

# Our Vision

The Jane Gates Heritage House will serve as one of few historical properties in the city of Cumberland related to African Americans. The vision includes the restoration of stories of our ancestors to African American History and encouraging others to trace their roots, elementary educational support and the promotion of healthy living by teaching young children to cultivate their own plants, herbs, and spices. The property will serve as a culturally rich environment for the community and a learning center for students. It will be a place for learning and exposure for all. As a monument to the struggle for African Americans, even in a city where the minority population is small, the impact and story of the Jane Gates Heritage House will be a great asset to all who visit the site.



This brochure was made possible by a grant from the Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area

## Donations

*Donations should be sent to:*

*Jane Gates Heritage House*

*515 Greene Street  
Cumberland, Maryland 21502*

*501(c)(3) Non-profit organization*

*EIN: 82-0595711*

**Jane Gates**  
HERITAGE HOUSE, 1871  
Five Loaves  
**5**  
Two Fish

*Jane Gates Heritage House is a U.S. 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization located at 515 Greene Street, Cumberland, Maryland 21502. The property is recognized by the City of Cumberland Historic Preservation Commission and is included in the boundaries of the Passages of the Western Potomac Heritage Area. It is locally designated as a historical structure in the City of Cumberland.*

# Jane Gates

HERITAGE HOUSE, 1871



## Our Mission

*The mission of the Jane Gates Heritage House is to enhance the lives of all through faith, education, and history.*



In the six years between Maryland's Emancipation and 1871, Jane Gates worked as a laundress and a nurse, amassing the \$1,400 she used to purchase the property at 515 Greene Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

The official deed was signed on August 31, 1871. The Gates family continuously owned the property for seventy years until it was sold in 1941. In 2007, the original home at 515 Greene Street was returned to the family when it was purchased by John E. and Sukh Gates.

# Jane Gates

## HERITAGE HOUSE, 1871

The (Cumberland) Daily News of January 7th, 1888 notes Jane's passing. It states that she died at 11:00 pm on the evening of January 6th.

She was known as "Aunt Jane Gates", a well-known and estimable colored woman. She was seventy-five years of age at the time of her death, and died at her long-time home on Greene Street where services were to be held prior to being interred at Rose Hill Cemetery at 3:00 pm on the afternoon of January 8th, 1888.

One hundred and fifty years later, one of her great-great-grandsons, John E. Gates, and his family are seeking to turn that home that was so important to early African American Cumberland into a place that once again will serve the surrounding community.

Jane Gates is the great-great grandmother of Dr. Henry Louis Gates Jr., the Director of the Hutchins Center

for African and African American Research at Harvard, and Dr. Paul E. Gates, the Chairman of Dentistry Emeritus at BronxCare Health System.

In 2021, the Cumberland Mayor and City Council declared August 31 to be "Jane Gates Day" in honor of this remarkable woman.

Five Loaves

5 Two Fish

