

Historic Sotterley St. Mary's County

Historic Sotterley is a National Historic Landmark, UNESCO Site of Memory, and Chesapeake Gateways Network Site situated along the Patuxent River in Southern Maryland. Located on a former plantation, this nonprofit museum preserves 94 acres of historic and cultural landscape, including the 1703 Manor House (c. 1903) and an 1830s Slave Dwelling. Historic Sotterley interprets the site's complex history and evolving legacy, offering visitors a deeper understanding of the Chesapeake region, American history, and the realities of slavery that shaped both the site and the nation.



Long before Sotterley, this land sustained Indigenous communities for generations.



In the early 18th century, Sotterley was established as a tobacco plantation.



Enslaved Africans and African Americans built and sustained Sotterley, their lives and labor at its core.



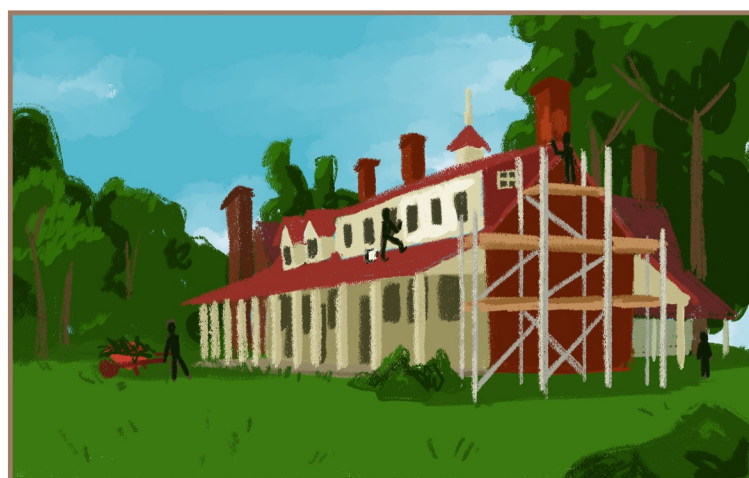
The landscape reflected a stark divide of wealth and power alongside the realities of enslaved labor that sustained it.



War and emancipation reshaped Sotterley, but change came slowly and unevenly.



As agriculture declined, Sotterley faced an uncertain future.



Preservation efforts brought new purpose—protecting the site and its stories.



Today, Sotterley is a place of learning, reflection, and connection, where the full story continues to unfold.

Maryland in Frames: 250 Years of Place & Story is an initiative of Preservation Maryland, created to commemorate the nation's 250th anniversary with support from the Maryland Two Fifty Commission.

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