

# Look Up, Northern Virginia

**Walking Tours of 5  
Towns in the Old Dominion**

# A Walking Tour of Alexandria, Virginia **from walkthetown.com**

This stretch of land along the west shore of the Potomac River was the last chunk of the Virginia Tidewater to be settled. In 1748, when Fairfax County was cleaved from Prince William County the town was created and named for a family that had once owned the land. Seventeen-year old George Washington was on the survey crew that laid off the town in streets and 84 half-acre lots. His half-brother Lawrence and brother Augustine were among the initial purchasers. George would later come to own a townhome as well and since it was only eight miles from his beloved estate at Mount Vernon always considered Alexandria his home town.

In 1752 Alexandria was made the county seat. The town was incorporated in 1779 and adopted a seal with a ship in full sail - a nod to the town's position as one of the busiest ports in young America. Wheat was the main export but the warehouses on the waterfront were also filled with hogsheads of tobacco. The place became so attractive it was given away to the new Federal government to become part of the District of Columbia that was being built in 1799. In 1846 residents longing for a return to Virginia requested Congress to return Alexandria to the Old Dominion. Alexandria County was created and the town set up as its seat; in 1920 the county was changed to Arlington.

The Federal government returned shortly after the outbreak of the Civil War. It became the longest occupied territory of the war but because the city saw little fighting, Alexandria escaped the havoc that obliterated the early history of other Virginia cities. The wooden wharves are gone and the air is no longer permeated by the odor of fish and fertilizer but the streetscape is stuffed with Federal-style brick houses and some of the streets even retain their cobbles. Our exploration will poke around the third oldest historic district in the country and we'll begin where the city did on the banks of the Potomac...



## 1. Founders Park

**North Union Street between Oronoco Street and Cameron Street**



This area was called West Point by settlers along the Potomac River in the early 1700s. The warehouse that was built here in 1732 was the first permanent structure established on the waterfront and led to the founding of the town. Through the 1800s tobacco was stored on wharves here, African slaves disembarked at the center of the notorious Triangle Trade, and a seasonal community of wharf laborers inhabited a makeshift shantytown known derisively as Fish Town by the river. By 1900 the waterfront was dominated by the Smoot coal and lumber yard. By the 1960s this was just a trash-strewn empty lot. It appeared centuries of unsavoriness would be buried under a quartet of 18-story apartment buildings in the 1970s but a local community effort prevailed in preserving the land as a park.

**WALK SOUTH ALONG WATERFRONT WALK WITH THE RIVER ON YOUR LEFT.**

## 2. The Torpedo Factory

**105 North Union Street**



This complex was created in 1918 the day after World War I ended as the U.S. Naval Torpedo Station and supplied munitions through World War II. The buildings became government storage space in the 1940s and a hodge-podge of priceless objects could be found here from dinosaur bones belonging to the Smithsonian to German war films for the Pentagon. After the City of Alexandria purchased the building in 1969 it was gutted and renovated to create an art center that today is home to 165 artists in 82 working studios.

**3. Old Dominion Boat Club  
One King Street at King Street Park**



The Old Dominion Boat Club was organized in July, 1880 to combine physical fitness and sport with a social atmosphere. The very first members were “Alexandrians of the highest order”, leaders of the business, civic and social corridors. The early members were canoeists, swimmers, sailing and rowing enthusiast and eventually power-boating was added to the water sports activities.

**TURN RIGHT AND WALK UP TO UNION STREET.**

**4. Corn Exchange  
100 King Street at Union Street**



This Italianate brick building was added to the Old Town streetscape in 1871. The ground floor was occupied by a grocery store for decades; a corn exchange operated for a time on the second floor. The building stands on ground that was land fill to service the city’s once thriving shipping industry.

