

Women in Conservation



Fort Frederick State Park

Women's History Month

Self-Guided Hike

Fort Frederick State Park
11100 Fort Frederick Road
Big Pool, MD 21711

Park Information 301-842-2155 / Duty Ranger 443-805-1759

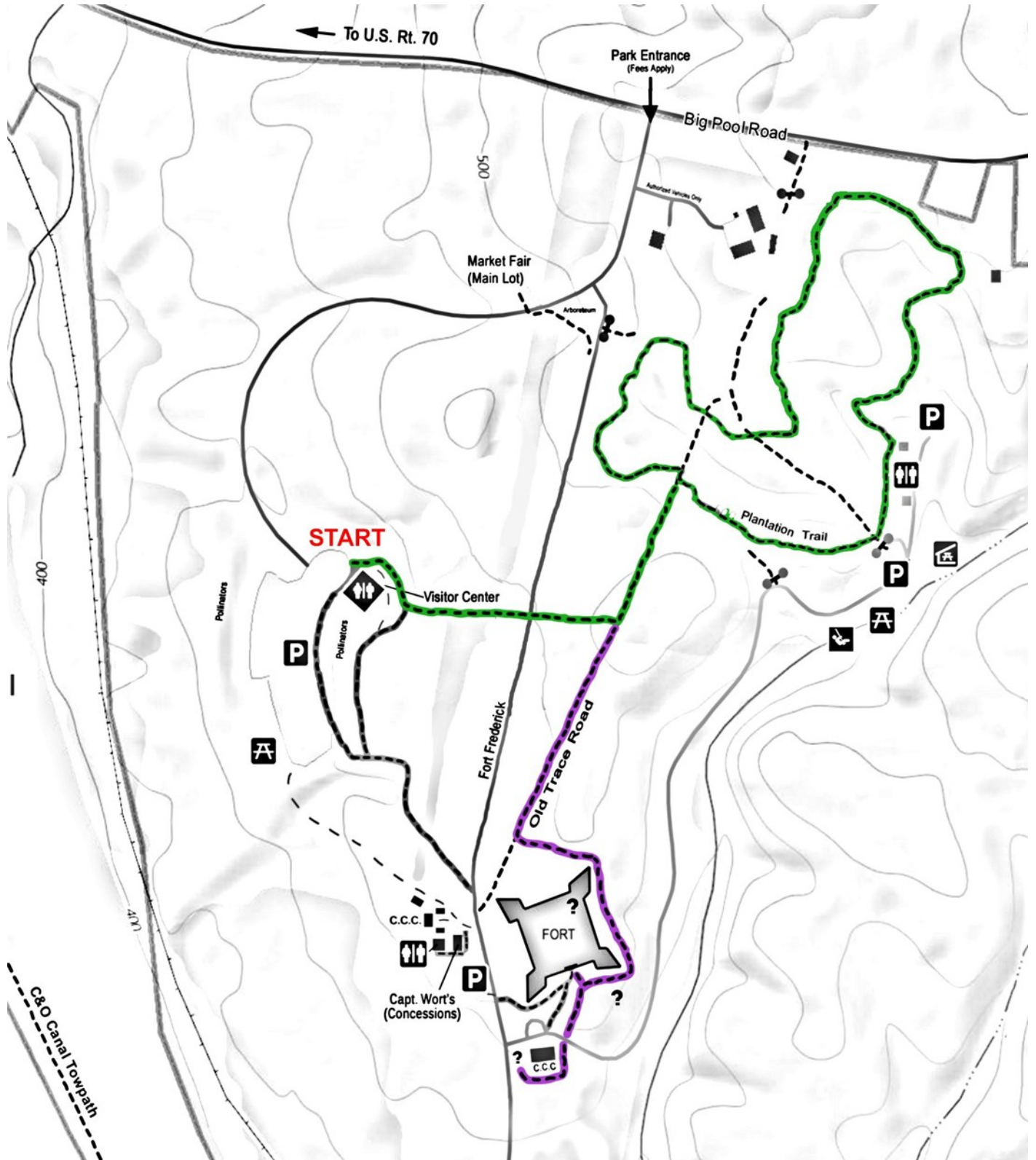


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Trail Map



Green Route is for WHM Hike (follow the signs going clockwise). The trail is blazed **Red**.

Purple Route is **Additional Attractions** you may want to see.

? - Find this symbol on the map to locate the well, the Wye Oak progeny, and the Road of Remembrance.

Please start your adventure at the park's visitor center. Visitor center hours vary depending on the days of the week and the season. Please check the park's website for details or call the park 301-842-2155.

You may explore the trail any time the park is open! While facing the visitor center look to the left for the start of the trail. Extra booklets are available there.

