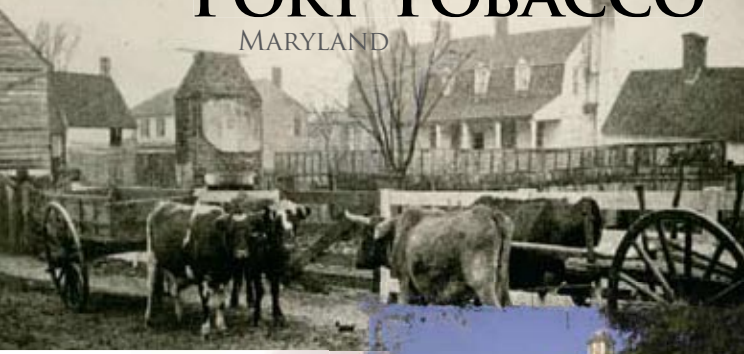


# Historic PORT TOBACCO

MARYLAND

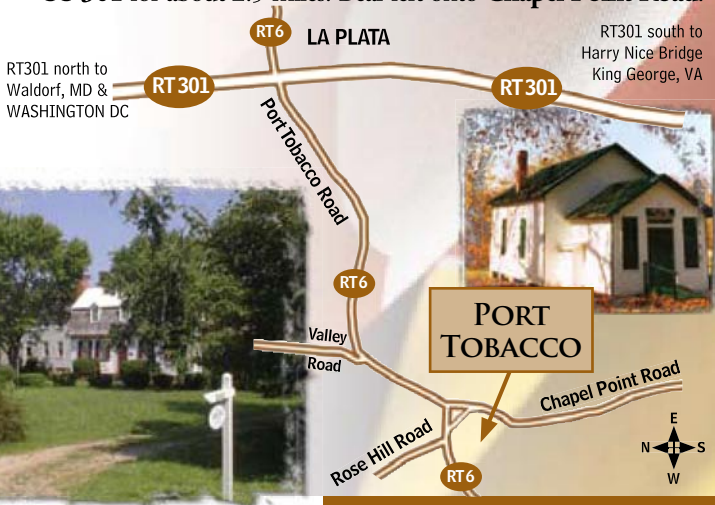


## History BENEATH YOUR FEET



### Port Tobacco National Historic District

3 miles west of La Plata, Maryland. Take **MD 6** west from **US 301** for about 2.5 miles. Bear left onto **Chapel Point Road**.



For additional information and special events

**Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco**  
8430 Commerce St, PO Box 302, Port Tobacco, MD 20677  
(301) 934-43413 • [www.RestorePortTobacco.org](http://www.RestorePortTobacco.org)

**The Port Tobacco Archaeological Project**  
• [www.GibbArchaeology.org/PortTobacco.html](http://www.GibbArchaeology.org/PortTobacco.html)  
• [www.PortTobacco.blogspot.com](http://www.PortTobacco.blogspot.com)

# PORT TOBACCO

## *Brief History*

Maryland's General Assembly designated Chandler's Town at the head of the Port Tobacco River as the seat of Charles County government in **1727**. The town was renamed Charles Town, although it was commonly called Port Tobacco.

A vital port throughout the **1700s**, the town began a long decline during the **Revolutionary War** because of debt and sediments from the surrounding hills that filled the river channel and choked off navigation. Port Tobacco began its comeback after the **War of 1812**.

During the **American Civil War**, Port Tobacco was alive with Confederate sympathizers who spied on the movements of Union troops and smuggled contraband. Lincoln conspirator George Atzerodt lived in town and meetings among the conspirators were held in one of the town's hotels. Atzerodt failed to fulfill his mission... the murder of Vice President Andrew Johnson...but was nonetheless caught and executed.

Beginning with the completion of a railroad through the newly created town of La Plata, Port Tobacco's residents fought to maintain the county seat in their town. The burning of the courthouse in **1892** sealed their fate and the town declined precipitously. The village green and much of the rest of the town had reverted to tobacco fields by the **1930s**.

Since **1948**, the **Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco** has researched the town's history and worked toward its restoration. **The Port Tobacco Archaeological Project**, founded in **2007**, plays an integral role in these tasks, and excavators often can be seen at work in the fields and lawns of this one-time thriving sea port.