**TURN LEFT ON UNION STREET. TURN RIGHT ON PRINCE STREET.**

**5. Captains Row**  
**Prince Street, between Lee and Union streets**



This cobblestoned block is one of Alexandria's oldest and most picturesque. It was the street of choice for wealthy sea captains to live in the days when Alexandria challenged New York and Boston as a port of entry.

**6. Athenaeum**  
**201 Prince Street at Lee Street**



Originally constructed as the Bank of the Old Dominion in 1852 and sporting fluted Doric columns, this stuccoed building is one of Alexandria's two surviving examples of Greek Revival architecture. It only spent about half a century as a bank. After 1907 it was used by a wholesale pharmacy and then as a church. The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association bought the building in 1964, repaired it, restored it to its current state and renamed it the Athenaeum and remains a showcase for artists and their work.

**TURN LEFT LEE STREET. TURN RIGHT ON DUKE STREET. TURN LEFT ON FAIRFAX STREET.**

**7. Old Presbyterian Meeting House**  
**321 South Fairfax Street**



Still active as a church, the Old Presbyterian Meeting House was built in 1775 and was a popular gathering place for patriots during the Revolution. Memorial services for George Washington were held on the this site in December 1799. Lightning ignited a fire that destroyed most of the original structure in 1835. The re-built brick meetinghouse again rose in the Georgian style and the bell tower was added in 1843. With remarkably few subsequent alterations, the rebuilt Meeting House remains an outstanding expression of Reformed Protestant plain style architecture to the present day.

Buried in the churchyard is James Craik, the Revolutionary War surgeon who dressed Lafayette's wounds at Brandywine and attended both George and Martha Washington. Also in the churchyard is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the American Revolution, whose identity "is known only to God."

**WALK AROUND THE CHURCH AND INTO THE CHURCHYARD. CONTINUE ON TO ROYAL STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

**8. Saint Mary Catholic Church**  
**310 South Royal Street**



St. Mary's was established in 1795 and is the oldest Catholic parish in the Commonwealth of Virginia. To fund the church, Colonel John Fitzgerald took up a collection. According to church lore, Fitzgerald's good friend George Washington made the first donation. A chapel was built at the south end of the city, on land still used today as St. Mary's Cemetery. In 1810, St. Mary's moved to its present location in the heart of the city.

**AT PRINCE STREET TURN RIGHT AND WALK A FEW STEPS.**

**9. Benevolent Protective Order of Elks Lodge #758**  
**318 Prince Street**



The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks was founded in New York City in 1868 in the theater district. At first they referred to themselves as the Jolly Corks. A gathering of 50 men organized the Alexandria Elks Lodge #758 on February 9, 1902 and before the year was out had purchased the ornate Concordia Hotel that had stood on the corner of Royal and Prince streets since 1880. In 1909 the building was razed to make way for this lodge, designed in the exuberant Beaux Arts style by Ernest Flag. It features ornamental pilasters, limestone keys and a cornice with dentils. The handsome bronze elk arrived with great fanfare to be fitted into the alcove in 1910. It weighs a half-ton - just like a large bull elk. The Elks moved out in the mid-20th century and the classical building was redeveloped as a condominium.

**TURN AND WALK WEST ON PRINCE STREET, AWAY FROM THE POTOMAC RIVER.**

**10. Lyceum**  
**201 South Washington Street at Prince Street**



Erected in 1839 as a lecture hall and reading room, the city's first cultural center now preserves Alexandria history from its founding in 1749. The two-story brick building was stuccoed and scored to simulate fashionable stone blocks behind its tall Doric portico. The Lyceum was used as a hospital during the Civil War.

**TURN RIGHT ON WASHINGTON STREET.**



**11. Christ Church**  
**118 North Washington Street**



Completed in 1773 on plans by James Wren, this Georgian brick Episcopal church is Alexandria's oldest. Centered on the west facade is a square tower supporting an octagonal belfry in three stages, and a domed cupola that were added in the early 1800s. When Christ church opened George Washington purchased Pew 60 for 36 pounds and 10 shillings. It is preserved in the active church today. Robert E. Lee was confirmed here; Confederate officers and a mass Confederate grave are on the grounds.

