

Bucklodge Road

Nominated as a Rustic Road

Bucklodge Road (MD 117) has numerous long views across fields.

Recommendation

- Designate Bucklodge Road rustic.

The Rustic Roads Advisory Committee recommends that Bucklodge Road be designated rustic.

Significant Features

- Numerous long views across fields
- Wooded areas
- Hedgerows along road
- Roadside embankments
- Views of horse fields
- Two-lane bridge over Bucklodge Branch
- One-lane bridge over Bucklodge Branch tributary
- Seneca sandstone building very close to road
- Seneca sandstone wall along the road at Friends Advice

History

Bucklodge Road was platted in 1870 and built by 1878. It still approximately follows its historic alignment. An unimproved private road may have existed here by the late 1700s or early 1800s to serve the mills and numerous plantations established by prominent families including the Whites, Dades, and Gotts. These families frequently built homes and outbuildings from local Seneca sandstone, including nearby Buck Lodge, the c. 1792 Gott family homestead, now a ruin (Locational Atlas Site #18/16). Friends Advice (Master Plan Historic Site #18/15), built 1795-1810 and later expanded, is listed to the National Register of Historic Places and reflects a progression of styles spanning more than a century.

Several of these sites include quarters once home to the enslaved persons whose labor made these farms profitable. Members of the Jeffrey, Jones, and Proctor families, along with many others, were held in slavery here in the 19th century. The Richard T. White Farm (Master Plan Historic Site #18/13) includes a Seneca sandstone outbuilding immediately beside the road believed to have housed enslaved individuals. The building is likely contemporaneous with the original section of the main dwelling, built c. 1846.

Near the intersection with Barnesville Road, the c. 1864 Darby Miller's House (Master Plan Historic Site #18/40) is one of the last vestiges of Bucklodge, a community which grew around a gristmill on the Bucklodge Branch and later thrived as a railroad stop. A mill was established on this site as early as the 1770s.

The road also passes near several early African American communities established in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Turnertown began with land acquired by Emma Turner in 1897 and grew to include neighboring parcels owned by her descendants. Blocktown was largely populated by members of the Jackson family, beginning with Thomas and Jennie Jackson's purchase of land in 1884.

By 1915, Bucklodge Road was built as a nine-foot-wide macadam roadway, and by 1924 it was incorporated into the state road system. Three concrete bridges cross the Bucklodge Branch and its tributaries. The northernmost of these, a two-span concrete slab built in 1932, has been found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Traveling Experience

Turning north from MD 28, Bucklodge Road passes dense woods on the right and a long farm vista on the left. Past the woods are a set of large horse farms on the right, one with board fencing and a pond. Next on the right is Friends Advice. On the left is an open view of the Rickman Farm Horse Special Park and its pastures. This was historically the Joseph C. White House (Master Plan Historic Site #18/14). A short section of Seneca sandstone wall is along the road between the Friends Advice driveway and the power transmission lines. Beyond the transmission lines, on the right are Wyndham Oaks with its fenced horse pastures and the Potomac Pony Club grounds where equestrian events are held, followed by Moore Road (a rustic road) on the left.

Continuing with woods on the left, the historic Richard T. White house is on the right, with a Seneca sandstone building believed to have housed enslaved people in the curve of the road. Downhill is a one-lane bridge just before Whites Store Road (a rustic road) on the left and another horse farm on the right. The driveway on the right is lined with black locust trees; the one closest to the road is the county champion and is particularly beautiful.

