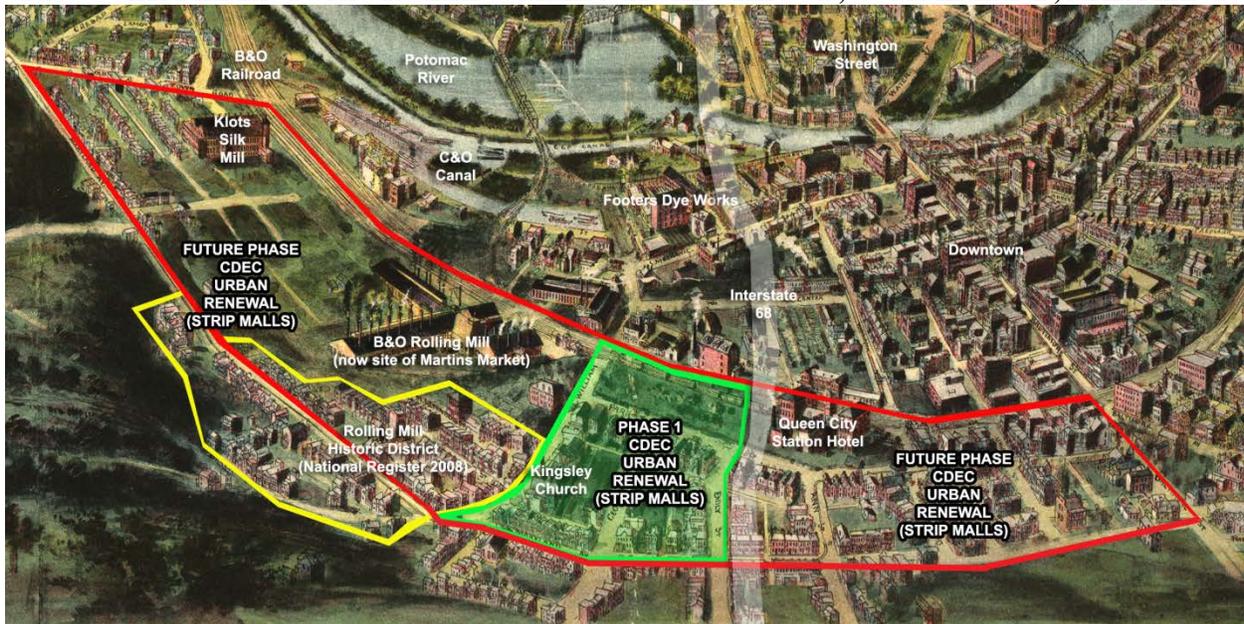


DISCOVER THE HISTORIC ROLLING MILL NEIGHBORHOOD, CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND



Bird's Eye View of Cumberland, Maryland 1906, by T.M. Fowler (<https://www.loc.gov/item/75694537/>)

THE ROLLING MILL HISTORIC DISTRICT is a national historic district is a 38-acre primarily residential neighborhood located on the east side of the city of Cumberland. It contains a strong, locally distinctive concentration of wood and brick residences built between the early 1870s and the late 1940s. It also includes a modest commercial area. The district has a total of 173 properties, including the previously listed Francis Haley House. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2008.¹ The neighborhood from Emily Street south to Williams Street and Maryland Avenue west to Park Street was intended to be part of this historic district, but due to financial constraints, it was not included in the 2008 nomination form. An earlier Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form determined this neighborhood to be part of the historic Rolling Mill historic district.²

The City of Cumberland and the Cumberland Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), an instrumentality of City government, plan to demolish much of the historic Rolling Mill neighborhood to build incompatible and economically unsustainable low-density sprawl. Proponents of demolition have suggested that the buildings are not historic; so in an effort to better understand what may be lost, we share short stories about some of these threatened properties in this brochure.

The City of Cumberland and the CEDC are misusing their Economic Development Strategic Plan (EDSP) prepared by RKG Associates, Inc. to guide their own ill-conceived "urban renewal" development goals for the Rolling Mill Neighborhood.³ The plan does not call for 100% demolition but instead calls for mixed-infill development. The plan found that Cumberland has an oversupply of existing retail space, particularly in Downtown. The plan also found that the 15-acre vacant site to the South of Martin's Grocery Store is a major asset for modern big box development that does not require the use of eminent domain. Additionally, the plan found that existing and new residential development in Rolling Mill will provide a customer base for retail/service businesses and possible employees who might be attracted to positions close to home. Rolling Mill has the greatest potential to become a live/work destination within the City. The plan does not call for the proposed suburban-style restaurant/strip mall plans surrounded by large asphalt parking lots.