**12. Lloyd House**  
**220 North Washington Street**



This brick corner house built in 1793 by John wise stands as one of the finest examples of residential architecture in Old Town Alexandria. The broad gabled roof has three dormer windows set off by slender pilasters. The beautifully designed doorway is framed by Corinthian pilasters and a broken pediment over the round-arched fanlight. The Lloyd family owned the house for over 100 years beginning in 1832. Lloyd House currently serves as the administrative headquarters for the Office of Historic Alexandria, a department of the City of Alexandria government.

**STOP AT PRINCESS STREET.**

### 13. Princess Street



The transition from dirt streets in 18th century Alexandria was accomplished with cobblestones. According to legend, Hessian soldiers provided the labor to pave Princess Street with cobblestones. These cobbles remained essentially untouched until 1979, when the street was restored using the original cobbles.

**CONTINUE TO ORONOCO STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

### 14. Lee-Fendall House 614 Oronco Street



As a 20-year old in 1776, Harry Lee abandoned plans for a law career and secured an appointment as a captain in the Virginia cavalry. The greatest success for “Light Horse” Harry Lee came under Nathanael Greene in the Carolinas in 1781, which propelled him into state and national politics after the war. Lee worked in the Second Continental Congress and served Virginia as governor between 1792 and 1795. Later, he was a U.S. congressman. He bought three half-acre lots in Alexandria in 1784; on this one Philip Richard Fendall built a three-section telescoping house more commonly seen on the Maryland Eastern Shore.

Beginning in 1937 this was the home of influential labor leader John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, and he lived here until his death in 1969. In 1974 the Virginia Trust for Historic Preservation acquired the house and it has been a house museum ever since; many of the artifacts were owned by the 37 Lee family members who lived in the house from 1785 until 1903.

**15. Boyhood Home of Robert E. Lee**  
**607 Oronco Street**



John Potts, merchant and first secretary of George Washington's Potomac Company, built this Georgian brick house in 1795. Four years later he sold the house to William Fitzhugh, the largest landholder in Fairfax County, for \$12,000. Fitzhugh died in 1809 and two years later his distant relative, Harry Lee moved in with his family, including four-year old Robert Edward. Economic reversals had led to his imprisonment and the authorship of a personal history of the Revolution, *Memoirs of the War in the Southern Department of the United States*. Young Robert E. Lee spent many of his formative years in this house, twice living here for five-year periods before leaving in 1825. The house did 20th century duty as a house museum before returning to a private residence.

**TURN RIGHT ON PITT STREET AND WALK TO CAMERON STREET. TURN LEFT.  
TURN RIGHT ON ROYAL STREET.**

**16. Gadsby's Tavern Museum**  
**138 North Royal Street**



In Colonial America, Alexandria was the most developed settlement on the main north-south road between Baltimore and Fredericksburg, and the City Tavern, built in 1770, was the hub for social and political goings-on. John Gadsby became proprietor in 1794. George Washington was a frequent visitor and participated in the first Birthnight Ball in celebration in his honor in 1798. In November 1799 he made his final military review from the tavern steps. The museum consists of two 18th century brick buildings - the tavern and the City Hotel.

**TURN LEFT ON KING STREET.**

**17. Hotel Monaco**  
**480 King Street at Royal Street**



Hotel Monaco Alexandria doesn't just make history — it is history. The hotel sits on the site of the former Marshall House, the location of the beginning of the Civil War. On May 24, 1861, an altercation between the innkeeper, secessionist James W. Jackson, and Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, leader of the 11th New York Infantry “Fire Zouaves,” led to a melee and both men became the first two martyrs of the Civil War.