Next, follow the paved path behind the visitor center and look for the brown post pointing you towards the Plantation Trail. Be careful crossing Fort Frederick Road!

Along the Plantation Trail you will discover the stories of Alice Burnside Paret Dorsey, the local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), and how their conservation efforts contributed to the establishment of Fort Frederick State Park. In addition to this, see how the Maryland Park Service continues the legacy of women in conservation and how this park and region have strong leaders who just happen to be women.

Plantation Trail

The Plantation Trail is named after the tree plantations that were established in the early 20th century. One of the original stated goals for purchasing the property was to reforest the land as the management of Fort Frederick was to be conducted by the State Board of Forestry and their appointees. Many areas of the country were denuded of trees during this time. It was common practice to purchase land, clear it of trees and then sell the land afterwards. This led to erosion and drought throughout the country. Fort Frederick State "Forest Reserve"¹ was to be a demonstration forest alongside a protected historic structure. What is a demonstration forest? Hike the trail and see what you discover!

This trail has been in existence for a long time. However, a recent trails grant enabled staff to resurrect the trail and reroute sections onto more sustainable terrain. Maintenance of the trail is an ongoing task within the park and volunteers and staff continue to remove invasive species year round. This trail has recently been adopted by Girls Scout Troop 37005 of Frederick, MD. They will make trail maintenance and beautification their Bronze Award Project. We are happy to partner with the Girls Scouts and look forward to working with them!

¹<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/history.aspx>

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #1

In a field of U.S. labor that, at one time, was not well populated with female staffing, the Maryland Park Service maintains representation in all levels of field work and management. Female park managers and assistant managers outnumber men in some regions, and are at least equal to male representation throughout the state. Fort Frederick State Park Complex will hire women in every department of work: maintenance, interpretation, and operations.

Read Panel #1 and consider the impact that women have had in recent years. The decisions that are made by our leaders within the park service help to shape our parks and even the landscape itself.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #2

These trees began their journey with the work of the Daughters of the American Revolution, who started planting as early as 1924 here on the grounds of the park property. 1149 white pines were planted that year, "one for each Maryland Daughter of the American Revolution," according to the DAR publication *Pilgrimage To Old Fort Frederick*.

Fun Fact:

The DAR symbol, seen on this panel, is that of a spinning wheel or treadle wheel. Among its uses, the treadle wheel was used to spin flax into linen². The DAR chose this symbol due to the importance of spinning during colonial days. England controlled the textile trade and American colonies decided that sending raw materials to England just to buy them back as finished goods was not in their best interests. Spinning became a patriotic endeavor for the Americans leading up to the revolution.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #3

Alice Burnside Paret Dorsey is a focal point of this quest. She worked hard for the Fort. Read about her conservation and tree planting efforts on this panel. The work of the DAR at Fort Frederick predates the national effort by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which is often credited as the start of conservation and tree restoration in the U.S. On the DAR map, see the approximate location where a tree may still stand that was dedicated to Alice nearly 100 years ago.

²<https://www.dar.org/museum/featured-object/taking-dar-spin>

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #4

The Fort Frederick Road of Remembrance tree plantings can be seen using the purple **“additional attractions”** route found on the Park Quest Map.

Alice Paret Dorsey was among the pioneers in Maryland conservation. She rubbed elbows and held influence with some of the more prominent figures in Maryland conservation history. According to Maryland DNR, the “Maryland Park Service operates one of America’s oldest state park systems.”³ That makes Alice one of the earliest *women in conservation* for the United States at large.

Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #5

While researching this remarkable historic figure, it occurred to us that we should have a photograph of Mrs. Dorsey. There should be something somewhere right? Something labelled? Well research can be tricky. Finding Alice’s maiden name through engagement and wedding announcements led to some photos, but nothing that was labelled. We scoured the internet and even made phone calls and sent emails to local and national DAR members. No luck. We searched for over a month. Finally, we found a photo of a woman standing next to an Elm Tree. It was on DAR’s archives site, but not labelled with Alice’s name in any way.

On close inspection, we noticed the last name “Dorsey” on this photograph, where the first and middle name are somehow torn off. The photo is registered in Maryland 1932 and titled “George Washington Bicentennial Tree, Washington Custis Chapter, Maryland. The year seems right. It is taken in Maryland where Alice is Chairman of Conservation and it is on a DAR site. This is Alice Burnside Paret Dorsey!

If you decide to see the **“additional attractions,”** (see Trail Map) you will discover that Fort Frederick was the site of a tree planting for Wye Oak seedlings. That Wye Oak progeny is still growing just south of the Fort Gate.

