

**EXPLORE HISTORIC HAGERSTOWN** walking the streets from the perspective of town founder Jonathan Hager. From the site of his first family residence in City Park through downtown to the historic burial site of the Hager family. The tour includes museums, historic sites, and collections that focus on Hager's legacy and the founding of Hagerstown from 1739 through 1813.



**START**  
HAGER HOUSE  
110 KEY STREET



## FUN FACT

The weathervane, "Little Heiskell," has been a symbol of the city since the early days of Elizabethtown. Attributed to tinsmith Benjamin Heiskell and made in 1769, the weathervane depicts a colonial era Ranger. He sat atop government buildings for over 150 years until he was retired when the current City Hall was built. Displaying a bullet hole, the artifact was infamously "shot through the heart" by Confederate sharp shooters during the Civil War and is available for viewing at the Jonathan Hager House Museum. A replica sits atop City Hall today and his image is spread throughout the city. How many Heiskell's can you find around Hagerstown?



### HOT OFF THE PRESS



Hagerstown's first newspaper, The Washington Spy, began printing in 1790.

### PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

George Washington visited Hagerstown in 1790 during a scouting trip for the nation's capital.



The **Old National Pike** passed through downtown Hagerstown and connected Western Maryland to Baltimore. It was later incorporated into the National Road, the first federally funded highway, which began construction in 1811.

**A TOWN RENAMED**  
In 1813, Elizabethtown was formally incorporated as Hagerstown.

## WHO WAS JONATHAN HAGER?

Jonathan Hager emigrated from Germany in 1736 and made his first land purchase in 1739, named "Hager's Fancy", and built what is known today as the Hager House. The following year in 1740, he married German immigrant Elizabeth Kirshner and raised two children, Rosanna and Jonathan Jr., before his wife's death in 1765.

Jonathan Hager held many professions throughout his lifetime—farmer, gunsmith, soldier, entrepreneur, and politician. Hager served as Captain of Scouts during the French & Indian War and owned thousands of acres of land during his lifetime. He laid out the plans for Elizabethtown in the 1760s, named after his wife.

In 1771, Hager was elected to the Maryland General Assembly and re-elected in 1773. He advocated for economic growth and the advancement of Western Maryland. He was a prominent Patriot figure in Western Maryland. In the decade before the Revolutionary War, he served on committees of non-importation, observation and correspondence.

He died November 6, 1775, from an injury attributed to the construction of the German Reformed Church (now the Zion Reformed United Church of Christ). Today, his legacy lives on in the city that bears his name, Hagerstown, a small town that grew from humble agricultural beginnings to an enterprising railroading community to today's Hub City focused on growth and progress for its people.

