 3100 block of St. Paul Street. And after World War II, even more houses were demolished to make way for apartment buildings, while other single family houses were carved up into apartments.

More recently, sparked by a collective vision to bring added goods and services to the neighborhoods, while preserving the structural and architectural assets of Charles Village, the original restrictions were again reshaped, and an innovative vehicle was created to help fund and guide these efforts.

Community members and area business leaders teamed up to form the Charles Village Community Benefits District. This citizen-driven organization is the nation's first combined community and business self-governing taxing district, providing security, sanitation, marketing, economic development, and community development services to those who live and/or work within its boundaries.

In addition, the various neighborhood associations came together to write and win passage of a planned unit development or PUD. This community-owned process has been the catalyst for a wide range of community friendly commercial and residential development throughout greater Charles Village.

These strong neighborhood associations helped to preserve the beauty and identity of this historic neighborhood, carefully incorporating change so as not to destroy the character of what was the Victorian suburb called Peabody Heights and now known as Charles Village. You will discover ample evidence of the community's history and beauty as well as its vibrant present and promising future as you follow these five walking tours.

A NOTE OF THANKS:

The information in the history and narrative sections of the walking tours was drawn largely from Peabody Heights to Charles Village: The Historic Development of a Baltimore Community, by Jacques Kelly, a long-time resident of Charles Village, Baltimore historian, writer, and newspaper reporter. A special thank you is extended to him for graciously granting permission for its use in this guide.

A big note of thanks is given to Lisa Simeone, Charles Village resident and radio personality, for her time and effort in crafting the initial draft of these tours.

Gratitude also given to the Charles Village community members who first came together to plan and plot the tours.

And appreciation goes to Steven Rivelis and his teams at Campaign Consultation, Inc. [a social change & issue advocacy firm] and Eye Byte Solutions [a design lab] – both located in Charles Village – for his and their support in pulling it all together to create and produce this guide.

For more information about the tours and guide, Steven can be reached at RivelisSteven@gmail.com

A NOTE TO WALKERS:

These tours have been designed for people who like to explore communities on foot. Each tour should take about one hour. But as is the case for most large American cities, not all streets are equally hospitable to walking. Readers are reminded that they should exercise the same good judgment on these tours that they exercise in their everyday lives: walking in daylight is advised, and driving when one doesn't feel comfortable walking is always an option.

Welcome to our Village.

Walk it! Explore it! Enjoy it!

Charles Village Walking Tours

1. Rowhome Route

[Time: 1.25 hours]

➤ *Start at St. Paul Street @ 33rd Street and walk south*

1. The St. Paul Street Shopping District

The 3100 & 3200 blocks of St Paul Street are the major commercial center in Charles Village and make for a perfect location to get a drink, snack, or provisions before starting out on your walk.

➤ *As you walk south on St Paul Street, stop at 31st Street, look across the street to the building at the southwest corner of St. Paul Street and 31st Street*

2. Art Glass – 31 E. 31st Street

Originally named Peabody Heights, both after one of Baltimore's most generous benefactors and the area's advantageous elevation, the neighborhood now known as Charles Village was an early experiment in suburban living.

As you proceed to the intersection of St. Paul Street and 31st Street, the neighborhood changes from a blend of commercial and residential buildings to a procession of distinctive row homes marching in every direction.

The building at 31 E. 31st Street still has a few remaining "art glass" windows, which were advertised when Peabody Heights was first being developed. Look above the entranceway to see two "Adamesque" leaded glass ovals, as well as several other stained glass panels in Art Nouveau patterns. The term "Adamesque" comes from the work of 18th century Scottish architect Robert Adam, whose style was popularized on this side of the Atlantic.

➤ *Continue south on St Paul Street*

3. St. Paul Street: Marble Trim

Walking south on St. Paul you will notice the use of marble trim on these three-story glazed-brick row houses, most of which were designed between 1901 and

1911 by John Forsythe and Jacob Gerwig, two of the most prolific row house architects in the neighborhood.

Forsythe is mentioned in Walking Tour #3, and Gerwig was a self-taught architect who started out as a carpenter in his brother's construction business. The marble used in Charles Village row houses was quarried from Beaver Dam, north of the city (now a State Park), and added to the houses to appeal to prospective buyers, who, it was thought, would thereby associate these houses with the more fashionable, Italianate houses in Baltimore's famous Mt. Vernon community (located mid-town, south of Charles Village).

4. St. Paul Street: 2900 Block

The row houses in the 2900 block of St. Paul change to an alternating flat-front, swell-front pattern, creating a pleasing wave effect up and down the street, and were built in 1899 and 1900 by architect J. Edward Lafferty.

But the house that jumps out most is at 2900 St. Paul [on the northwest corner at 29th Street], an 1879 slate roof "cottage" that was built for W. Stewart Polk, again by Lafferty. This mansion is one of very few remaining in Charles Village, and though the second story front has been altered, enough of its original details remain so that you can imagine the wealthy owner surveying the grassy fields surrounding him when the house was built. Mr. Polk would also have had a panoramic view of downtown Baltimore, extending all the way to the harbor.

Polk was related to President James Polk and to the Peale family of Baltimore. His daughter, Lucille Polk Carter, grew up in this house and survived the sinking of the Titanic.

Keep in mind as you walk throughout Charles Village that the Peabody Heights builders were keenly aware of architectural trends in the country and so allowed for variation in their hundreds of row houses. Each homeowner could choose his own decorating details, such as mantels, light fixtures, plaster ornamentation, and woodwork. One could buy a house when the row was almost completed, and thus add personal touches to his liking that would differentiate his house from his neighbor's. Many of these lovely interior details have been preserved in the houses along the 2900 and 2800 blocks of St. Paul.

5. St. Paul Street: 2800 block

First of all, note the exteriors: as your walk south on St Paul Street, the buildings on your left – the odd numbered [east] side of the block – are completely different from those on your right – the even numbered [west] side of the block.

The houses on your left – the odd numbered [east] side of the street – were among the first built by the Peabody Heights developers, between 1896 and 1897. As this was Baltimore's first planned suburban community, the city in those days ended at North Avenue, and these initial model homes differed from downtown row homes with the inclusion of small front and back yards.

By the time the even [west] side was developed, a few years later, the concept of suburbia changed such that the developers added front porches to the earlier flat front row houses, on the same plan as the 2800 block of Calvert, which you'll be seeing later in this tour.

The houses here begin with a Queen Anne style turret and conical roof at 2843, and then begin to alternate with round tops, flat tops, pointed tops, and another turret at the end of the block. The roofs are green, ochre, and red terra-cotta tile, with the tiles also extending to form the gables and a unified cornice. Another feature of the Queen Anne style is the mixture of building materials; the top two stories of these houses are brick, while the first stories are sandstone and marble.

The houses are built on the "English basement" plan, as you can see by looking at the raised basement windows just below the first floors. And many of the houses still feature their beautiful stained-glass fanlights above the doors.

You might be able to get a glimpse of the luxurious interiors of some of these houses by looking in the first floor window at 2841 (which you can do from the sidewalk). The parlor retains its Adamesque white plaster ceiling, with graceful swags and curves, and an enormous gilt mirror over the mantel. In many of the Charles Village row houses, those that have not been ravaged by modern "improvements," you can also see carved wood trim, fretwork room dividers, patterned oak floors, and enamel tile mantels and vestibules.