¹ Rolling Mill Historic District National Register Nomination Form
https://mht.maryland.gov/secure/medusa/PDF/NR_PDFs/NR-1479.pdf

² Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form for State Historic Sites Survey for Rolling Mill -AL-IV-A-140.
http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/stagsere/se1/se5/000001/000001/000530/pdf/msa_se5_530.pdf

³City of Cumberland Economic Development Strategic Plan. <http://www.choosecumberland.org/economic-development-strategy/>

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KINGSLEY METHODIST CHURCH was started in 1870 at a site at Oldtown Road and Gay Street and was known as Kingsley Chapel. A committee from the Centre Street Methodist Church selected the site. In 1882 a lot was purchased on Williams Street. The cornerstone was laid in 1883. The church was finished and dedicated June 22, 1884. The historic brick chapel at **248 WILLIAMS STREET** with its shingle tower is Italianate in style. It had two subsequent additions to the west – an early-20th century Italianate addition in the middle and a c.1972 modern addition west of that.



The church building is historically significant as the site of neighborhood activities for well over a century. Kingsley Methodist Church was established within the Rolling Mill neighborhood to meet the religious needs of the growing railroad industry after the establishment of the rolling mill. Kingsley Methodist Church even had a great influence on the Methodist Churches of LaVale. Until the late 1940s and early 1950s the area which now comprises the community of LaVale was divided into two sections, Narrows Park and LaVale. Both areas were served by the Park Place Methodist Church which was an outstation of the Kingsley Methodist Church in Cumberland.

Today, 132 years after its completion, the building still serves as an active church, the Friendship Haven Church. Unfortunately, the demolition plans for this neighborhood extend to this historic church. The plans call for new construction and surface parking in its place.

The historic **MALAMPHY'S SALOON AND MALAMPHY BOTTLING WORKS** buildings sit at the intersection of Park and Williams Streets, opposite the former Queen City Park. The two-story brick structure with shingled gable on Park Street dates from at least 1887. Simplified brackets and an elliptical gable window still accent the five bays wide and five bays deep building. The northern half of the building, **506 PARK STREET**, was the residence of Michael J. Malamphy (1862-1934) and his wife Wilhelmina. The southern half of the structure, **508 PARK STREET**, housed the saloon and still retains its original first floor commercial bracketed cornice above the saloon door. Malamphy also owned the buildings immediately behind his Park Street residence and saloon at **216-222 WILLIAMS STREET**. Here he operated the Malamphy Bottling Works beginning around 1890. One of the buildings contained an ice house and another contained the electric bottling and capping equipment.

During the 1920s, the upper floors of the saloon also served as a boarding house. This building along with the Kingsley Methodist Church around the corner on Williams Street is two of the earliest structures constructed in this portion of the Rolling Mill neighborhood and are reminders of the Cumberland's grand



railroad era of the late-19th and early-20th centuries. In 1922, there were five bottlers of soft drinks in Cumberland, including L. T. Carpenter and Son, the Coca-Cola Bottling Company, the Malamphy Bottling Works, the Whistle Bottling Company and Ver-Vac Bottling Company. Malamphy ran the bottling works until his death in 1934. Around 1950, the buildings **216-222 WILLIAMS STREET** were replaced with a more modern bottling works factory, built of brick, concrete and steel beams. A bottling works company continued to operate from this location until the 1970s. Malamphy Bottling Works bottles may be found for sale in local antique shops. Most recently the bottling works building housed Miller's Ironhouse Gym. Unfortunately, the demolition plans for this neighborhood extend to this historic saloon and bottling works. The plans call for new construction and surface parking in its place.

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THE ARCHITECT DESIGNED HOMES BY WRIGHT BUTLER (227 CECELIA STREET; 408 & 410 PARK STREET); BY AARON MAY (404 PARK STREET); AND BY J.S. SEIBERT (404 PARK STREET)

Although most of the houses in the historic Rolling Mill neighborhood are builder-type, pattern book architecture, local architects designed a number of outstanding homes here. Renowned local architect, **WRIGHT BUTLER**, was born as the son of a furniture manufacturer. Butler studied architecture at the Maryland Institute of Baltimore for three years beginning in 1888. At the Institute, Butler familiarized himself with fashionable architectural styles of the time like Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne Architecture. Upon his return to Cumberland in 1891, the young architect opened an office, working mainly on residential designs. In 1893, Butler received his first large commission, the Allegany County Courthouse on Washington Street. Other impressive Butler designs in Cumberland include: the Cumberland Masonic Temple, the Cumberland Liberty Bank Building, the George Trough House on Baltimore Avenue, and Butler's own personal home at 205 Columbia Street which is listed on the National Register and is currently for sale!