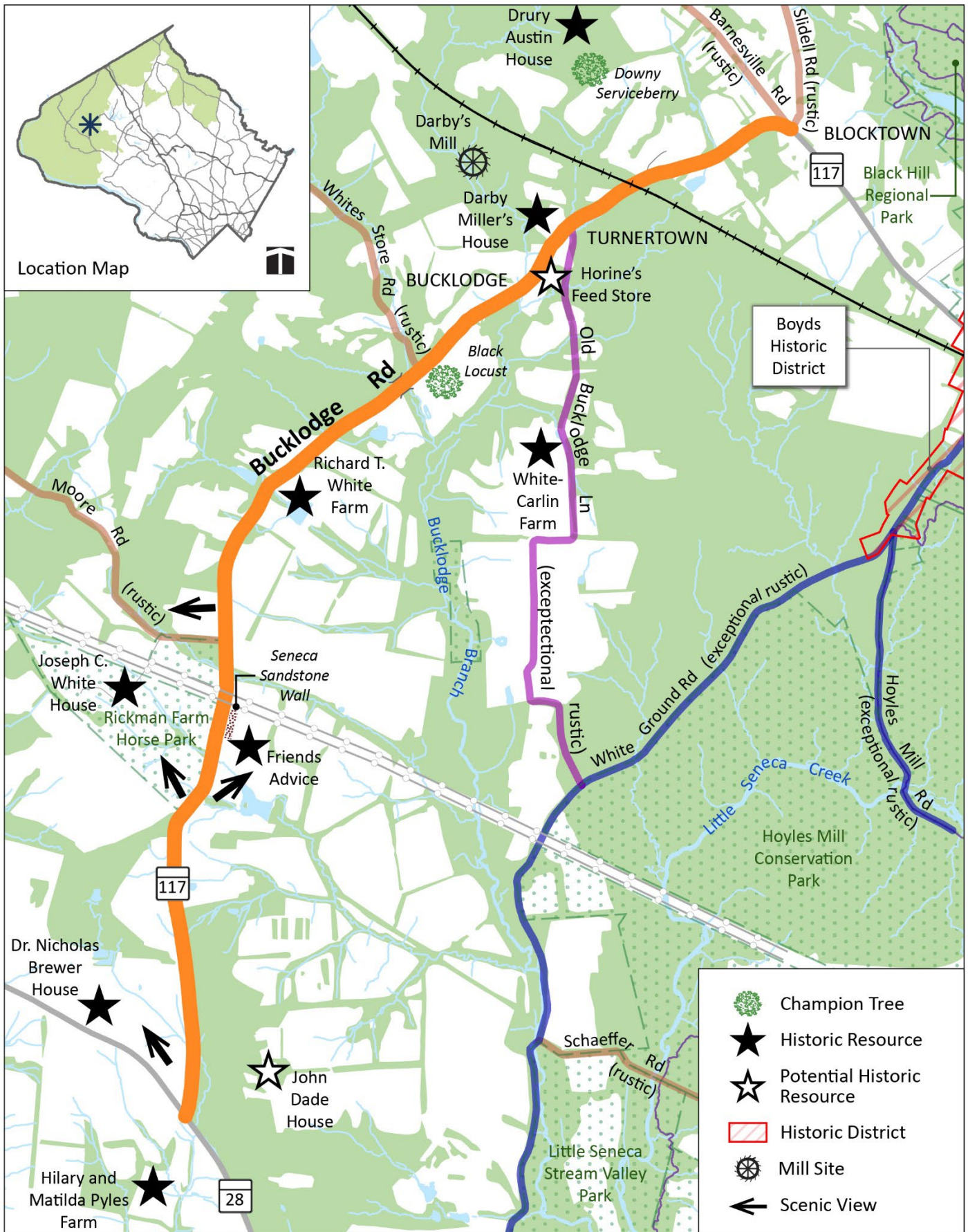
Between hayfields and small houses, the road crosses the historic 1932 bridge over Bucklodge Branch and continues past the old Horine's Feed Store (Locational Atlas Site # 18/7). Old Bucklodge Lane (an exceptional rustic road) comes in from the right and a lovely old Maryland farmhouse sits on a hill to the left. Proceeding, dense woods are present on the right and mature trees line the embankment on the left. Then the road passes under the C&O railroad tracks and proceeds to its northern terminus at Barnesville Road and Slidell Road (both rustic roads) with fields and large lawns on both sides.

Environment

Most of Bucklodge road is within the Bucklodge Branch subwatershed of Little Seneca Creek. The southernmost segment of the road is within the watershed of the Darnall Tributary to Dry Seneca Creek. Although fairly open in character, the road has numerous forested (and unforested) stream crossings. In addition, the northern and southern road segments have forest along the eastern side of the road. The presence of utility lines on both sides of the road inhibits the development of a closed canopy. The only established park along Bucklodge Road is the Rickman Farm Horse Special Park, a scenic 100-acre park operated by Great and Small, a non-profit organization that provides equine-assisted activities and therapies to children and adults with a wide range of special needs.

Road Characteristics

Extents	Entire road: Darnestown Road (MD 28) to Barnesville Road (MD 117) / Slidell Road
Length	4.11 miles
Width	21–23 feet
Surface	Paved
Lanes	Center line and edge markings
Shoulders	None



Location Map

Boys
Historic
District

-  Champion Tree
-  Historic Resource
-  Potential Historic Resource
-  Historic District
-  Mill Site
-  Scenic View