The Kirk sisters, of the world famous Kirk-Stieff Silversmiths, were the original owners of 2817 St. Paul Street. Note the "top" sculpture in the front lawn.

6. The Painted Ladies of Charles Village

At 2815, 2817, and 2819 St Paul Street, you will see examples of some of the first Painted Ladies of Charles Village. In the 1990s, as a strategic effort to improve the community, a small group of community members – Dawna Cobb, Lisa Simeone, Linda Brown Rivelis, and Steven Rivelis -- launched a contest to encourage residents to paint their homes in multiple colors. Resulting in now over 300 homes being given a face-lift, it also increased civic engagement and improved community pride. You will discover many Painted Ladies as you explore the community, with a number of exceptional ones on Guilford and Abell Avenues.

7. The Orioles of Yesteryear: 2738 St. Paul Street

John "Mugsy" McGraw, an 1890s Orioles great and member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, lived at 2738 St. Paul. He went on to become manager of the New York Giants. Many Orioles lived in Charles Village at the turn of the other century, as games back then were played at Union Park [Guilford Avenue between 24th and 25th Streets] and later at the original Oriole Park [Barclay and 29th Streets]. For more Charles Village and baseball intersections, you may want to take the #5 Baseball Hall of Fame Tour.

8. St. Paul Street: 2700 block

The 2700 block of St. Paul continues the irregular roofline, but with somewhat less variation than the 2800 block, and also contains some early houses.

It is thought that 2716 and 2718 were built around 1870-1871, probably the first two properties constructed on Peabody Heights Company land, but a good 25 years before builder Francis Yewell was able to break the logjam caused by the company's initial restrictions and covenants and begin developing the majority of houses (see the historic background information in the Introduction).

At the southwest corner of 27th and St. Paul is St. John's United Methodist Church, a stone building in the Romanesque style. Look up at the tower to see four gargoyles projecting from the corners. St. John's has a long tradition of hosting folk and "roots music" concerts as well as other community gatherings.

9. Little Georgetown Row: 2600 block

Located at 2610-2620 St. Paul Street, on the west side of the street, is a unique group of detached row-houses known as Little Georgetown Row. These lovely homes, also called “Charleston style” houses due to their private side porches, were built from around 1869 through the 1870s.

In the 1890s, Oriole baseball player Wilbert Robinson lived at 2620. The house's iron fence was designed by Robert Mills, architect of the Washington Monument located in Baltimore’s Mt Vernon neighborhood – the nation’s first monument to George.

In 1933, H. L. Mencken and T. S. Eliot quaffed beer and scotch during a party at 2618. And Whittaker Chambers, who testified against Alger Hiss in the notorious Cold War espionage trials of the late 1940s, lived for a time at 2610. Hiss was convicted of perjury in 1950, after two previous trials in the 1940s.

➤ ***Turn right onto E. 26th Street***

10. Pastel Row

In the unit block of E. 26th Street you will find yourself on one of the prettiest and quietest blocks in Charles Village: Pastel Row. Since the 1940s, each of the brick, flat front row-houses on this block has been painted a different pale color, and several of the houses retain their beautiful beveled glass picture doors.

Across the street from these houses is a train tunnel, dug in 1893 by the B&O Railroad. If you time it correctly, you will hear a whistle as the trains go through.

During a significant rain storm in May 2014, the entire south side of this block fell onto the train tracks below causing significant damage to infrastructure and parked cars. Watch this YouTube of the collapse to the end:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrNluXrrHKY>

➤ ***Return to St. Paul Street***

11. Margaret Brent Elementary School

Across the street, at 100 E. 26th Street and along the east side of the 2600 block of St. Paul Street, is Margaret Brent Elementary School. It is named for one of the most prominent female figures in early Colonial American history. She was an activist and feminist, helping to ensure that soldiers were paid and given food, and advancing the rights of women.

➤ ***Walk east through the playground along what is the extension of E 26th Street, turn left and head north on N. Calvert Street***

12. Calvert Street: 2600 & 2700 block

In addition to providing architectural variety, the developers and builders of Peabody Heights also sought to sell homeowners on the emerging concepts of suburban living in what was then outside of the city limits.

Here you will see block after block of the bay window, front lawn, and porch style row house, known at the time as a "Philadelphia Plan" house, because the style originated there. The design became so popular that it was adapted and developed all over Baltimore, with different variations that you will see as you stroll throughout Charles Village.

Builders in the 2600 block of Calvert even engaged a Philadelphia architect to design their houses, to guarantee authenticity!

Many of the front yards have pretty gardens, some with interesting art work. At 2636 N Calvert Street there is a ceramic elephant from India; in the 2700 block there is a large metal sculpture.

The houses on the even [left] side of the 2700 block of Calvert are three-story brick houses with sandstone front porches supported by painted wooden columns, sheet-metal bay windows on the second floor, and flush-front third floors. Bay windows were invented to allow more light into rooms than would otherwise be possible with normal flat windows. Pilasters with a swag/garland motif separate each window on the bay, and you'll see as you walk along that this motif changes in every block, with particularly exuberant painting to highlight the detail in the 2800 block.

Many of these houses still have the original Art Nouveau stained glass panels above the picture windows on the first floor. The roofline is gabled terra-cotta tile supported by wooden brackets, with ornamental finials on the pinnacles. Look up at the third story, just under the third floor windows: there's a tiny egg-and-dart belt course of terra-cotta running through the brick all the way down the row. These and other details make these houses particularly showy and fun to look at.

13. Calvert Street: 2800 block

The row homes in the 2800 block change, with heavier and more elaborate ornamentation on the bays and on the pediments above the porches. Here you will find a lion's head and garland motif on many of the pediments, which some homeowners have proudly painted contrasting colors. Such details are easy to overlook on houses that are painted all one color, creating a flat effect.

Instead of pilasters between the windows on the bay, as in the 2700 block, here you see three projecting pillars, a thick one flanked by two thinner ones. Leaded glass fanlights surmount each window on the bays; and the roofline is completely different now, and is one you'll see again further up the block: a rounded "Mission style" (recalling Spanish missions) parapet above every other house, with a painted medallion on the face.

"Kingpin" Joe Kelley, another Hall of Fame Oriole, lived at 2826 and died there in the 1940s.

14. Calvert Street: 2900 & 3000 blocks

The first house built in the next block was the mansion at 2900 N. Calvert, designed by an architect whose work you've already seen in the 2900 block of St. Paul, J. Edward Lafferty. Lafferty specified Pompeian brick for his designs on St. Paul and for this house, which he built for Dr. Melville H. Carter, inventor of a cream called "Resinol" -- the early version of Noxell Cold Cream.

The Carter Mansion is also distinguished by its corner tower capped with a bronze "witch's hat," another popular feature of both Queen Anne and Romanesque style architecture. Note the aptly named "eyebrow dormer" peeking out of the roof. The Carter Mansion and grounds cost a hefty \$30,000 in 1901. Also check out the renovated carriage house in the back.