On May 24, 1861, the day after Virginia's secession was ratified by referendum, President Abraham Lincoln looked out from the White House across the Potomac River, and saw a large Confederate flag prominently displayed over the town of Alexandria. Ellsworth immediately offered to retrieve the flag for Lincoln. He led the 11th New York across the Potomac and into the streets of Alexandria uncontested. He detached some men to take the railroad station, while he led others to secure the telegraph office and get that Confederate flag, which was flying above the Marshall House Inn. Ellsworth and four men went upstairs and cut down the flag. As Ellsworth came downstairs with the flag, the owner, Jackson, killed him with a shotgun blast to the chest. Corporal Francis E. Brownell, of Troy, New York, immediately killed Jackson. Brownell was later awarded a Medal of Honor for his actions.

**18. City Hall**  
**301 King Street**



From the time of its founding in 1749 this ground was designated for a market and city hall. The core of the current building dates to 1871 when it replaced a city hall that had stood since 1817 and was destroyed by fire. Adolph Cluss, a go-to architect across the river in Washington D.C., designed the U-shaped building around a central courtyard. The focus of City Hall, its steepled tower is a reconstruction of the original created by pioneer architect Benjamin H. Latrobe. On the southern half of the City Hall block is a plaza completed in 1967 during an urban renewal project. Through the years, the City Hall building has undergone several interior and exterior alterations including filling in the old courtyard.

**TURN RIGHT ON SOUTH FAIRFAX STREET AND WALK DOWN A FEW STEPS.**

**19. Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary  
105-107 South Fairfax Street**



Edward Stabler, a Quaker pharmacist, moved to Alexandria in 1792 and opened one of America's oldest apothecary shops at King and Fairfax streets in 1792; he rented this property four years later. A pantheon of America's greatest statesmen had their prescription filled here. Among the famous names in the account books is that of Robert E. Lee - in October 1859 United States Army colonel Lee was shopping in the drugstore when Lieutenant J.E.B. Stuart handed him an order to report to western Virginia and suppress John Brown's raid on the Federal arsenal in Harpers Ferry. The shop stayed in the family until it closed during the Depression and was re-opened as a museum in 1939.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON FAIRFAX STREET, WALKING NORTH.**

**20. Burke & Herbert Bank  
100 South Fairfax Street at King Street**



Founded in 1852, this is the oldest bank in Virginia. The founding partners, John Woolfolk Burke and Arthur Herbert were each still in their twenties at the time. There were three other banks operating in Alexandria at the time. This splendid Beaux Arts building with multiple arches, strong Doric columns and balustraded roof has been the bank's headquarters since 1904.

**21. Ramsay House**  
**221 King Street**



There is evidence that the earliest parts of this house date to the 1720s and were moved to this location where they were assembled on this location by Scottish merchant William Ramsay. Through the decades the house has done duty as a tavern, grocery store, rooming house and cigar factory. Much of the original structure was destroyed by a fire in 1942 but the City purchased and restored the house and it serves as a visitor center today.

**22. Carlyle House**  
**121 North Fairfax House**



British general Edward Braddock made the 1753 stone mansion built in the Palladian style by Scottish merchant John Carlyle his headquarters in the spring of 1755. In the splendid parlor Braddock summoned five Royal governors to plan the financing for his campaign against the French and Indians in America. The result was the detested Stamp Act, which would help provoke the Revolution. George Washington was commissioned as an aide-de-camp to Braddock in this house.

Following Carlyle's death, his oldest daughter Sarah lived in the house with her family. By 1827, the house was no longer owned by the family, and over the next century and a half, passed through many hands. The site served a variety of purposes including a hospital during the Civil War, a hotel and a private residence. In 1970, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority acquired the property. After six years of restoration, the house and gardens were opened to the public as a museum.

