

## CHARLES STREET BYWAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

### Strategies for Enhancing the Visitor Experience: Wayfinding and Interpretation

#### 1. Make it easier to find the byway in South Baltimore–

Install byway specific wayfinding signs in South Baltimore as follows:

Priority 1: From I-95 Southbound to Key Highway to Fort Avenue into South Baltimore

Priority 2: From the Inner Harbor Visitor Center to Cross Street Market via Light Street and \_\_\_\_\_ (pick one of three choices)

Priority 3: From the Baltimore Washington Parkway and Russell Street to the Cross Street Market via W Hamburg (right on Charles)

#### 2. Make it easier to find the byway from I-695 at Charles and improve the overall quality of the experience of the North Charles Street section of the Byway

The wayfinding portion of this strategy includes the following recommendations:

- Direct byway visitors from the Baltimore Beltway to a new visitor information kiosk (the location of which is still to be determined -- see previous discussion of enhancement strategies and requiring coordination with the Charles Street Interchange/Beltway Widening project)
- Direct visitors from the visitor information kiosk to key sites along North Charles (Lutherville, Sheppard Pratt, etc.)

#### 3. Develop visitor information kiosks at key connection points along the byway:

- Cross Street Market
- Inner Harbor
- Downtown (suggest at Charles Center)
- Mt. Vernon Square vicinity
- Penn Station
- JHU (recommend at 33<sup>rd</sup> St.)
- North Charles Gateway

### Strategies for Enhancing the Visitor Experience: Interpretation

#### 4. Develop a series of themed walking tours/itineraries to expand existing offerings along Charles Street – starting all walking tours at locations noted above

##### Existing Walking Tours:

##### **Mount Vernon Place Walking Tour**

Explore Mount Vernon Place; the best-preserved 19th century urban square in the country, hearing the fascinating story of the wealthy and fashionable residents who built the first public monument in the nation and the elegant buildings that surround it.

[http://www.baltimore.org/visitors/v\\_wt\\_arch\\_mtv.html](http://www.baltimore.org/visitors/v_wt_arch_mtv.html)

**Federal Hill-Otterbein Holiday Tours**, a house tour offered in mid-December, enables visitors to see inside the homes in these two historic neighborhoods just south of downtown. Call tel. **410/332-0783** for details or visit [www.federalhill.org](http://www.federalhill.org).

Also see Shrivvers, [Walking in Baltimore](#)

##### Walking Tours on the Drawing Board

- Heritage Area Walk expansion?
- Sheppard Pratt

### Recommendations for New Walking Tours/Itineraries Along Charles Street

A series of walking/touring guides should be developed around a specific set of themes (all associated with the primary theme of “Urban Innovation along the shores of the Chesapeake”

1. Innovations in Architecture: The Row House
2. Innovations in Architecture: Architectural Icons
3. Innovations in Architecture: Houses of Worship
4. Innovations in Education and Philanthropy

#### **Itinerary #1: Innovations in Housing: the Baltimore Rowhouse**

Consider using themes from Mary Ellen Hayward and Charles Belfour book “the Baltimore Rowhouse”

- 1) The Walking City: 1790-1855
- 2) The Italianate Period (1850-1890)
- 3) The Artistic Period (1875-1915)
- 4) The Daylight Rowhouse (1915-1955)
- 5) The Rowhouse Returns: (1970s-1990s)

300 Block of N. Charles at Saratoga – three blocks of almost uninterrupted rowhouses little changed since 1830 except for shop windows inserted a century ago.

Browns Arcade (326 – dating from 1830s

Belvedere Row – an entire block of Queen Anne-style row houses.

## Itinerary #2: Architectural Icons






### Architectural interest viewed from the street




Iron, man! Checkout the Baltimore-made ironwork at the Peabody Library, Washington Monument and all along Charles Street.

<p>Hansa House</p> 		<p>Distinguished by its German lodge-like design. It was built in 1907 for the North German Lloyd Steamship Company, a company responsible for bringing millions of immigrants into the port and the nation. It was owned by the Savings Bank of Baltimore in the 1970s, became a satellite to the Baltimore Museum of Art in the 1980's and recently has been the site of a financial company.</p>	<p>Located on the corner of Redwood and Charles streets (DSCN 6232)</p>
<p><b>The Basilica of the Assumption</b></p> 		<p>The Basilica is the first Roman Catholic Cathedral in the United States. The cornerstone was blessed by Bishop John Carroll in 1806 and dedicated by Ambrose Marechal in 1821. The Basilica, designed by Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the nation's capitol, is one of the finest examples of neo-classical architecture in the world.</p>	<p>Cathedral and Mulberry Streets Baltimore, MD21201 410-727-3565 <a href="http://www.baltimorebasilica.org">www.baltimorebasilica.org</a> Tours Sunday after 10:45am Mass and by appointment.</p>
<p><b>Garrett Jacobs Mansion</b></p> 		<p>The Garrett Jacobs Mansion is the grandest townhouse in Baltimore, the work of two famous architects, Stanford White and John Russell Pope. The home of Mrs. Robert Garrett (later Jacobs), it boasts 40 rooms, 100 windows, 16 fireplaces, a curved staircase topped by a Tiffany glass dome, carved paneling, a ballroom, a "supper room" serving 100, an art gallery and a covered conservatory. DSCN6214</p>	<p>11 West Mount Vernon Place Baltimore, MD21201 410-539-6914 <a href="http://www.garrettjacobsmansion.org">www.garrettjacobsmansion.org</a></p> <p>Tours Mondays at 3pm, reservations required.</p>
<p><b>Pennsylvania Station</b></p> 		<p>Constructed over the tracks of the Pennsylvania Railroad in 1910. Built in a grand style, the station is an architectural marvel of marble, mahogany, bronze, mosaic tiles, and leaded glass and a symbol of Baltimore's importance as a direct connection to the nation's other great cities.</p>	

