

SYKESVILLE PAST & PRESENT A WALKING TOUR

New Edition



Linda F. Greenberg

NEW EDITION *Sykesville Past & Present, A Walking Tour* by Linda F. Greenberg

The first edition of *Sykesville Past & Present* was published in 2000. This new fourth edition was published to record the changes of the past six years and introduce the many new merchants on Main Street.

Sykesville, the hub of southern Carroll County, is both town and country, and its history is not without controversy. For example, in 1831 James Sykes built a grand 50 x 74 foot, 4-story hotel to serve the new railroad line. The hotel was demolished in the torrential flood of 1868. Was the hotel located in Howard or Carroll County? Was James Sykes the most important landowner in Sykesville? And, why did nearly one block of Main Street burn to the ground in 1937? More recently, what building has moved twice and has just been restored?

However, most of Sykesville's history was conventional. When progress was measured by

railroad tonnage in the 19th century, Sykesville was a destination. When a car was the measure of a man, Sykesville merchants assembled car parts into finished automobiles. When the Depression began, Sykesville merchants felt the pinch and a bank failed. In the 1950s, when traditional store fronts became a symbol of the restraining past, Sykesville merchants "revitalized" with modernistic facades.

For those residing in Sykesville, this is home, the best place to live.

The author, Linda Greenberg, lived in Sykesville for 24 years. In fact, she lived in Sykesville in Howard County and worked in Sykesville in Carroll County. As a business woman she was a member of a friendly, small town community and as a resident she was a member of a traditional, family-valued neighborhood. As a writer and "local historian," she was impressed with the town's enduring saga.

The 80-page Sykesville history is divided into two parts, preceded by an Introduction written by historian Duane Doxzen. Part 1: *Main Street* – a walk up the street of commerce and Part 2: *Springfield Avenue* – a walk up the residential street. With index, over 75 photographs and 5 maps; 8-1/2 x 11 format, soft color cover.

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