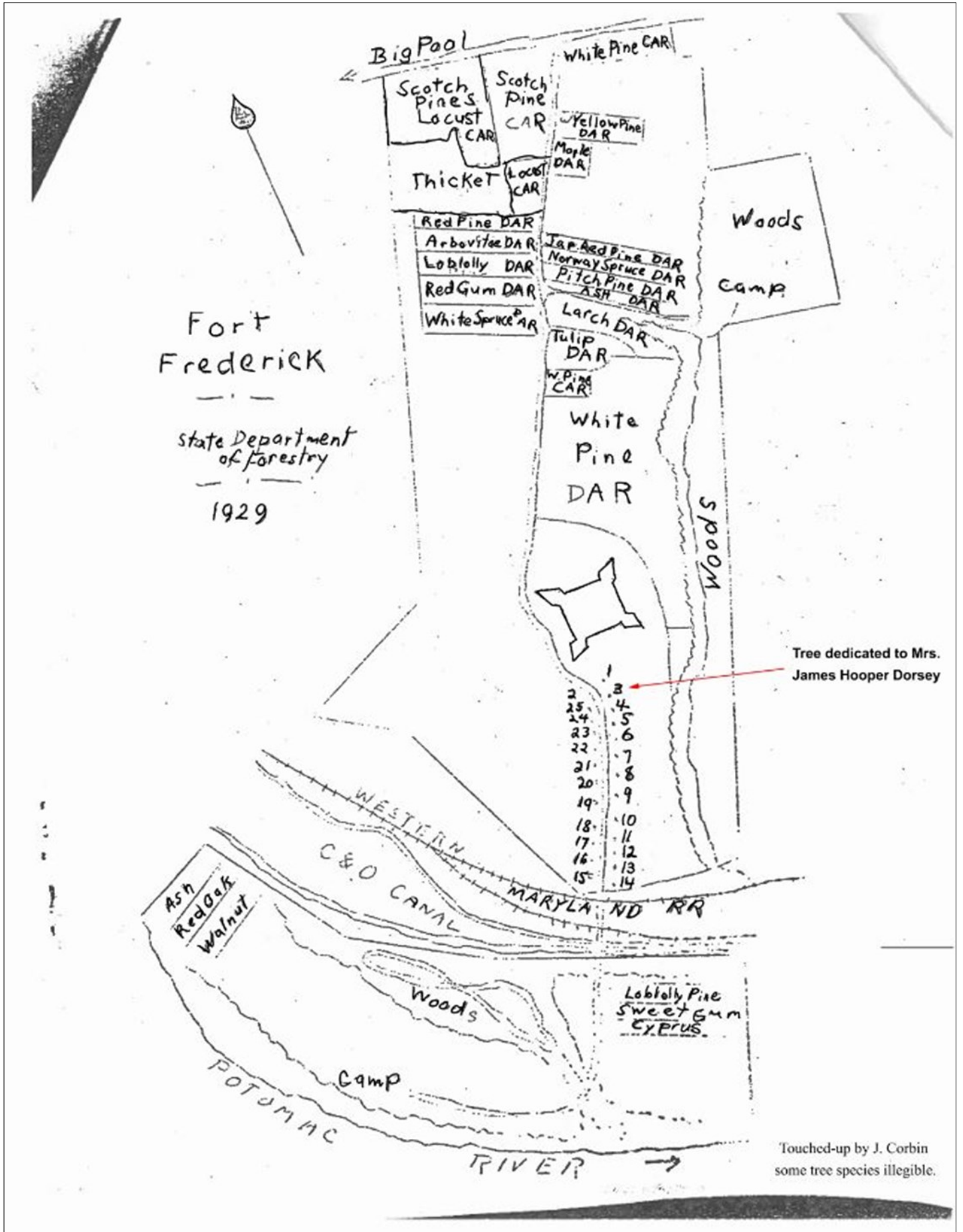
Maryland Women in Conservation - Panel #6

Along the Plantation Trail many different tree species were planted throughout the years. Some trees would not usually be found in this area. Some of those species include: Bald Cypress, European Larch, Corsican Pine, Loblolly Pine, Ponderosa Pine, Japanese Red Pine, Norway Spruce, and European Alder. When trying to identify trees at Fort Frederick one may have to broaden their studies to include other regions of the world.

The well that is mentioned on this panel can be found by following the purple route to “additional attractions.”

³<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/Pages/history.aspx>

DAR Tree Planting Map



References

Daughters of the American Revolution Pilgrimage to Old Fort Frederick *Big Pool, Maryland April 27, 1929*

The Sun Papers: 500 Attend Rite at Fort Frederick *Maryland Society, DAR, Presents 56 Acres of Reforestation to State Trees are Memorial - \$10,000 Appropriations to Restore Wall of Fortification Asked in Resolution*

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