You'll see row houses in this block similar to the ones you saw in the previous block of Calvert, with a notable exception: 2919, which was bought for \$3,583 in 1906, is a true "eclectic" style row house that is also disconnected from the row. It's thought to have been a model for the row that was eventually built in a simpler style. It is a three-story, iron-spot-brick house, with a marble base built on the English basement plan, but with a wooden side porch entrance. It features both a tower with conical slate roof, as well as a mini-Mansard roof with one dormer window on the front and a longer continuation of the Mansard/dormer style on the side. An egg-and-dart molding cornice rings the turret.

15. 31st Street @ Calvert Street

At the southwest corner of 31st and Calvert Street is one last example of lovely architecture on this tour: the Calvert Court Apartments, designed by Edward Hughes Glidden and opened in 1915. These five brick buildings, with their arched doorways between Doric columns and meticulously landscaped grounds, were built on a human scale, unlike so many of the high-rise apartment buildings that have since gone up in Charles Village. It was converted to a coop in 1947.

➤ ***Turn right at 31th Street, walk one block east, then turn right on Guilford Avenue***

16. Guilford Avenue: 2900 & 3000 blocks

In this section of Charles Village you will begin to see quite different kinds of row houses. While some of them are still three-story, the two-story style begins to appear. The land east of Guilford was not part of the original Peabody Heights property, so the architects and builders who developed these lots did not have to adhere to the Peabody Heights building restrictions and were therefore able to build houses for half the cost.

Guilford Avenue and the numbered streets around it are particularly pretty, with several brightly painted houses in the tradition of Victorian "Painted Ladies," especially the 2900 and 3000 blocks of Guilford. These houses, though more modest than those on St. Paul and Calvert, also contain leaded glass, enameled tiles, and oak floors and trim. Most of them were erected between 1912 and 1920 by various architects and builders.

➤ ***Return to 30th Street, walk one block east to Abell Avenue, turn left***

17. Abell Avenue

This is a very pretty three-block-long street, with many Painted Ladies. Explore it from 30th Street north to 33rd Street.

18. Waverly Farmers Market: E. 31st and Barclay

If you are taking the tour on a Saturday morning, make sure to visit the Waverly Farmers Market located at E. 31st and Barclay, one block east of Abell Avenue.

Open year-round on Saturday mornings, the market has been held here since 1980, and is run by a non-profit organization. The offerings include baked goods, fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, dairy, flowers, and a variety of prepared goods all from local vendors and producers.

➤ ***Find your way to E. 32nd Street and Barclay, walk west on 32nd Street toward St. Paul Street***

19. St Paul Street Shopping District

Now head on 32nd Street to St. Paul Street, to where the tour started, here you can browse in the shops or refresh yourself at one of the cafes in the 3100 and 3200 blocks and in the unit block of 33rd Street between N. Charles and St. Paul Streets.

Charles Village Walking Tours

2. Old Goucher College Historic District to the Baltimore Museum of Art

[Time: 1 hour 30 minutes]

➤ *Start at the Southwest corner of St. Paul and 22nd Streets*

1. Lovely Lane Methodist Church [2200 St. Paul Street]

In the heart of the Old Goucher College Historic District stands Lovely Lane Church [and Museum] www.lovelylane.net - 410.889.1512. The Church, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed in 1887 by Stanford White, one of the most eminent architects and colorful characters of his day.

Stanford White based the Romanesque design of Lovely Lane on several churches in Ravenna, Italy. The nine-story bell tower, with its restored conical tiled roof, was modeled on that of the 12th century Santa Maria. Technically, this style is known as Richardsonian Romanesque, a uniquely American interpretation of the strong, simple, relatively unornamented Roman architecture. The church is built of coarse-grained granite quarried from Port Deposit, Maryland. You can find this same popular stone not only in many of the surrounding buildings, but also at Fort McHenry in south Baltimore (site of the bombing of Baltimore during the War of 1812, which led to the writing of the Star Spangled Banner by Francis Scott Key), and at the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

Inside, the ceiling is painted with a star chart prepared by Canadian-American astronomer Simon Newcomb, which represents the heavens as they appeared on the night the church was dedicated in 1887. White also carefully designed the interior lighting, again borrowing from a church in Ravenna (San Vitale), by arranging 340 gas jets that when lit together cast no shadows. There are other beautiful details inside Lovely Lane, in the parts of the church that have not been modernized, such as Eastlake wallpaper and rich, burnished wood trim.

You'll notice that several of the buildings nearby complement Lovely Lane and seem to form a whole. These buildings, some also designed by Stanford White, formed the original Goucher College campus (now located in Towson, Maryland). Dr. John Franklin Goucher and his wife Mary founded this four-year Methodist school as the first institution in the country to grant degrees to women.

➤ ***Walk North on St. Paul Street to the 2200 block & 2300 block of St. Paul***

2. Goucher Hall & Goucher House

Goucher Hall, located next to the church on St. Paul Street between 22nd and 23rd Streets, was designed in 1888 by Charles Carson to blend with Stanford White's architecture.

Goucher House, across the street at 2313 St. Paul, was built in 1892 as Dr. Goucher's residence and immediately stands out for its lovely pale brick Italian Renaissance facade. Dr. Goucher, in fact, specifically requested that White design a Renaissance Revival building after he admired a palace on his travels in Florence. He spared no expense on the home, which still retains its central oak staircase and opulent wood, marble, and onyx, materials for which the firm of McKim, Mead and White was famous.

Dr. Goucher took his life's work as a Methodist missionary and philanthropist seriously. In addition to founding Goucher College for women, he also served for 43 years on the Board of Trustees of the fledgling Morgan College, an institution of higher learning for black students (now Morgan State University, located in the city north of this location). He died in 1922.

As for Stanford White, news of his stellar career in architecture was often combined in newspaper columns with tidbits about his notorious philandering. He was handsome, well-traveled, and wealthy, and at 48 he took up with a gorgeous young showgirl named Evelyn Nesbit. She was "The Girl on the Red Velvet Swing," of Hollywood movie fame, for she used to make use of such a swing in one of White's many Manhattan apartments.

Their affair eventually fizzled, and Nesbit married railroad magnate "Mad Harry" Thaw. Thaw, who already had a grudge against White, became consumed with jealousy, and on June 25, 1906, he approached Stanford White at the original Madison Square Garden (also designed by White) and shot him dead. The subsequent murder trial was billed as the "trial of the century."

➤ ***Walk north on St. Paul Street to the 2400 block of St. Paul Street***

3. Charles Village Community Benefits District

Continue to 2434 St. Paul Street until you come to the headquarters of the Charles Village Community Benefits District [CVCBD], which was created in 1995 by the residents and businesses of the neighborhood to provide additional security, sanitation, and marketing services to community members, businesses, and others. Residents in the district voted in favor of a surcharge to property tax bills, creating the first combined neighborhood and business "Benefits District" in the country.

➤ ***Walk North on St. Paul Street, cross 25th Street, turn left and proceed West on 25th Street to N. Charles Street***

4. Noxzema

Look across the street to the building on the Southeast corner of 25th and N. Charles Street and note the ornate sculpture at the top of it.

Many believe this building is where Noxzema was mixed in the early part of the last century. Invented by Dr. Francis J. Townsend, the original formula was prescribed as a sunburn remedy for those vacationing at the beach in Ocean City, Maryland. Later, the formula was acquired by Dr. George Bunting and marketed as Dr. Bunting's Sunburn Remedy. It is believed that the mixing and packaging of the "the miracle cream of [Baltimore](#)" in the iconic blue bottles occurred at this site.