### SPECIAL THANKS TO:



351 North Cleveland Avenue • Hagerstown, MD 21740

Office hours: 8am - 4pm

Phone: 301-739-8577 x 169 • Fax: 301-790-0171

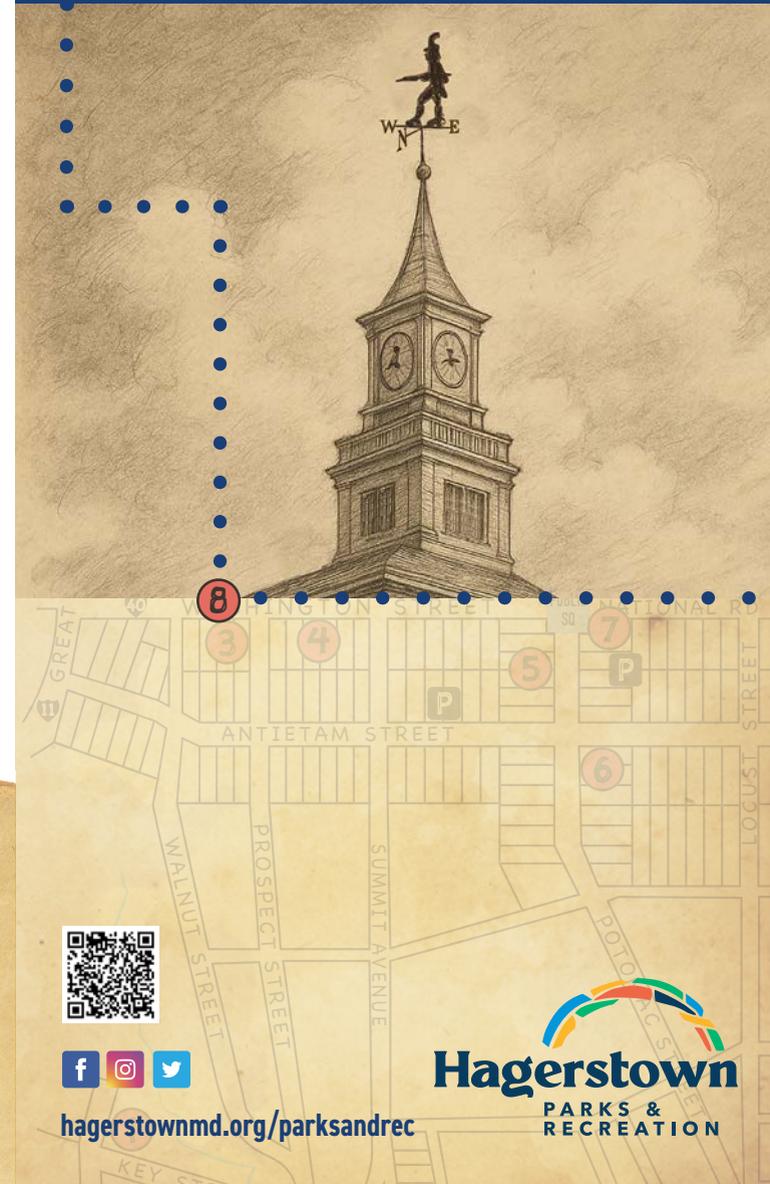
Email: Parks&Rec@hagerstownmd.org • hagerstownmd.org/parksandrec

## HAGERSTOWN



## FOUNDER'S FOOTSTEPS

## WALKING TOUR



[hagerstownmd.org/parksandrec](http://hagerstownmd.org/parksandrec)





# HISTORIC PLACES OF INTEREST

## 1 HAGER'S FANCY

Hager House & Founder's Trail  
110 Key • [www.hagerhouse.org](http://www.hagerhouse.org)  
Open seasonally Fridays & Saturdays 10am - 4pm

Visit the refurbished home of Hagerstown's founder, Jonathan Hager, built circa 1739. This one-of-a-kind house museum is staged with historic furniture and artifacts. Take a guided tour of the restored limestone homestead fortress built over a never-failing spring for an authentic educational heritage experience unlike any other.

## 2 WASHINGTON COUNTY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS

401 Museum • [www.wcmfa.org](http://www.wcmfa.org)  
Open Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 5pm

This nationally accredited museum, located lakefront in historic City Park, is free and boasts an outstanding collection, including iconic works by Norman Rockwell, Thomas Moran, and Auguste Rodin. Included are artifacts and paintings tied to the history of the Hager family and the history of Hagerstown. The museum is a must-visit on any trip to the area.

## 3 MOUNT PROSPECT

31 S Prospect - Nathaniel Rochester House Mural

The mural depicts the historic "Mount Prospect", the original home of Nathaniel Rochester built 1789. Historic South Prospect Street is also home to the historic St. John's Episcopal Church founded in 1786.

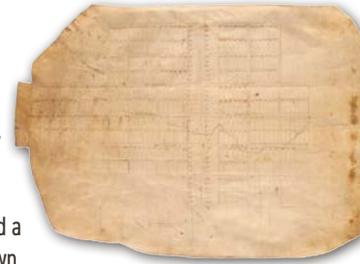


 THIS ICON INDICATES TOUR STOPS WITH INDOOR AREAS OPEN TO VISITORS. BE SURE TO CHECK EACH LOCATION'S VISITING HOURS.