### Itinerary #3: Houses of Worship


Another architecturally significant group along the Byway is the vast and diverse populations of Houses of Worship. There are many 'oldest' or 'firsts' in the nation along Charles Street in this category. To highlight a few from south to north:

Ebenezer AME:	National Register of Historic Places	the oldest church in Baltimore built and continuously occupied by the same African American congregation (DSCN 6263).	(http://www.southbaltimore.com/church/) Located on Montgomery Street, all are welcome to the church services and meetings.
<b>Otterbein United Methodist:</b> 		the only eighteenth-century constructed house of worship in Baltimore still active as a church. (DSCN 6264-6266) and is It is the Mother Church of the Church of the United Brethren, a Methodist branch.	This church is located on Conway Street. According to the Church's website, "visitors are welcome to Sunday morning worship services at 11:00 a.m. The church is also open on Saturdays, April to October, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To make arrangements for tours at other times, contact J. William Joynes." (http://www.southbaltimore.com/church/Otterbein/otterbein3.html)
<b>St. Paul's Episcopal</b> 		(DSCN 1933) the current building is the 4 <sup>th</sup> church of this name on the site. It is an Italian Romanesque style church and was constructed in 1856 by architect Richard Upjohn. The Parish was founded in 1692 as the "Mother Church of Baltimore Episcopalians."	Located at Charles and Saratoga Street in the Business and Government District,
<b>First Unitarian</b> 		(DSCN 6204), the First Unitarian Church was designed in the romantic classical style by French architect, Maximilien Godfroy. It was to be a signature specimen of architecture in Baltimore in 1818. The church has historical connections to people, specifically, Sparks, Enoch Pratt, George Peabody and Rembrandt Peale.	Located at Franklin and Charles Streets
<b>Mt. Vernon Place United Methodist</b> 		(DSCN 1921) It was constructed in 1872 on the site of the former mansion of John Eager Howard's son, Charles, who was married to Francis Scott Key's daughter. The architecture of the church is unique in its gothic style and green stone.  From: Shivers, Frank R. Jr. <i>Walking in Baltimore</i> , Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1995.	This is most elaborate church at Mount Vernon Place.
<b>Basilica of the Assumption</b> 	National Register of Historic Places	(DSCN 1924, 6199) This Church is the first Roman Catholic Cathedral built in the US. Its classical style was designed by Benjamin Latrobe and was consecrated in 1821. There have been ten Provincial and three Plenary Councils held in the Basilica and thirty bishops have been consecrated there. In 1937 Pope XI elevated the Cathedral to a minor Basilica because of its significance within the history of the Church. It is on the National Registry of Historic Places.	The Basilica is currently undergoing restorations and is closed until late summer of 2006. (http://www.baltimorebasilica.org/index2.html)
Stony Run Friends		(DSCN 6248/6249) A Quaker presence has been in Baltimore since 1792. The first meetinghouse was located at	Anyone is welcome to join the meetings and there is a library associated with the Meetinghouse. It is open whenever the office is open (generally 9:30 a.m. to 3:00




		<p>Aisquith and Fayette Streets near the Harbor, but soon became too small. Years later, in 1944 a group of Friends opened the Stony Run Friends meeting house on Charles St.</p>	<p>p.m. weekdays, and Sundays 9:15 to 1:00 p.m) (<a href="http://www.stonyrunfriends.org/QuakerPresence.html">http://www.stonyrunfriends.org/QuakerPresence.html</a>)</p>
<p><b>Cathedral of Mary Our Queen</b></p> 		<p>(DSCN 5338-5341) Located on the northern part of Charles Street, the Church is reminiscent of great European cathedrals. It is full of stained glass windows, artwork and statues all designed to teach faith.</p>	<p>(<a href="http://cathedralofmary.org/cathedral/index.html">http://cathedralofmary.org/cathedral/index.html</a>) The church is open daily to visitors 7 am-8 pm.</p>
<p><b>Lovely Lane</b></p> 		<p>(DSCN 6233-6234) the church was built between 1882-1887 and designed by Stanford White. Dr. John F. Goucher, who also founded Goucher College, was the pastor at the time the church was built. It is now referred to as the "Mother Church of American Methodism" and also houses a Methodism museum in the building. The Romanesque church building was built, (circa 1884), as a "centennial monument" marking the founding of the Methodist Episcopal Church in Baltimore at the Lovely Lane Meeting House.</p>	<p>23rd Street, a block to the right on St. Paul Street. Guided tours of the Church and Museum are available with advance notice, and on Sundays immediately following morning worship. (<a href="http://www.lovelylane.net/">http://www.lovelylane.net/</a>)</p>