As demand for the product grew, Noxzema diversified into other personal care products including the [Cover Girl](#) line of cosmetics. In 1966, it changed its name to Noxell Corporation.

➤ ***Cross N. Charles Street and continue on 25th Street***

5. Bookstore Row

This unit block of W. 25th Street is known as Bookstore Row. Tiber and BNN Books sell new and used books, while Kelmscott (34 W 25th Street) is nationally famous for its collection of rare and scholarly books. Its name recalls the company established by designer and visionary William Morris in England in 1890, the Kelmscott Press, which produced magnificent hand-bound art books.

- ***Walk back to N. Charles Street, cross the street, turn left and proceed North on N. Charles Street***

6. Afro-American Newspaper & Robert W. Deutsch Foundation

Just up the block at 2519 N. Charles is the former site of the Afro-American Newspaper building. Published since 1892, it was founded by John H. Murphy, a former slave. It is the oldest African-American newspaper in the country. Recently, the paper relocated and the building became the headquarters of the Robert W. Deutsch Foundation. As evidenced by the wild and wonderful graphics on the outside and inside of the building, the foundation focuses on investing in Baltimore's emerging innovation, arts, and creative economy.

- ***Continue on N. Charles Street, turn right on 26th Street***

7. Pastel Row

On this unit block of 26th Street you will find yourself on one of the prettiest and quietest blocks in Charles Village: Pastel Row. Since the 1940s, each of the brick, flat-front row houses on this block has been painted a different pale color, and several of the houses retain their beautiful beveled glass picture doors.

Across the street from these houses is a train tunnel, dug in 1893 by the B&O Railroad. If you time it correctly, you will hear a whistle as the trains go through.

During a significant rain storm in May 2014, the entire south side of this block fell onto the train tracks below causing significant damage to infrastructure and parked cars. Watch this YouTube of the collapse to the end:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MrNluXrrHKY>

- ***Continue on 26th Street to St Paul Street, turn right and head south on St Paul***

8. Village Learning Place

At 2521 St. Paul Street, you will come to red brick building that once was a part of the Enoch Pratt Free Library. Philanthropist Enoch Pratt founded one of the first free library systems in the country here in Baltimore (the Central Library is on Cathedral Street in downtown Baltimore).

Built in 1896, this branch was established to serve the growing Peabody Heights community [now known as Charles Village]. In 1997, Baltimore City closed the library due to financial problems, at which time the community rallied to buy the building, renovate it, and reopen it to meet the needs of the community. It is now called the Village Learning Place.

You are welcome to go inside and explore the courtyard garden in the back.

➤ ***Now go back and continue north on St. Paul Street just past 26th Street***

9. Little Georgetown Row

Located at 2610-2620 St. Paul Street, on the west side of the street, is a unique group of detached row-houses known as Little Georgetown Row. These lovely homes, also called “Charleston style” houses due to their private side porches, were built from around 1869 through the 1870s.

In the 1890s, Oriole baseball player Wilbert Robinson lived at 2620. The house's iron fence was designed by Robert Mills, architect of the Washington Monument located in Baltimore's Mt Vernon neighborhood – the nation's first monument to George.

In 1933, H. L. Mencken and T. S. Eliot quaffed beer and scotch during a party at 2618. And Whittaker Chambers, who testified against Alger Hiss in the notorious Cold War espionage trials of the late 1940s, lived for a time at 2610 (no, he didn't keep any of the pumpkins here). Alger Hiss was convicted of perjury in 1950, having gone through two previous trials in the 1940s.

➤ **Double back and turn right on to 26th Street, towards Charles Street, then turn north/right onto Charles Street**

10. Charles Street: 2600-2700 block

Here you will notice that the street becomes broader as it climbs steadily toward its crest at 29th Street. The row-houses on both sides date from 1898 to 1905, with some of the more unusual ones featuring conical-roofed turrets, dormer windows, iron cresting, and turned-spindle wooden balustrades on the top floors, including a particularly fanciful one painted purple at 2637.

Cross 27th Street and continue north to 2715 Charles Street, where you will see the Romanesque stone building that houses the Johns Hopkins University Press (you are now less than half a mile south of the Hopkins Homewood campus). The other houses in this row, 2719-2735, with their bay and circle windows, and neocolonial door heads, were designed by John Forsythe in 1907 and were some of the more expensive houses when Peabody Heights was being developed.

On the west side of the street is the old Doctor's Hospital, now the home of Future Care – a long-term nursing facility.

➤ ***Continue north up Charles Street***

11. Charles Street: 2800 block

This block contains some of the most beautiful landmark buildings in Charles Village. On the west side of the street stands the old Seton High School, built in 1907 as the St. Joseph's House of Industry. The high school took its name from Elizabeth Ann Seton, the founder, in 1808, of the American parochial school system and the first American order of nuns, the Sisters of Charity of St. Joseph. "Mother Seton," as she was called, was canonized in 1975, thus becoming the first native-born American saint. (The Mother Seton House, where she lived, is on Paca Street in downtown Baltimore.)

The building stands as a perfect example of "adaptive reuse," having been taken over many years ago by Prudential Health Care Plan, which had its mid-Atlantic headquarters here. Currently, it has come full circle, as it is now occupied by the Johns Hopkins University School of Education.

Taking up the full east side of the street are the magnificent Church and Rectory of Saints Philip and James, designed by architect Theodore Wells Pietsch I (he also designed the 1912 parish house and tower of Zion Lutheran Church on North Gay Street in downtown Baltimore). The cornerstone was laid in 1928 and the dedication of the completed church took place two years later. Both buildings are of limestone with red terracotta tile roofs, and a copper dome over the church. The rectory is in the Italian Renaissance style and looks almost like a little Venetian palace, with its rounded arches, columns, and green marble discs. Next door, six Corinthian columns and three massive oak double doorways lead from the steps into the church, which contains beautiful stained glass windows, murals, and an Italian marble altar.

➤ *Continue north up Charles Street*

12. Charles Street: 2900 block & Wyman Park

As you cross 29th Street, you enter the best planned and most expensive area of Charles Village – the open, green northward sweep of Charles Street, designed in 1909 by the famous Olmsted Brothers of Boston. Their father, Frederick Law Olmsted, was the designer of New York's Central Park. Thanks to the efforts of the Peabody Heights Improvement Association, the City of Baltimore engaged the Olmsted firm to fashion the Charles Street Boulevard from 29th Street to University Parkway.

People said it rivaled even Eutaw Place, which at that time was Baltimore's most exclusive address. The Olmsted firm, in fact, looked to the grand boulevards of Europe for inspiration, particularly the Champs Elysées in Paris. This section of Charles Street recently went through an extensive redevelopment to make it more community oriented and pedestrian friendly.

On the west side begins Wyman Park, with a Civil War monument at the corner of 29th and Charles, representing a Union officer striding into battle, backed by two imposing angels. The monument is ringed by a series of flowering cherry trees which the community planted in honor of its 100th anniversary.