## 4 MILLER HOUSE MUSEUM

135 W Washington • [www.washcohistory.org](http://www.washcohistory.org)  
Open Monday - Friday 9:00am - 4:30pm

Home of the Washington County Historical Society and the Kinship Family Heritage Research Center. A great resource for local history and genealogical research. Originally built in 1825 for Hagerstown Attorney William Price, the property was purchased in 1912 by local physician, Dr. Victor Davis Miller Jr. The museum has a vast collection of local history including Bell Pottery and a historic plat of Hagerstown.

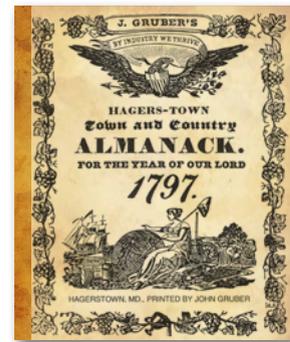


Historic plat of Hagerstown., c.1800s  
(On display at the Miller House Museum)

## 5 GRUBER'S PRINT SHOP

21 S Potomac - The Maryland Theatre

Site of "Gruber's Print Shop" operated by colonial printer, John Gruber, and his partner and son-in-law, Daniel May. Gruber is considered by many to be one of Hagerstown's "favorite sons" along with Jonathan



Hager, the town's founder and namesake. The Hagers-town Town and Country Almanack was established in 1797 and has been published continuously for 229 years, making it the second oldest almanac in the nation and the ONLY almanac still published by direct descendants of its founder.

## 6 WESTERN MARYLAND ROOM, WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY

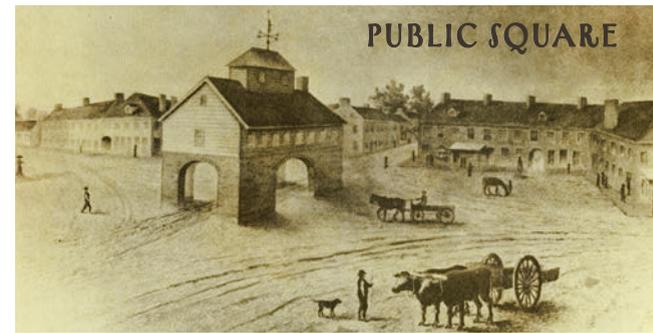
100 S Potomac • [www.washcolibrary.org/wmr](http://www.washcolibrary.org/wmr)

Limited Hours of Operation, Appointments encouraged.

Visit the Western Maryland Room to research their extensive regional collections featuring Hagerstown history and Hager-related artifacts. The Washington County Free Library was established in 1901 and operated the nation's first bookmobile in 1905 by Mary L. Titcomb. This archive helps to provide and preserve the history of Western Maryland.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Washington County was established in 1776 named in honor of George Washington, the Commander of the Continental Army and first President of the United States. Hagerstown was named the county seat.



## 7 PUBLIC SQUARE

Jonathan Hager laid out Elizabethtown in the early 1760's containing over 500 lots. At the center was an open space known as the Public Square, the location of the town's 1st government building - the Market House. This building contained the town's local market, government offices, and was home to the iconic Little Heiskell weathervane. On the northeast corner of the square stood Hager's third and final residence, a stone townhouse on Lot #12.

## 8 HAGERSTOWN CITY HALL

1 E Franklin • [www.hagerstownmd.org](http://www.hagerstownmd.org)

The first official city hall was established after the town's incorporation in 1818, one block north on the corner of Franklin and Potomac Streets. The current structure completed by 1941 and contains a model of the original building.

## 9 HISTORIC CITY FARMERS' MARKET

25 W Church - Hub City Brewery

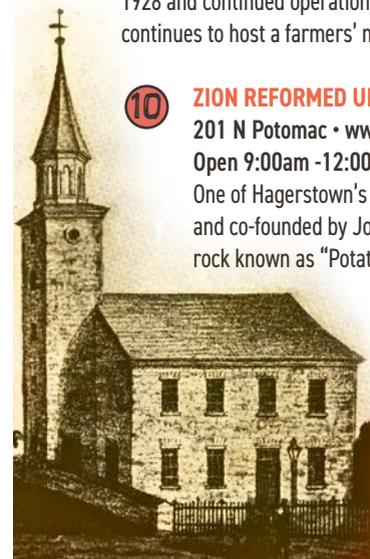
Known as the oldest continuously operated farmers' market in Maryland since 1783. The present building was the third market house built in 1928 and continued operations until 2021. Today, the Hub City Brewery continues to host a farmers' market for locals of Hagerstown.