**TURN RIGHT ON CAMERON STREET AND TURN LEFT ON UNION STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN FOUNDERS PARK.**

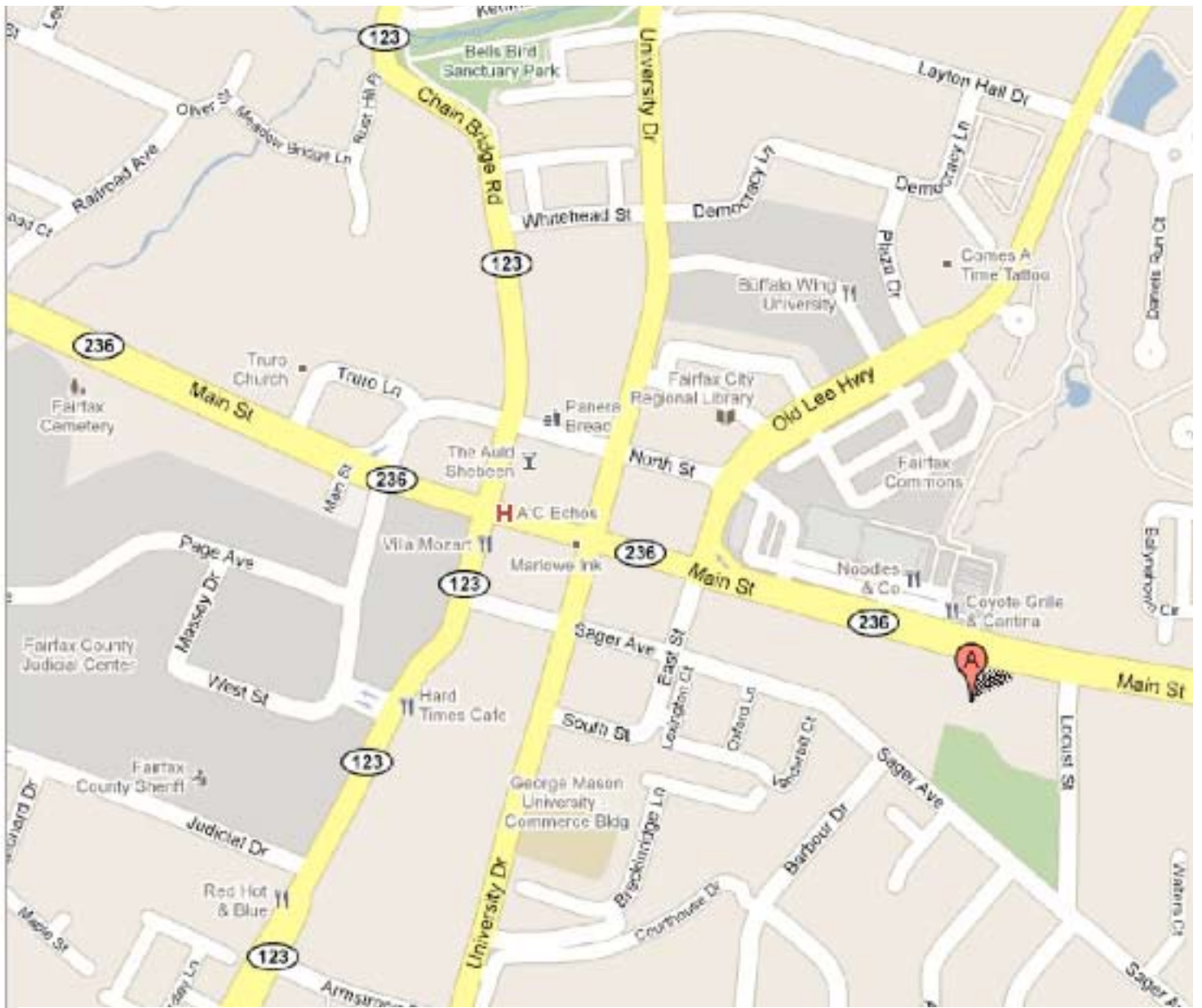
# A Walking Tour of Fairfax, Virginia from **walkthetown.com**

The first person to own the land that is now the City of Fairfax was Thomas Fairfax, 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron, who was awarded five million acres in land located in Northern Virginia by King Charles. When it came time for actually form a town the owner was Richard Ratcliffe who had begun acquiring land around the headwaters of Accotink Creek in 1786. Over the next decade he had grown his Mount Vineyard plantation to about 3,000 acres.