Wyman Park is also the site of the community's annual two-day music festival and civic celebration in the Dell, held on the first weekend in June, and the starting point of the annual Charles Village Garden Walk held on the Sunday of the festival's weekend.

In this southern section of the park you will find a children's playground and outdoor ping pong table. Pause and have some fun.

With a view from their front windows of Wyman Park to the west, the houses on the east side of the 2900 block of Charles commanded prices more than twice those of neighboring houses, and their residents had the best seats when parades passed by. These houses, designed in 1909 by architect John Forsythe - whose work is in evidence throughout Charles Village -- are three-story brick houses with carved stone balconies on the second floor. The Consulate General of Ecuador is housed in 2925.

- ***Continue up Charles Street to the traffic light at 31st Street ... cross the street toward Wyman Park ... walk north/right to the intersection of Charles Street and Art Museum Drive.***

13. Art Museum Drive

Here you can descend the steps into Wyman Park Dell and walk along the pathways and/or you can walk westward up Art Museum Drive, to the Baltimore Museum of Art [BMA].

The BMA was designed in 1929 by John Russell Pope, the chief museum architect of his day. He is best known for later having designed the National Gallery in Washington, D.C., and he also designed another neoclassical building in Charles Village, the University Baptist Church [Tour #2].

At the northwest corner of Charles Street and Art Museum Drive is the little building called the Gatehouse that since 1965 has housed the student newsletter of the Johns Hopkins University. The Gatehouse was built around 1875 and was also known as the Homewood Lodge. It stands on the edge of what once was William Wyman's estate, before he gave the land to the University, and was designed in the same Italianate style as Wyman's magnificent villa [which unfortunately no longer exists; it was demolished to make way for a parking lot].

- ***Cross to the north-side of Art Museum Drive***

14. Baltimore Museum of Art & Sculpture Garden

The BMA is Maryland's largest art museum and houses over 90,000 objects in its permanent collection, from ancient mosaics to contemporary art. It is home to the famous Cone Collection, which features works by early Matisse, Picasso, and other icons of modernism. The visitors' entrance is just off the parking lot nearest Charles Street.

Two significant renovations and additions to the Baltimore Museum of Art were completed in 1982 and 1994, and another begun in 2013 re-opened the entrance in the original building.

If you continue walking west past the Museum, just past the second parking lot and the West Wing for Modern Art, you will find on your right one of only two buildings left in Baltimore designed by the eminent architect Benjamin Henry Latrobe, who designed the United States Capitol – The Oakland Spring House. This simple structure with an Ionic portico that leads to a plain rectangular room. It was built in 1812 for Oakland (now part of the Roland Park community), the wealthy estate of Robert Goodloe Harper, and was moved to this site in 1932.

The other Latrobe building in Baltimore is the Basilica of the Assumption, called by architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner, "North America's most beautiful church" [it is located across from the Pratt Central Library on Cathedral Street in downtown Baltimore].

Turn back along Art Museum Drive the way you came, past the Museum, on your left you will find the entrance to the magical sculpture gardens of the BMA. The [upper] Wurtzberger Sculpture Garden contains figurative sculptures by artists such as Rodin, Henry Moore, and Anthony Caro, as well as a fountain, reflecting pool, and Gertrude's Cafe. The [lower] Levi Sculpture Garden contains abstract and contemporary sculpture, and is set amidst greenery and flowering trees.

Between the two sculpture gardens is a public path that leads to the campus of the Johns Hopkins University, which is covered in Walking Tour #2.

Here we end this tour, where you can visit the Museum, rest in the sculpture gardens, and/or enjoy a beverage and meal at Gertrude's Café inside the BMA.

Charles Village Walking Tours

3. Johns Hopkins University & Community

[Time: 1 hour]

- ***Start in the 3100-3200 blocks of St. Paul Street – between 31st & 33rd Streets – and walk south to 31st Street***

1. The St. Paul Street Shopping District

The 3100 & 3200 blocks of St Paul Street is the major commercial center in Charles Village and makes for a perfect location to get a beverage, snack, or provisions before starting out on your walk.

As you walk south on St. Paul Street, look for the St. Paul Street Court Apartments on your right on the west side of the street. They were built in 1924 by the same architects who designed The Johns Hopkins University. You can look through the gates to see the lovely courtyard and a fountain.

- ***Continue on St Paul Street, turn right at 31st Street, then turn right on Charles Street and proceed north***

2. Homewood Friends Meeting House: 3107 N. Charles Street

Here you will find the Homewood Friends Meeting House. The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, erected this house of worship in 1921, and it's still busy every Sunday as Baltimore has a thriving community of Quakers.

- ***Continue north on the east side of Charles Street***

3. Abel Wolman House: 3213 N. Charles Street

The Abel Wolman House was designed in 1938 by distinguished Baltimore architect Laurence Hall Fowler, who also designed many of the most beautiful homes in the communities of Guilford and Homeland (north of Charles Village). Wolman was one of the world's leading authorities on water resources and sanitation and had a profound effect on public health.

Fowler was particularly proud of his accomplishment with this simple townhouse, because the plot of land on which it was to be built, besides being narrow, was right next to a towering apartment building. By setting the house back from the street, and designing a lovely oriel bay window and quiet side entrance, Fowler achieved an elegant effect. The house Fowler designed for himself in 1925 is now owned by filmmaker John Waters, who lives just several blocks away in the Tuscany/Canterbury neighborhood.

➤ ***Continue north on Charles Street to 33rd Street***

4. Charles Street @ 33rd Street

Cross Charles Street to the west side of the street, where you will find the monument to Johns Hopkins, positioned at the eastern edge of the University. This monument was originally situated in the middle of Charles Street, and because it was surrounded by lights, was known as the "birthday cake." It was such a notorious traffic hazard that it was moved in the 1960s to its present site. Rubbing one of the statues is supposed to bring good luck to students taking their exams.

➤ ***Continue north on Charles Street***

5. Johns Hopkins University

As you continue up Charles Street, you will see the main circular drive entrance to Johns Hopkins University. The great lawn inside the drive is known as "the beach" as on warm spring days Hopkins students can be found there in shorts and swim suits, sunning and studying. At the top of the rise is the University's Eisenhower Library, to its right is the Homewood House, and behind it is Gilman Hall.

The Milton S. Eisenhower Library is the university's principal research library and the largest in a network of libraries at Johns Hopkins. The library is named for the university's eighth president, brother of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, whose vision brought together the university's rich collection of books, journals, and other scholarly resources.

Homewood House Museum is the elegant Federal-style mansion built from 1801-1806 for Charles Carroll, Jr., son of the Charles Carroll who signed the Declaration of Independence. George Washington called the elder Carroll the richest man in

the colonies, and this splendid house certainly bears that out, eventually costing some \$40,000, an enormous sum at the time. Although there is no record of who the architect was, scholars think Charles Carroll, Jr. designed the house, which sat on land his father gave him as a wedding present.

Since just after 1930 it has been the property of the Johns Hopkins University and is a registered National Historic Landmark. Homewood is now a museum; you can go inside and see its elaborately carved woodwork, colorful furnishings, and spacious layout.

