



### Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park

16302 Mount Calvert Road, Upper Marlboro MD 20772  
301-627-1286 / TTY 301-699-2544

**PARK HOURS:** Daily, 8 am–dusk

**EXHIBIT HOURS:** April–October, Saturdays, 10 am–4 pm  
& Sundays, 12 noon–4 pm  
Weekday group tours available by appointment.  
Admission is FREE.  
Visit us at [www.pgparcs.com](http://www.pgparcs.com)

**DIRECTIONS:** From Route 301 in Upper Marlboro, turn onto Route 382 (Croom Road). Travel three miles and turn left onto Mount Calvert Road. Travel three miles to the end of Mount Calvert Road and enter the park.

**DIRECTIONS BY WATER:** Mount Calvert is at the confluence of the Western Branch and Patuxent River, just north of Jackson's Landing at Patuxent River Park. A floating dock provides access for canoes, kayaks and powerboats. Patuxent River Park pontoon boat tours stop at Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park.



Mount Calvert Historical and Archaeological Park is a facility of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission, Department of Parks and Recreation, Prince George's County, Natural and Historical Resources Division.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission encourages the participation of individuals with disabilities in our programs and services. Please let us know how we can best meet your needs as we fully comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act in making "reasonable accommodations" to promote and encourage your participation. PPC-PR-NHRD 8/06

A Confluence of Three Cultures

# MOUNT CALVERT

## HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK



# A Confluence of Three Cultures

**M**OUNT CALVERT HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK overlooks the Patuxent River in eastern Prince George's County, Maryland. It is a significant historical and archaeological site that represents 8,000 years of American Indian, Euro-American and African-American culture. In 1684, *An Act for the Advancement of Trade*, established towns throughout the Chesapeake region. Mount Calvert was one such town and became Prince George's first county seat, named Charles Town, in 1696. The county seat was moved to Upper Marlboro in 1721 and Mount Calvert became a typical southern Maryland plantation. John Brown built the existing federal period house in 1789.

Since 1996, The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission archaeologists have been piecing together images of life at Mount Calvert. Public archaeology digs and school programs offer visitors and students the opportunity to observe and participate in the discovery of Mount Calvert's diverse past. This unique natural and cultural history park offers an exhibit on archaeology in a restored 18th century plantation house, a walking tour with interpretive wayside panels, water access, and beautiful views of the Jug Bay Natural Area. Hiking is permitted. Relic or artifact collecting is strictly prohibited.



▲ Map depicting the ancient river beds of the Chesapeake region at the end of the last Ice Age

- ▼ Tobacco Trade panel from the "Confluence of Three Cultures" exhibit
- ▼ American Indian pipe bowl fragment

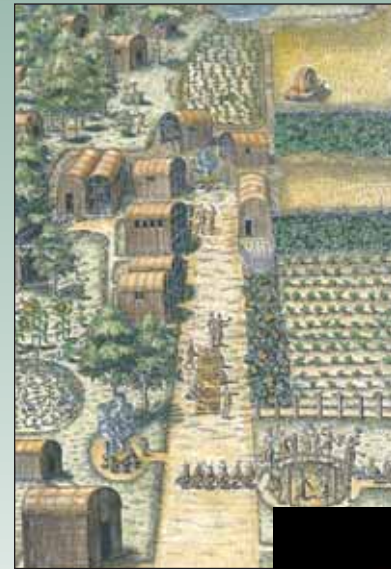


◀ Visitors observe archaeology in action



# American Indians

Archaeological evidence shows that American Indians were present at Mount Calvert from the Archaic Period (7500–1000 BC) through the Woodland Period (1000 BC–1600 AD). Early Archaic hunters and gatherers visited the Upper Patuxent River to harvest the river’s resources. Later, Woodland Indians farmed the land and lived in permanent villages along the river until the 1600s when European settlers arrived.



▲ Illustration of a Woodland Period Village



▲ Late Archaic spear points

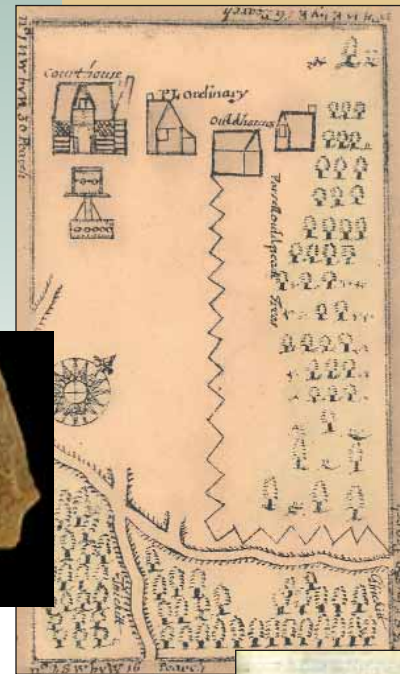


◀ Glass and shell trade beads



# Prince George’s County’s First Town

The town at Mount Calvert was established by the 1684 *Act for the Advancement of Trade*. It became the county seat when Prince George’s County was created in 1696 and was renamed Charles Town. By 1710, an Anglican Church, courthouse and jail had been built. At the riverfront wharves, ships brought goods from Europe in exchange for tobacco. Ordinaries (taverns) provided food, drink and lodging to planters and merchants. In 1721, the county seat was moved to Upper Marlboro. Charles Town gradually disappeared and Mount Calvert became a ferry landing.



▲ 1697 Courthouse at Moore’s Lodge, Charles County, MD\*  
 ▶ Plat of church and courthouse lots at Mount Calvert\*

\*Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives



English clay pipe, 1700s



Dutch ceramics, 1600 & 1700s



Base and stem of wineglass, late 1600s

# Plantation Era

Between the 1780s and 1860s, Mount Calvert was a tobacco plantation. The brick plantation house (built in the 1780s) housed the families of the various plantation owners, John Brown, John Brooks and Samuel Berry. The Mount Calvert plantation depended on slave labor. By the mid-1800s, fifty-one enslaved African-Americans lived and worked on-site.



◀ “An Overseer Doing His Duty, near Fredericksburg, VA,” by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, 1798

Courtesy of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore MD

▼ Typical 1800s slave quarters



1833 broadside advertising the sale of Mount Calvert  
 Courtesy of the Maryland State Archives



English ceramics, 1800 & 1830s



Cowrie shells symbolized fertility and money for enslaved Africans

# Interpretive Trail and Exhibit



Several wayside panels located throughout the park provide a walking tour of Mount Calvert’s rich past. The panels highlight American Indian cultures, colonial Charles Town, a 19th century plantation, African-American history, the War of 1812 and the Chesapeake Beach Railway.



Located in the restored plantation house, an exhibit, *A Confluence of Three Cultures*, depicts the lifeways of American Indians, English Colonists and African-Americans at Mount Calvert. Artifacts such as stone tools, pottery, glass beads, shells, bones, tobacco pipes, glass bottles and shoe buckles help reveal the stories of past cultures.

