

# THERE ARE PLACES I REMEMBER

In issue 72 we kicked off a new series exploring Beatles locations around the globe and we hope our readers will actively participate by contributing articles about their hometowns or locations they have visited. In the next installment of this series, we explore -  
**Baltimore, Maryland and The Beatles**

**A**lthough Baltimore is just a short commute from neighboring Washington, DC, the legacy of the Beatles is a much smaller footprint. In fact, it is barely a ghost of a memory from a stay that lasted less than 24 hours.

The Beatles first tour in the USA in 1964, brought them to Baltimore on 13 September to play two concerts in one day before they vanished the next morning heading up north to their next stop in Philadelphia.

Fans visiting Baltimore will want to start at the Holiday Inn on W. Lombard Street near the Inner Harbor area of Baltimore. When the Beatles arrived that morning, they were whisked into this hotel to rest and wait for the day ahead. The street outside the hotel was clogged with anxious fans desperate for a view of the Fab Four.

Mary Ann Thompson and Dorrit Takach were two of the lucky girls who attended the Baltimore concert that day although they did not know each other at the time.

Dorrit remembers how worried her parents were letting her and her sister take the bus to the concert. She went with an older sister and they had no camera with them, so they have no photos to mark the event. Mary Ann recalls that although her parents wouldn't allow her to spend the day stalking the Beatles outside the hotel, she did learn from the

newspapers that the Beatles partied all night in Le Ronde, the revolving restaurant up top of the Holiday Inn. (In the 70s it was renamed Circle One). The 15 September edition of the Baltimore Sun wrote "There was a full-course prime ribs of beef dinner, cognac and brandy, with desserts and the Beatles' own hands-across-the-sea drink, which as every 14-year-old knows, is scotch and Coke-mixed."

Mary Ann said, 'For years afterwards, my friends and I would eat dinner at Circle One before a concert, knowing that the Beatles had been there.'

However, a few years

after the Beatles were there, Mary Ann and her friends had a meal in the restaurant and as they returned to the lobby, they came face-to-face with all the members of The Who! Sadly, the restaurant is no longer there however the space is still used for banquets so if you are brave you might be able to ask the management to let you up there.



Someone from the hotel was a bit of an entrepreneur too. After the Beatles' stay at the hotel, the linens somehow ended up offered for sale in small cut up squares complete with certificates of authenticity from a company called SS&P! Mary Ann still has her blanket scrap as shown in the photo here.



Next, facing the street from the hotel entrance, turn right and at the corner cross over S. Howard street and then turn left and walk up that street one long block until you reach W. Baltimore street. Turn right and you are at the entrance to what is now known as Royal Farms Arena.



In 1964 it was called The Civic Center and it was witness to the expected screaming, scheming fans that kept the police and paramedics busy all day. The street outside this location, like the hotel was jam packed with fans hoping for a glimpse of the band.

Like in other stops on the tour, some of the more ambitious fans went to extremes beyond standing in the streets. Two creative girls had themselves sealed up in a box labeled 'Beatles Fan Mail' and unsuccessfully tried to have the box delivered to the boys at the Civic Center. And when the Beatles arrived later that day from their nearby hotel and entered their dressing room, they were

surprised to find a note left behind from a crafty girl. The note, attached to some coat hangers, said "I love you Ringo" and included her telephone number. The girl, who had managed to convince a Civic Center employee to show her the Beatles dressing room allowing her to leave the note. 28,000 fans (combined for the two shows that day) saw The Beatles perform. Hearing the concert was a bit more difficult due to the screaming from the audience.

The last stop on your Beatles tour of Baltimore is a little more difficult to reach on foot. You can take the City Link Green bus or a car to travel the almost 7-mile trip to Mercy High School and Leith Walk Elementary school. Apparently on the day the Beatles arrived in Baltimore, despite a schedule with a press conference and two performances that day, George Harrison requested to visit local schools. There is no record of why these two schools were chosen but perhaps because they were not far away and next to each other allowing him to visit two schools on one quick trip. The press reported on the visit the next day.

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