Built of brick with marble trim, Homewood House is a five-part structure with the central section flanked by hyphens connecting it to the wings. The four columns forming the front portico are simple Doric columns but are surmounted by Corinthian capitals featuring the "Prince of Wales Feather" design, Carroll's favorite motif, and one that is repeated throughout the house. The fanlight above the door and the shield-shaped window in the pediment are delicately filigreed. The house looks like it is only one story high, though the dormer windows hint at an attic. If you go inside you'll see that there is a full second floor.

Homewood inspired the Georgian Revival style of many of the buildings of The Johns Hopkins University, which were designed by architects Parker, Thomas, and Rice. The University used to be in downtown Baltimore but moved to this location when it needed to expand after the turn of the 20th Century. If you explore parts of the campus, return to Homewood to continue this tour. You will be seeing the westernmost sections of campus later on this tour.

Gilman Hall was built in 1914 and was the most important building during the University's layout. It's also the University's tallest building. Gilman Hall has a bell tower and is in the center of campus.

➤ ***Return to Charles Street and continue north***

6. Charles Street to University Parkway

A little to the north and across the street stands John Russell Pope's University Baptist Church, built in 1926. Pope designed the Baltimore Museum of Art (see Tour #1) as well as the National Gallery in Washington, D.C. The Church has an octagonal dome, two Ionic order porticos, and a Renaissance-inspired arcade on the Charles Street side.

Keep walking north on Charles Street, along the edge of the University. You will see a gazebo and will come to a monument to poet and musician Sidney Lanier of Georgia. While serving four months as a Confederate prisoner in the notorious Federal prison of Point Lookout, Maryland, Lanier contracted tuberculosis, which led to his early death in 1881. But after his release in 1865, he became a star of music and literary circles in Baltimore; he was the flutist of the newly organized Peabody Orchestra, and in 1879 the Johns Hopkins University invited him to lecture in English literature. (The Eisenhower Library of the University has a Sidney Lanier Room.)

Continue north, passing the tennis courts on your left, until you get to another grand boulevard, University Parkway, which used to be called Merryman's Lane (see historic background information in the Introduction section).

On the southeast corner is the Bunting Meyerhoff Interfaith Center. As you look eastward and further down University Parkway, you will see the Cathedral Church of the Incarnation (Episcopal), an English Gothic church atop a Norman crypt.

➤ ***Now turn left and walk west along University Parkway***

7. University Parkway

As you walk along the northern edge of Johns Hopkins University on your left, you will pass its athletic fields and eventually come to the Lacrosse Hall of Fame Museum. Outside is a sculpture by New England artist Jud Hartmann, of two Iroquois playing lacrosse. The Iroquois taught the game to European colonists, and this sculpture is a tribute to that relationship and to this most important of Hopkins' sports. Across the street is the neoclassical First Church of Christ Scientist. Keep walking for about 100 yards on University Parkway until you reach San Martin Drive.

➤ ***Turn left on San Martin Drive***

8. San Martin Drive and the Animal Sculpture Garden

While walking along San Martin Drive you will experience the woods of the Jones Falls watershed. On your right, across from the west end of the athletic field, you will pass a path leading to a creek running below named Stony Run. Continuing on

San Martin Drive, you will reach the Steven Muller Building. This building houses the Space Telescope Science Institute, which is responsible for the famous Hubble Space Telescope and ongoing astronomical research. (The Institute is not open to the public.)

Now you can go up the steps across from the Institute and back into the center of the Hopkins campus, where you can wander through the various paths and walkways until you get to Bufano Garden, a garden filled with a collection of lovely, quirky animal sculptures created by Italian artist Beniamino Bufano. Once atop the steps, keep straight, passing a field. Towards the bottom of the hill, keep left and you will see Mudd Hall to your right and a gazebo to your left. The gazebo marks your arrival at Bufano Garden.

After exploring Bufano Garden, take a right on the path opposite the gazebo, keeping Mudd hall to your right. Keep making your way eastward across campus veering left at the Eisenhower Library. To your left will be the Homewood House, in front of you will be a flagpole. You will have returned to “the beach.”

➤ ***Head down the path to Charles Street towards 33rd Street. Walk east along 33rd to St. Paul Street and turn right on St. Paul Street***

8. The St. Paul Street Shopping District – between 33rd and 31st Streets

By now you'll probably need a rest and some refreshments, which you can get at one of the many cafes or restaurants on these two blocks.

Charles Village Walking Tours

4. Charles Village to Victorian Waverly

[Time: 1.5 hours]

➤ ***Begin at St. Paul Street @ 33rd Street^t and walk south***

1. The St. Paul Street Shopping District

The 3100 & 3200 blocks of St Paul Street are the major commercial center in Charles Village and make for a perfect location to get a beverage, snack, or provisions before starting out on your walk.

As this tour progresses, you'll get a feel for the diversity of Charles Village, from the lush tree-lined boulevard of Charles Street, to the bustling commercial activity of Greenmount Avenue, to the architectural highlight of St. John's Huntingdon Episcopal Church.

➤ ***Turn right at 31st Street and walk west past Lovegrove St. to Charles Street.***

2. 31st Street

Just before you get to Charles Street you will see on your right a house that looks like none other in the neighborhood, but blends in so well with the trees and bushes around it that you might actually miss it. Ten East 31st Street is a brick and glass "Prairie Style" bungalow, built just after World War II. One of the defining features of a bungalow, in addition to its low sweeping lines and overall horizontal feel, is the way it blurs the lines between indoors and outdoors. Those of you who've seen Frank Lloyd Wright's Arthur Heurtley House in Illinois, or Fallingwater in Pennsylvania, may recognize this uniquely American style in this modest house.

➤ ***Turn right at Charles and walk north to 33rd Street.***

3. Homewood Friends Meeting House: 3107 N. Charles Street

Here you will find the Homewood Friends Meeting House. The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers, erected this house of worship in 1921, and it's still busy every Sunday as Baltimore has a thriving community of Quakers.

➤ ***Continue north on the east side of Charles Street***

4. Abel Wolman House: 3213 N. Charles Street

The Abel Wolman House was designed in 1938 by distinguished Baltimore architect Laurence Hall Fowler, who also designed many of the most beautiful homes in the communities of Guilford and Homeland (north of Charles Village). Wolman was one of the world's leading authorities on water resources and sanitation and had a profound effect on public health. Fowler was particularly proud of his accomplishment with this simple townhouse, because the plot of land on which it was to be built, besides being narrow, was right next to a towering apartment building. By setting the house back from the street, and designing a lovely oriel bay window and quiet side entrance, Fowler achieved an elegant effect. The house Fowler designed for himself in 1925 is now owned by filmmaker John Waters, who lives just several blocks away in the Tuscany/Canterbury neighborhood.

➤ ***Continue north on Charles Street to 33rd Street***

5. Johns Hopkins University

Cross Charles Street on the west side of the street. There is a monument to Johns Hopkins, positioned at the eastern edge of the University. This monument was originally situated in the middle of Charles Street, and because it was surrounded by lights, was known as the "birthday cake." It was such a notorious traffic hazard that it was moved in the 1960s to its present site. Rubbing one of the statues is supposed to bring good luck to students taking their exams.

A little further up on Charles Street is the main circular drive entrance to Johns Hopkins University, one of the nation's top educational institutions. You may want to explore the campus by taking Tour #2 Johns Hopkins Campus & Community.

