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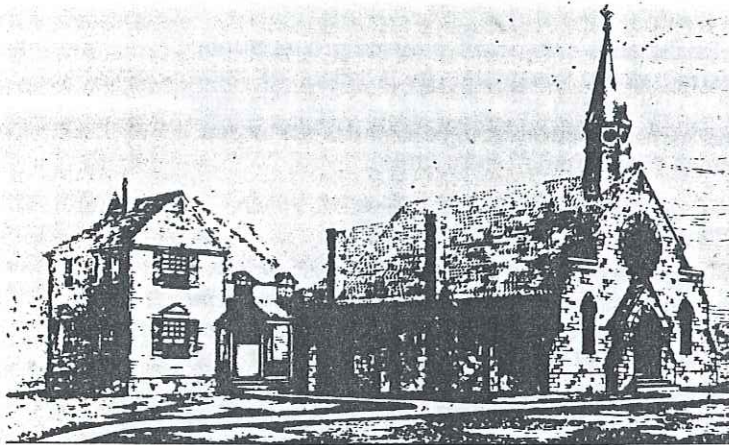
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# CLARKSVILLE

HOWARD COUNTY, MARYLAND

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## HISTORY

Clarksville was settled by many families in the early 1600's but takes its name from a descendant of David, John, and James L. Clark. Emigrating from northern Ireland in 1790, they settled in upper Anne Arundel County (prior to Howard County). Later, they became successful planters and merchants importing woolens, linens, and other textiles from Ireland.

In the 1830's, a descendant bought property on which he built a store and a hotel. John R. Clark, who gave his name to the town later became president of the Ellicott City and Clarksville turnpike begun in 1869. Its ten mile route over old Columbia Pike joined with other roads to form one of the many "crossroads" communities of that period. The town continued to grow, adding a post office which moved from Owingsville in 1840.

Clarksville's economy depended on what the crops yielded at harvest time. In G.M. Hopkin's 1878 Atlas, Dawson Lawrence describes estates which "lay on fertile sections of land responsible for producing 40 bushels of wheat per acre, and large crops of other cereals raised in the county." Some residents still recall taking these crops to the Ellicott City Mill via what was then known as Route 29 or the Clarksville turnpike. Cattle were driven down the old dirt roads to the Baltimore stockyards during this period as well.

Visitors and politicians followed these same roads to Clarksville in the late 1800's. Sources say they came from everywhere to rendezvous at the "Paris of the Fifth Election District" where they could find good conversation and rest for their horses at a local tavern.

Public activity was centered around election day and church picnics, the most famous of them held at St. Louis The King Church built in 1855. The original church was replaced by the present one built in gothic revival style. This new building accommodated a growing community and was finally dedicated by Cardinal Gibbons in 1890. The Clarksville Picnic at St. Louis Church is still an annual event over 100 years later.

The community continued to move forward in the early 1900's. During this period, a blacksmith shop, a new school, and a bank made Clarksville the center of activity, residents say. Paved roads and automobiles in the 1920's and the construction of homes later added to the town's changing appearance.

Today Clarksville stills calls itself a farming community although the farms slowly disappear as a result of rural development. But visitors can still see what Joshua Warfield described as land "rich in limestone and beautiful in landscape" hidden in this small "crossroads" community.

## ATTRACTIONS

Many historic homes built by the early Clarksville families still stand today, part of Howard County's rich history. The homes feature interesting architecture, and visitors may enjoy the following: **WALNUT GROVE** - built in 1785 by Colonel Gassaway Watkins, a revolutionary war hero; **JOHN DUE HOUSE** - a past home of the Warfield and Owings families built in 1836. A spring house, slave quarters, and smoke house are part of the property too; **WELLING'S STONE HOUSE** - built in 1812 and part of "White Wine and Claret", a tract of land patented in 1712 by Honorable John Dorsey; **LIMEVALLEY FARM STONE TENANT HOUSE** - owned by William Clark, the Parlett, and Warfield families, and built in the early 1800's. The house features fine stone work walls; **WHITE OAK FARM** - part of Worthington's Range and the Brice Howard Estate, it dates back to 1832; **ZEPP FARM** - owned by the Zepp families and an example of early Twentieth century American Domestic architecture; **ARTHUR PICKETT HOUSE** - owned by the Zepps and Picketts and built in the early 1900's, the house features American Victorian architecture.

## DIRECTIONS

**From Washington, D.C.:** North on Route 29 and West on Route 32 to Clarksville.

**From Baltimore:** West on Route 40 and South on Route 29 then West on Route 108 to Clarksville.

**From Frederick:** East on Route 40 then South on Route 32 to Clarksville.

## SOURCES

Hopkins, G.M. *The 1878 G.M. Hopkins Atlas*. Philadelphia, PA. 1878.  
Warfield, J.D. *The Founders of Anne Arundel and Howard Counties, Maryland*. Baltimore, MD., 1967.

Thompson, Cleora. *Historic Sites Inventory of Howard County*.