## 10 ZION REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

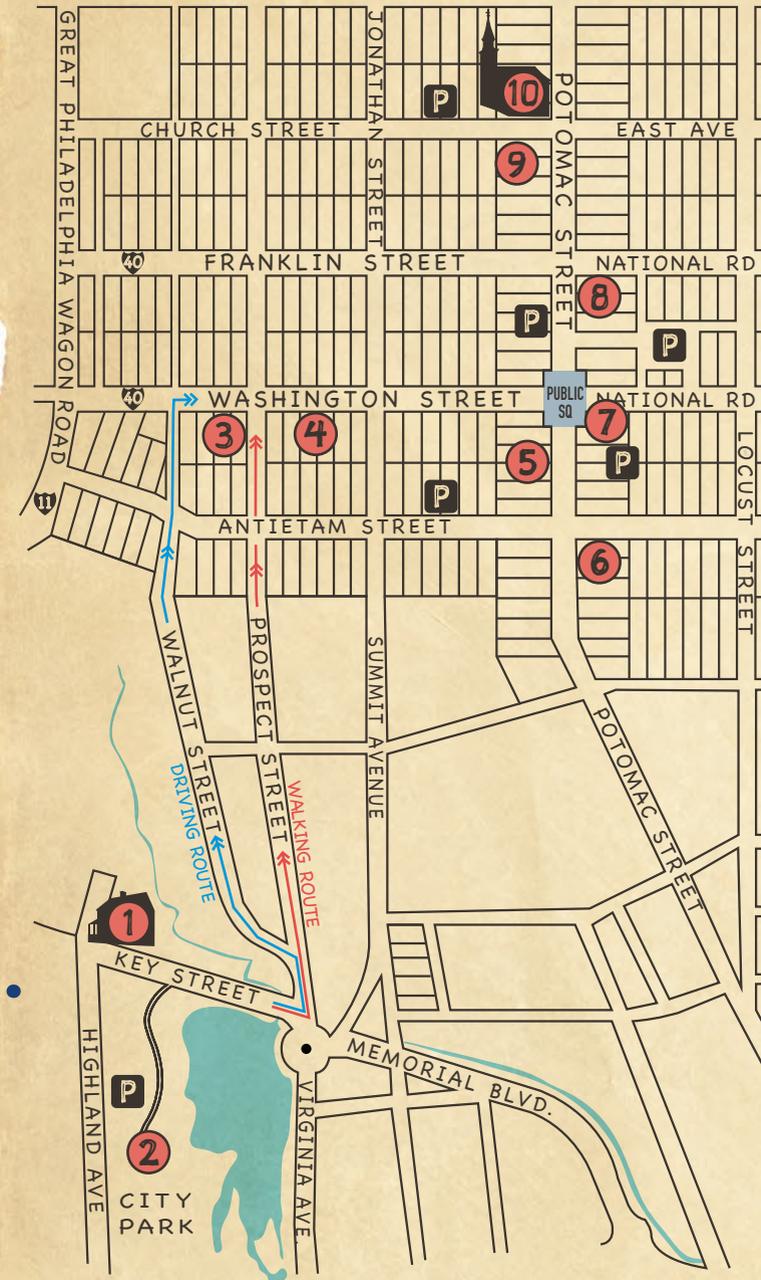
201 N Potomac • [www.zionreformed.church](http://www.zionreformed.church)

Open 9:00am - 12:00pm Monday - Friday

One of Hagerstown's earliest houses of worship dated 1774, and co-founded by Jonathan Hager. Zion was built atop a large rock known as "Potato Hill". Formerly known as The German Reformed Church founded in 1770, it is the oldest church building in Washington County and has been in continuous use since its construction. It is the burial site of Jonathan Hager and his family alongside other notable Hagerstonians.



# HAGER'S TOWN, MARYLAND



-  WALKING TOUR STOP
-  PARKING LOT OR GARAGE
-  PUBLIC SQUARE