Wright Butler designed the 2-story brick house at **227 CECELIA STREET** for Jonathan Dodd in 1912. Another version of the gable house, this architect-designed house sports a heavily articulated gable in the attic story. The gable is the prominent element in this house as it is in many Rolling Mill homes. It sports slate shingles in both rectangular and diamond-shaped patterns and a Palladian window. Butler included the over-sized double hung windows that he preferred in this period. The porch has been altered with the addition of a new brick porch.

AARON MAY, was a popular local builder who frequently worked with prominent local architects like Butler and George Sansbury. He built two Butler designs, the Dime Savings Bank at 76 Baltimore Street and the Commercial Savings Bank at 55 N. Liberty Street, for example. He also built a number of homes in Rolling Mill. The house he built at **212 CECELIA STREET** for Louis Ward in 1907 is typical of many homes built between 1907 and 1911 in Cumberland. Built of exposed concrete block, which Wright Butler is believed to have first introduced to Cumberland, this 2-story concrete block house is another example of the gable house.

Park Street opposite the now demolished Queen City Station was the home of many solid, middle-class citizens of Cumberland. Handsome two to three-story houses line the east side of the street. Wright Butler designed both houses at **408 AND 410 PARK STREET**. **J.S. SEIBERT** designed **404 PARK STREET** in 1903 for Walter L. Hoffman. Seibert may have also designed 406 Park Street for Leander Schaidt in 1903. J.S. Seibert, a civil engineering graduate of Lehigh University, operated a substantial architectural practice in Cumberland in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Other impressive Seibert designs in Cumberland include: Rosenbaum's Department Store on Baltimore Street and the McKaig Mansion at 528 Washington Street. The Butler and Seibert houses contribute to a pleasing streetscape. Employing gables, slate, dormers, wood, stone, and brick, these two architects accomplished harmonious groupings which possess variety and interesting details which give some indication of the earlier grandeur of Park Street.

Unfortunately, the demolition plans for this neighborhood appear to extend to these historic architect designed homes as well. The plans call for new construction and surface parking in their place.



404 PARK

408 PARK

410 PARK

212 CECELIA

227 CECELIA



DISCOVER HISTORIC ROLLING MILL

BIRTHPLACE OF THE CUMBERLAND OUTDOOR CLUB – KOEGL RESIDENCE 209 EMILY STREET; AMOCO STATION 400 PARK STREET; AND MORRIS'S MARKET (CORNER OF WILLIAMS STREET AND MARYLAND AVENUE)⁴

The historic and popular **CUMBERLAND OUTDOOR CLUB** was formally established in 1934 as a social athletic sportsman's club out of three different historic buildings in the Rolling Mill neighborhood. Eighty two years later, it still serves as a nonprofit social club that promotes wildlife conservation and strives, through fundraisers and events, to help local charities and special needs groups.

The club began partly from a football team sponsored by the owner of the **AMOCO SERVICE STATION AT 400 PARK STREET** in the early 1930s. The team members and friends used the service station as a social gathering place. Team meetings were held nearby at C. Joseph Koegel's summer kitchen behind his residence at **209 EMILY STREET**. The team eventually formed the Amoco Athletic Club. E. Dick Bittner served as the leader both of the club and the football team. Joseph Koegel suggested a permanent club, and the club continued to use the Amoco name until the end of the 1934 football season. At the same time another similar group gathered at **MORRIS'S STORE AT THE CORNER OF MARYLAND AVENUE AND WILLIAMS STREET**. The two groups eventually merged and Roy L. Durrett, who ran a taxidermist shop in Koegel's summer kitchen, was appointed president during the organizing period.

By the end of 1934, the group had grown substantially, club rules and bylaws were written, and the name "Cumberland Outdoor Club" was chosen. The first formal election was held February 18, 1935 at Koegel's summer kitchen, and Koegel became second vice-president. At this time there were 50 charter members with the motto "Working Together for the Enjoyment and Betterment of All!"

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KOEGL RESIDENCE-209 EMILY



AMOCO STATION-400 PARK



MORRIS'S STORE-529 MARYLAND

⁴ Excerpted from *Cumberland Outdoor Club Celebrates 50th Anniversary* - By Mike Burke, Cumberland Times-News