➤ ***Turn right at E. 33rd Street and head east, cross St. Paul Street to Calvert Street***

6. Union Memorial Hospital

The E 33rd Street boulevard, from N. Charles Street to Lake Montebello, was designed by the Olmsted Brothers. As you cross St. Paul Street and Calvert Street you will come upon Union Memorial Hospital, built in 1923, on the left. The hospital has a renowned sports injury clinic.

➤ ***Continue along E. 33rd Street, cross Barclay Street to Greenmount Avenue***

7. Waverly Farmers Market: E. 33rd and Barclay

If you are taking the tour on a Saturday morning, make sure to visit the Waverly Farmers Market located at E. 33rd and Barclay.

Open year-round on Saturday mornings, the market has been held here since 1980, and is run by a non-profit organization. The offerings include baked goods, fruit, vegetables, meat, fish, dairy, flowers, and a variety of prepared goods all from local vendors and producers.

8. Enoch Pratt Free Library - Waverly Branch

The newly renovated public library is located at the northeast corner of E. 33rd Street and Barclay Street and at the intersection of University Parkway on the north side of 33rd Street and Merryman Lane [mentioned in the Introduction] on the south side of 33rd Street.

➤ ***From 33rd Street turn left onto Greenmount Avenue, turn right onto 35th Street, and then right onto Old York Road heading south to Venable Avenue***

9. Old Waverly/Old York Road

Historically, this was part of a Victorian village called Waverly, which before the Civil War was called Huntington [see historic background in the Introduction]. It was once surrounded by wealthy estates and summer mansions, mostly built during the second half of the 19th century.

As you wander in this section of the old village, you will find a delightful collection of wood frame and brick houses tucked away on the surrounding streets that are quite different from the rowhomes you will see on the other walking tours.

- ***Turn right at Venable Avenue for one block and then left back onto Greenmount Avenue heading south***

10. Greenmount Avenue

If you were to go north on Greenmount Avenue the street would soon change its name to York Road, as it heads to the suburbs and Towson in Baltimore County. If you were to follow Greenmount Avenue south to the end you would find yourself in downtown Baltimore.

The Greenmount Avenue corridor was a busily traveled toll road with the shopping district here flourishing since the mid-1900s. Though the Depression hit this area hard, over the years it has made several significant attempts to rebound. In 1937, it was chosen for an experimental neighborhood conservation project, and in 1940 it earned the praise of the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce as one of the most efficient and productive residential shopping districts in the country.

More recently, it has been designated as one of our nation's Main Street projects, which has helped in its redevelopment. It is now busy with all manner of ethnic restaurants, pharmacies, clothing shops, and sundries stores.

- ***Proceed south on Greenmount to just south of 31st Street at the intersection of Old York Road on your left***

11. St. John's Huntingdon Episcopal Church

On your left is an important local landmark and neighborhood gem, St. John's Huntingdon Episcopal Church. The name "Huntingdon" came from "Huntington," originally one of the major estates in this once rural area, which was divided up and sold as lots beginning in 1790.

St. John's calls itself "The First Lady of Waverly," and its congregation has worshipped here since 1843. The present church dates from 1859, having replaced the original building after a fire a year earlier. The parish house and rectory were built in the 1860s to match the Gothic Revival style of the church, with its granite walls, deeply gabled roof, and bell tower. The bells of St. John's, some of which date from 1850, still ring throughout the day and can be heard throughout the neighborhood.

The builders of the church sought to promote the so-called "Oxford Movement," which was dedicated to the idea that the beauty and aesthetics of a church should match the holiness of God, and that these principles were best expressed architecturally by the Gothic style. St. John's, in fact, is modeled on St. Michael's Church, in Longstanton, England. The renovations of the 1890s fulfilled the plans of the builders, and St. John's became one of the most pure examples of this ecclesiastical philosophy.

The church is not open all the time, but if you do go inside, you'll see many richly colored stained glass panels, such as the great South Rose Window, as well as beautiful and unusual stenciling which was done by a local restoration artist named Janet Pope. Pope also did the faux stone work known as "ashlaring" on the walls inside. When you realize that in the 1940s the interior of St. John's was entirely whitewashed, the careful and delicate restoration becomes all the more impressive.

The cemetery behind the church is open even when the church is not, from about seven in the morning until about five in the afternoon, so you can wander through the quiet, flower-filled grounds and see tombstones that date back a century or more. One of the more famous is the grave of Lizette Woodworth Reese (1856-1935), who was a highly regarded Baltimore poet.

➤ ***Now cross the street to the west side of Greenmount Avenue and head north, make a left onto E. 31st Street***

12. Waverly Village

On this one block of 31st, between Greenmount and Barclay, you'll find an atmosphere of the little Victorian village Waverly used to be, with bookstores, wooden frame cottages, and the Old Waverly History Exchange & Tea Room [closed]. Most of the houses in this block, many with decorative bargeboards and stained glass, were built around 1887.

The name "Huntington" appears again, this time at the corner of 31st and Barclay, in the Huntingdon Baptist Church. The Church was founded in 1836 as a Sabbath school for convalescent soldiers, who were routinely moved up to this higher ground from Fort McHenry to escape the threat of malaria. Visiting ministers preached every week, and in 1873 it was decided that the growing congregation needed a new building. So one was erected, modeled after Talmage's Tabernacle

in Brooklyn, covered with corrugated iron plates. The little tabernacle lasted for 50 years, and then in 1922 it was replaced with the current church.

➤ ***Turn left at Barclay Street and walk south to 29th Street***

13. The Barclay School

The Barclay School is famous in the city, and among educational circles in the country, for its innovative and highly successful curriculum. Designed by the Calvert School, a private school in Baltimore, it departs from the centralized curriculum imposed by the Board of Education on other public schools in the city. Neighborhood parents, teachers, and administrators fought hard for permission from the Board to implement it. Hundreds of neighborhood children attend Barclay and do it the old fashioned way: by walking.

➤ ***Head back north on Barclay Street, turn left at 30th Street and then right at Abell Avenue***

14. Abell Avenue

Abell is a quiet, pretty, tree-filled street with two-story brick row houses. Most of the houses still retain their leaded glass panels above each bay window, with alternating patterns of colored flowers and leaves. And many have become Painted Ladies. Explore these three Abell Avenue blocks, from 30th to 33rd Streets.

➤ ***Head back to 31st Street and walk west towards St. Paul Street***

15. E. 31st Street

Before the turn of the century this was not a street at all, but a freely flowing brook called Sumwalt's Run. After complaints from the Peabody Heights Improvement Association, which had plenty of muscle with City Hall [see the historic background information in the Introduction] the oft-flooding brook was dammed at Maryland Avenue and 28th Street, and 31st Street was re-graded and paved so that it could be developed.

From here you will return to the St. Paul Street shopping district where you can refresh at one of the cafes along the 3100 block and 3200 block of St. Paul Street.

Charles Village Walking Tours

5. Baseball Hall of Fame

[Time: 1.5 hours]

- ***Begin the tour at the intersection of 25th Street and St. Paul Street, here you will find several establishments to gather refreshments for your tour, then walk east on the south side of 25th Street to Greenmount Avenue***

1. Oriole Park: E. 25th Street @ Greenmount Avenue

When it comes to baseball, Charles Village surely belongs in the Hall of Fame, since this neighborhood was once home to more players and managers inducted into the Hall of Fame than any other locale in America.

