

Aitcheson Lane

Nominated as a Rustic Road

Aitcheson Lane is a fairly short and straight paved road accessed from Riding Stable Road just west of the Prince George's County line. At the end of the public portion of the road, it narrows to one lane, providing access to eight or nine houses, including historic resource Maiden's Fancy.

Recommendation

- Designate Aitcheson Lane rustic.

The Rustic Roads Advisory Committee recommends designating Aitcheson Lane rustic.

Significant Features

- Narrow road following historic alignment
- Trees and tree canopy along road
- Views of fields

History

Aitcheson Lane first appears on USGS quad maps in 1907 as an unimproved segment stretching north from Riding Stable Road. It may have originated significantly earlier as a means of access to Maiden's Fancy (Master Plan Historic Site #15/67), a well-preserved Federal-style brick home built in 1807 by James Ray and Lucretia Waters Ray. In the 19th century, this property was home to enslaved people held by a series of landowners.

The road bears the name of the Aitcheson family, Scottish immigrants who arrived in the United States in 1842 and settled in the area by 1847. Later Aitchesons operated a dairy farm and then a riding stable along today's Riding Stable Road, and owned property along what is now Aitcheson Lane.

Traveling Experience

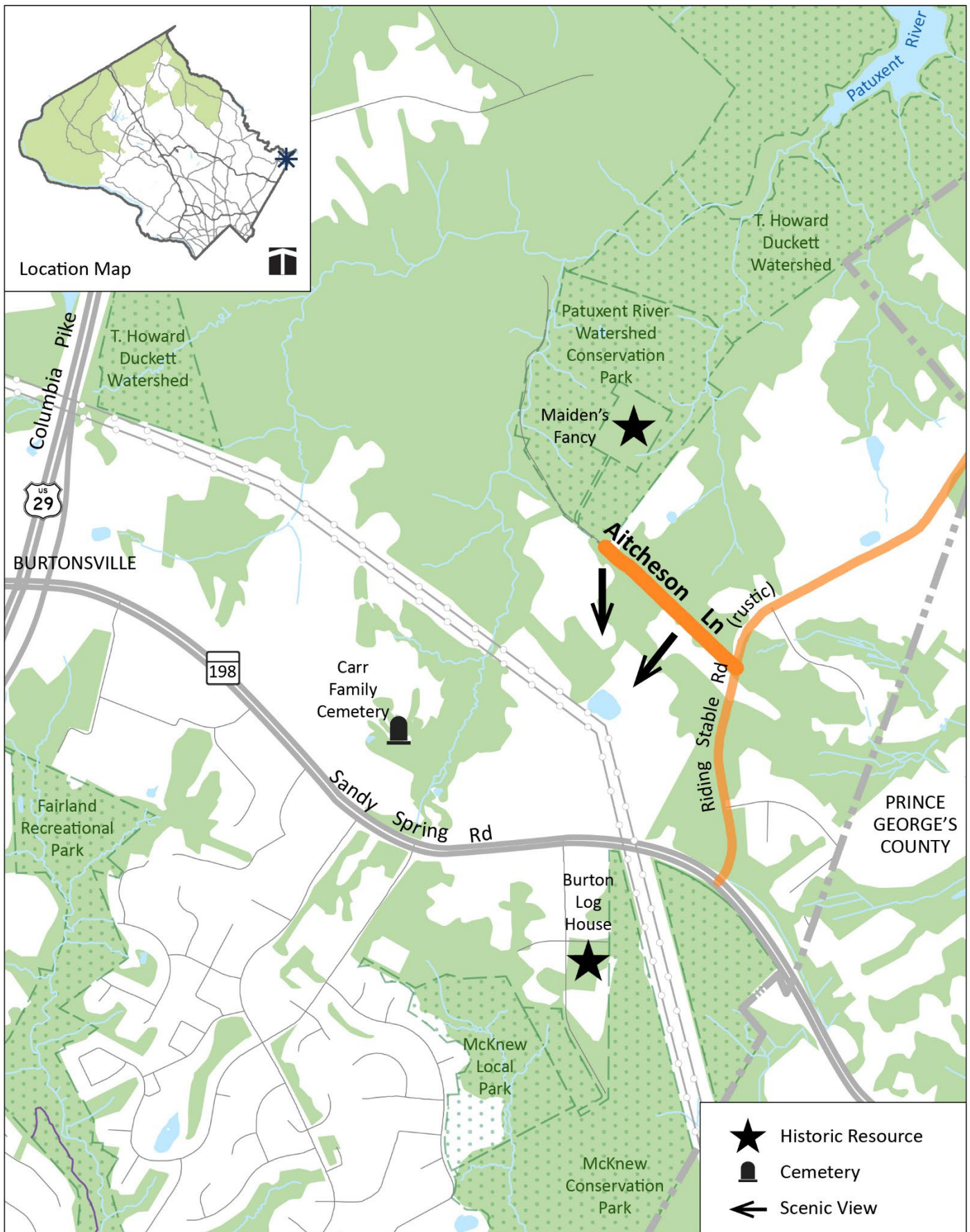
Aitcheson Lane is a narrow, straight road with a high tree canopy. A shallow wooded area is on the left as one enters Aitcheson Lane from Riding Stable Road (a nominated rustic road). As the woods begin to dissipate on the left, views open to a fenced-in pasture with sheep and cows. Directly across from the pasture, on the right side, wooded home sites begin. Past the pasture, wooded home sites start on the left side of the road. The rustic road portion of the Aitcheson Lane terminates at the end of county maintenance, after which point the road becomes private. Maiden's Fancy is not visible from the road.

Environment

Aitcheson Lane follows a tree-lined ridge leading down to Maiden's Fancy, much of which has become part of the forested Patuxent River Conservation Park, which totals 365 acres. Remnants of the road lead down to the Rocky Gorge Reservoir and the surrounding T. Howard Duckett Watershed conservation area that protects the excellent quality of this area. Other measures to protect water quality can be seen in the low-density rural character and the forested tributaries that flow into the reservoir.

Road Characteristics

Extents	Entire road: Riding Stable Road to end of county maintenance
Length	0.22 miles
Width	19 feet
Surface	Paved
Lanes	No lane markings
Shoulders	None





View looking northwest on Aitchenson Road



Scenic view of pasture near the intersection with Riding Stable Road