Itinerary #4: Innovations in Urban Development

Additional and notable buildings and designed places visible from the street that should be part of the guidebook:

<b>Inner Harbor</b>			
<p>Charles Center</p> 		<p>highrise office building is Mies Van der Rohe's signature building for the Charles Center Revitalization Project. Built in 1962 this concrete, glass and aluminum building stands out as a mid-century modern monolith amongst the smaller buildings of the 1900's. (DSCN 1934)</p>	
<p>Mount Vernon Place / Washington Monument (DSCN 6210)</p>		<p>the first urban monument to George Washington when it was constructed in 1815.</p>	
<p>Charles Village,</p>		<p>developed in the late 19th-century as one of the city's first suburban neighborhoods.</p>	
<p>Roland Park</p>		<p>(early Garden Suburb)</p>	
<b>Guilford</b>			

Itinerary #5: Innovations in Education and Philanthropy

<p>Enoch Pratt Free Library</p> 		<p>(DSCN 6201)</p>	
<p>Walters Art Museum</p> 		<p>(DSCN 6207)</p>	
<p>Peabody Institute</p> 		<p>(DSCN 6212) – Peabody Institute was designed by Edmund Lind.</p>	
<p>Johns Hopkins University</p>		<p>More than 20 Georgian-style buildings make up the 100-acre campus of lawns, woodlands, and parks that was once the estate of Charles Carroll of Carrollton, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Built in 1803, Homewood has been described as the most refined Federal-period country house in Baltimore. The mansion has been restored and is now a museum.</p>	
<p>Evergreen House</p>		<p>Set back from the street on a wooded knoll, this magnificent Italianate home, once owned by the prominent Garrett family, now belongs to Johns Hopkins University and houses a museum, library, concert hall, and meeting rooms. The house and museum shop are open to the public.</p>	<p>6500</p>
<p>Sheppard Pratt</p>	<p>National Historic Landmarks</p>	<p>Sheppard and Enoch Pratt Hospital, a private institution founded in 1857 for the treatment of mental and nervous disorders. New York architect Calvert Vaux designed the hospital's main buildings, which have been designated</p>	
<p>Art Museum Drive</p>		<p>named for its principal landmark, the Baltimore Museum of Art, Maryland's largest art museum. Designed</p>	

		by John Pope and Howard Sill, the city-owned museum is an impressive neoclassic building housing an extensive "collection of collections."	
Friends School of Baltimore		Founded in 1784, it is the oldest school in Baltimore.	



## Charles Street

### Existing Sidetracks as published in SHA Scenic Byway Guidebook:

Sidetrack: For a quick tour of the rehabilitated neighborhood of Otterbein, turn left at Lee Street, right at Sharp Street, right again on Conway Street, and then left to return to Charles Street. One of the nation's most successful examples of "urban homesteading," Otterbein is the location of the Old Otterbein United Methodist Church, the oldest church building in Baltimore.

Sidetrack: Turn left on Art Museum Drive and left again on Wyman Park Drive, which winds through Wyman Park and across the JFX to Druid Hill Park. Baltimore City purchased the Druid Hill Estate in 1801. Nicholas Rogers, who served during the American Revolution, built the Federal-style mansion and modeled the landscaping after private parks he had seen in England. At mid-century, the city hired the Olmsted Brothers firm of nationally acclaimed landscape architects to create a comprehensive plan for the city's park system. Druid Hill Park is a prime example of the urban park movement that emerged in Baltimore and other eastern cities at that time. Among the additions over the years were Druid Lake, a Victorian conservatory, statues, picnic areas, pathways, playing fields, and a swimming pool. Within the park is the Baltimore Zoo, the third-oldest zoo in the United States and home to more than 2,250 animals, birds, and reptiles. The original Rogers Mansion, now zoo offices, overlooks the park.

Sidetrack: From Charles Street turn left on University Parkway, which becomes Roland Avenue and takes you to Roland Park, a late 19th-century residential community of some 2,500 homes. Elegant villas and mansions line Roland Park's winding narrow streets where the Roland Park Shopping Center pioneered as the nation's first suburban shopping center. On the campus of Johns Hopkins University, on University Parkway, the Lacrosse Hall of Fame Museum honors America's first sport.

Sidetrack: Turn right on Bellona Avenue and follow it across Seminary Avenue into Lutherville, a residential community that mixes past and present. The historic district has approximately 80 historic structures. Founded by Lutheran clergy, the town was the site of the Lutherville Female Seminary, an early woman's college. When Lutherville became a stop on the Northern Central Railroad, it drew summer residents and those willing to commute to offices and jobs in Baltimore. The former seminary is now a nursing home, which you will find by making a left turn on Seminary Avenue west.