In the meantime the new federal government was moving to the banks of the Potomac and chief executive George Washington brought his hometown of Alexandria into the jurisdiction of the newly created District of Columbia. This moved Alexandria, the county seat of Fairfax County since its inception in 1752, out of the legal boundaries of its Virginia home county. With a mandate to find a centrally convenient new location for its county seat, Fairfax County Court officials accepted Richard Ratcliffe's offer of four acres to build a courthouse upon. The price - a single dollar.

The courthouse was completed in 1800 and it became a prototype for many Virginia courthouses built until 1850. Ratcliffe busied himself with laying out a town and selling lots for a town he called Providence. Most people called it Fairfax Court House, however, and the name would be officially changed in 1874 to the Town of Fairfax. Despite Ratcliffe's efforts the town was still little more than a collection of houses scattered around that courthouse when the Civil War arrived in the 1860s. Skirmishing in the streets of Fairfax resulted in the first Confederate battle casualty seven weeks before the first major battle of the conflict, the First Battle of Manassas.

Through the early 20th century, the Town of Fairfax remained a community of farms and small estates, with a tiny core of commerce, government and society in the few blocks surrounding the courthouse. In recent times Fairfax has grown to over six square miles but our explorations will concentrate on that historic core and we will begin with a building that was long the center of that core, next to which is a conveniently located parking lot...





## 1. Old Town Hall

3999 University Street at northeast corner of Main Street



Joseph E. Willard was the product of a 19th century mixed marriage - his mother was a Confederate spy and his father a Union officer. Antonia Ford was anointed as an “honorary” aide-de-camp for Southern general J.E.B. Stuart with the rank of major and after she was arrested for passing information to the Confederates met her future husband, Joseph C. Willard, in prison. Willard was the co-owner of one of Washington D.C.’s poshest hotels. Joseph E. Willard was the couple’s only child and became the most influential political figure in Fairfax County which he used as a springboard to stints as lieutenant governor of Virginia and minister of Spain. He built the graceful hall, which blends Federal-style fenestration behind Tuscan order columns, in 1900 and presented it to the Town of Fairfax in 1902. In addition to housing the local government the hall became a social hub as well, screening the town’s first motion pictures in 1911. Restored in the 1990s, the richly appointed Town Hall hosts functions, displays art and contains the Huddleson Library.

**FROM THE CORNER OF MAIN STREET AND UNIVERSITY STREET, WALK EAST, OLD TOWN HALL WILL BE ON YOUR LEFT.**

## 2. Ratcliffe-Allison House

10386 Main Street



Some town founders just happened to come early to a place that developed long after they were gone while others energetically build a community. In a career of public service that would swallow 54 years of his life Richard Ratcliffe would serve Fairfax County as sheriff, coroner, justice, patroller, overseer of the poor, constable, commissioner of the revenue, jail inspector, and superintendent of elections among others. Sandwiched in there was the design and development of Fairfax, which he called Providence. The eastern portion of this house is the oldest in the city, built by Ratcliffe around 1812 on one of the lots he laid out for rental property. In 1973 it became the first city-owned building to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**3. Draper House**  
**10364 Main Street**



Although much-altered, you can still see the Federal form of this two-story brick house constructed around 1820 by Dr. Samuel Draper, probably as his office and examining rooms. For many years it sported a front porch that disappeared when the corner building was spruced up to house local businesses. Many of the property's original out-buildings have been converted into shops.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON MAIN STREET, WALKING WEST BACK TO UNIVERSITY STREET AND CROSS.**

**4. *Fairfax Herald* & Print Shop**  
**10400 Main Street**



Stephen Roszel Donohoe put out the first edition of the the *Fairfax Herald* in 1882 after arriving in the town from Alexandria. Later he would serve in the state Senate and in the Spanish-American War he was captain of the Fairfax Company. In 1904 he moved the paper to this small, one-story frame structure. The *Herald* remained in operation until 1966 and a collection of its original printing equipment is now located at the Smithsonian.