In addition, the Charles Village, Harwood, and Waverly neighborhoods played host to professional baseball in Baltimore from 1883 until 1991, when the Orioles played their final game at Memorial Stadium, before moving downtown to Oriole Park at Camden Yards.

Baseball historian James Bready ("The Home Team") writes that the first Oriole Park stood at the southwest corner of 25th Street and Greenmount Avenue. In 1883, when the wooden grandstands went up, this was the northern edge of urban habitation in Baltimore.

Note: when the 1883 Oriole Park was built, the team wasn't referred to universally as the Orioles. It took a while for the name to catch on. The name Oriole was gaining popularity about this time because of an Oriole Festival (parades, floats) staged in downtown Baltimore.

- ***Walk back one block west on 25th Street to Barclay Street***

2. Union Park: E. 25th Street & Barclay Streets [southwest corner]

This is the site of Union Park where the 1894, 1895, and the 1896 Orioles led the league and emerged as the National League Pennant winners. One of the few remnants of this period are the streetcar rails that often pop up through the asphalt on 25th Street.

Also remaining, on the south side of the 300 block of 25th Street, are the row houses whose backyards touched the stands and overlooked the diamond, which sloped gently down towards 24th Street.

At the time, the largest crowd ever to be shoehorned into a baseball park jammed Union Park on September 27, 1897, as the Orioles were whipped by the Boston Beaneaters, 19 to 10. Had the Orioles won, the team would have taken its fourth successive pennant.

➤ ***Walk south on Barclay Street, turn right onto 24th Street, pause at Guilford Avenue***

Based upon some guesswork and an old photo, home plate would have been behind the row houses at 311 East 24th Street and 2441 and 2443 Guilford Avenue, which were constructed in 1907-1909, after the park had moved.

➤ ***Continue on 24th Street, pause at N. Calvert Street***

3. The Manager: 2403 N. Calvert

The manager of those fabulous 1890s Orioles, Ned Hanlon, lived not far from the Ballpark, at 2403 N. Calvert Street, a house that was subsequently demolished, but would have been a short hike to the ballpark. Today, 2403 N. Calvert is a parking lot. Manager Hanlon was voted into the Hall of Fame in 1996, a century after managing the Orioles greatest season (statistically), with a 70% win rate.

➤ ***Continue on 24th Street, crossing Calvert, St. Paul and Charles Streets***

4. The Players: 12 W. 24th

In the 1890s, Oriole Hughie Jennings and John McGraw roomed together in bachelor digs at 12 W. 24th Street. Both players are enshrined in the Cooperstown Hall of Fame.

➤ ***Walk back on 24th Street to St. Paul Street, turn left and head north on St. Paul Street to E. 26th Street***

As you approach E. 26th Street you will notice the train tracks and tunnel on your left. If you are lucky you might even hear or see one of the 30 or more trains that pass each day through this 1895 piece of engineering.

And on your left along E. 26th Street is Pastel Row, covered in one of the other tours.

5. The Players: 2600 and 2700 blocks of St. Paul Street

Wilbert Robinson, an 1890 Oriole, resided at 2620 St. Paul Street. Note the iron fence on this house. It was designed by architect Robert Mills, who designed the original Washington Monument located in Baltimore's historic Mt. Vernon neighborhood 20 blocks to the south of where you now are. The fence was salvaged in the 1930s from university founder Johns Hopkins' home on Saratoga Street which was being torn down for a parking lot. When Robinson made a little money, he bought 2740 St. Paul Street (it was new in May 1897), next to his team mate, John McGraw.

McGraw, another 1890s Oriole legend, lived at 2738 St. Paul Street. McGraw went on to be the manager of the New York Giants. He and other Orioles of the 1890s, who lived so near each other during their baseball careers, ultimately wound up in the same locale, as many of them are buried in the New Cathedral Cemetery on the West Side of Baltimore.

Some of the early Orioles were married at the first SS. Philip and James Catholic Church, a building that is now the home of the Johns Hopkins University Press, located at 2715 N Charles Street [one block west on your left]. You can peek through and see this building behind the houses in the west side of the 2700 block of St. Paul Street or walk around the block to see its Port Deposit granite facade.

Robinson and McGraw made the sports history books for another reason. They had a saloon, bowling alley, and gym in the off season at 519 North Howard Street [downtown on the west side of the city]. It was here that the game of duckpin bowling, once so much a fixture in Baltimore, was born.

➤ ***Continuing north on St Paul Street, turn left at E. 28th Street, cross N. Charles Street and turn left/south onto Maryland Avenue***

6. The Shakespearian Player: 2729 Maryland Avenue

This was the home of Steve (Walter Scott) Brodie, a 1900 Orioles who would recite Shakespeare during a game. He lived here for many years and became superintendent of grounds at the 33rd Street Stadium. (Careful: don't call it Memorial Stadium, that name and building came later.)

➤ ***Continuing south turn left at W. 27th Street, cross N. Charles Street and St. Paul Street, turn left at N. Calvert Street, walk north to the 2800 block***

7. The Players: 2800 block of N. Calvert Street

Joe Kelly, an Orioles left fielder, who also made the Hall of Fame, and was called the best player on the 1896 team, lived at 2826 North Calvert Street for many years. He died here in 1940s.

➤ ***Continuing north turn right onto E. 29th Street, cross Guilford Avenue***

8. Terrapin Park & Oriole Park

On the north side of 29th Street, between Guilford and Barclay streets is the Barclay Elementary School, former site of another baseball park – Terrapin Park. Baseball was played here from 1914 to the early morning hours of July 4, 1944 when the old wooden grandstands burned in a spectacular fire.

The park opened on April 13, 1914. It was part of the short lived Federal League (which lasted but two years) and was called Terrapin Park. Its name changed to Oriole Park in 1916. It was here that the International League Orioles held forth.

The outfield extended over the bed of Barclay Street, which was cut through to 30th Street long after the team had moved on to play its games at the 33rd Street Stadium [that site is located east of Charles Village]. Oriole Park's bleachers extended all the way to Greenmount Avenue [one block east of Barclay Street].

➤ ***Continue east on E. 29th Street for one block, pause at Greenmount Avenue***

9. The Babe

The last stop on this tour recalls Baltimore's Babe Ruth – the legendary sports icon – who was born and raised in Baltimore.

The Babe played briefly with the Baltimore Orioles during the spring and early summer of 1914 before being sold and sent to Boston. His only time in regular International League play in Baltimore was spent in yet another Oriole Park – a smaller field at the southwest corner of 29th and Greenmount, which today is the site of a McDonald's franchise.

You may also want to visit the birthplace of George Herman “Babe” Ruth and the museum dedicated to him at 216 Emory Street, 3 blocks from the current Oriole Park at Camden Yards, which is located downtown.

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And ... Various blurbs, articles, and conversations by and with, but probably not limited to: BMA Public Relations Office, JHU News and Information Office, Julie Gabrielli, Rev. Jesse Parker, Donna Beth Joy Shapiro, Johns Hopkins of Baltimore Heritage, and the docents at Homewood House Museum.

**Thank you
for
exploring
Charles Village!**