

Seal of Allegany County, Maryland

The seal uniquely identifies Allegany County, Maryland. The seal was last redesigned for America's Bicentennial Celebration in 1976.

The Allegany County seal has **four sections**.

The line pointing **west** is an **arrow**. Allegany County now is the second most western county in the State of Maryland and was the Gateway to the West. Cumberland, county seat, has the Narrows, a rare natural gorge. The Narrows provided a passageway through the mountains for the early pioneers headed to the new western frontier. The arrow represents the county's Indian heritage.

Wheat, at the intersection of the lines, was on the first seal and represents the county's agricultural heritage.

Allegany County has the four seasons of the year and the best of Mother Nature: **mountains**, valleys, farmland and forests, **rivers** and streams. Allegany County has abundant natural resources. Allegany County was officially created in **1789**.

Allegany County was a manufacturing center (**factory, smokestack**). The Luke Mill (Verso Corporation), a fine quality paper industry giant, traces its 125+ year history to the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company in Luke, Maryland and is the county's oldest manufacturer. In the past, Kelly-Springfield Tire Company manufactured tires, fabric was produced by Celanese Corporation of America, and window glass came from Pittsburgh Plate Glass.

Now, Allegany County is home to Hunter Douglas (window coverings) and American Woodmark (wooden cabinets). Allegany County is also a center for health care with the Western Maryland Health System, the county's largest employer, and home to two institutions of higher education, Frostburg State University and Allegany College of Maryland.

The **wheel** symbolizes Allegany County's transportation heritage. The National Road, the first federally funded road and today's U.S. Route 40, was built through Allegany County. An original **toll house** is now a museum and represents the era of horse drawn stagecoaches and wagon trains. The pre-automobile era is showcased in the Thrasher Carriage Museum in Frostburg. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (**railroad car**) and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (**canal barge**) transported raw natural resources, coal (**pick and shovel**) and timber, from the mountains for use in the metropolitan areas. Today, the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad is in operation and winds through the mountains and valleys. The Great Allegheny Passage, a biking - hiking trail between Washington, D.C., and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, is enjoyed by residents and visitors along the railroad bed and canal pathway through Allegany County.

Architecturally distinctive **buildings** and **steeple**s represent the cultural and religious heritage. Today, the steeples, outlined in white lights at night, are a focal point in Downtown Cumberland.