**5. Ralston's Store**  
**10412 Main Street**



W.T. Ralston opened a market in this vernacular commercial building in 1895.

**6. Nickell's Hardware Store**  
**10414 Main Street**



This is an example of vernacular commercial architecture, a popular construction type at the turn of the 20th century. West Virginia-born James Elliott Nickel operated a hardware store here from 1920 until his death at the age of 74 in 1955.

**7. Fairfax Hay & Grain Store**  
**10416 Main Street**



This trio of century-old vernacular frame buildings is completed by this two-story, three-bay gabled structure that did duty as a granary in its youth.

**TURN LEFT ON CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD.**

**8. Joshua Gunnell House**  
**4023 Chain Bridge Road**



On June 1, 1861, seven weeks before the First Battle of Bull Run, Civil War skirmishing took place on Main Street. Ex-Governor, "Extra Billy" Smith, a civilian, ran from this house to take charge of the Warrenton Rifles. Their commanding officer, Captain John Quincy Marr, had been killed, the first Confederate officer killed during the Civil War in a military engagement between opposing forces.

**CROSS THE STREET (CAREFULLY) AND NEGOTIATE YOUR WAY ON TO THE COURTHOUSE GROUNDS.**

**9. Fairfax County Historic Courthouse  
4000 Chain Bridge Road**



George Mason petitioned the General Assembly in 1790 to move the courthouse from Alexandria to “such a place as should be found most convenient near the center of the County.” Designed by James Wren and centrally located at the crossroads of Little River Turnpike and Ox Road, Fairfax County Courthouse was completed in 1800. The wills of George and Martha Washington were probated at the courthouse and are on display in the Judicial Center.

During the Civil War, the building was occupied by both Union and Confederate troops. Afterwards the courthouse was repaired and restored and over the years followed refurbishments and additions until the 1960s when the court was restored as closely as possible to its original appearance.

**10. Marr Monument  
Fairfax Courthouse  
4000 Chain Bridge Road**



The monument in front of the courthouse honors John Quincy Marr, the first confederate officer to die in battle in the Civil War. Marr commanded the Warrenton Rifles during a Union cavalry attack at 3:00 a.m. on June 1, 1861. His body was found in a clover field 800 feet southwest of the courthouse when dawn broke. Marr was killed by the impact of a minie ball in the chest - without spilling blood. The cannons at the site face north, as do all Confederate cannon monuments. Mathew Brady made this a widely recognized site by using it in many photographic studies.

**MAKE YOUR WAY BACK TO MAIN STREET AND TURN LEFT, WALKING WEST.**

## 11. Old Fairfax Jail southeast corner of Main Street and West Street



The first “gaol” in town appeared in 1802, used mostly for the usual sins against the Sabbath, public drunkenness and swearing and so on. That jail burned in 1884 and was replaced by this two-story brick building. The jailer and his family lived in the front quarters with the cells in the back. It was an active jail until the 1950s and now houses the Administrative Services Division of the Sheriff’s Office. The Italianate-influenced building features decorative brick work at the cornice and stone window lintels.

**TURN RIGHT AFTER CAREFULLY CROSSINGS MAIN STREET ONTO TRURO LANE.**

## 12. Truro Church 10520 Main Street



The original Truro Parish was created by the General Assembly of Virginia on November 1, 1732 and included a large swath of Northern Virginia. Augustine Washington was a vestry for a few years beginning in 1735 and his son, George, was appointed to the Truro Parish vestry on October 25, 1762.

There was no official Episcopal Church in City of Fairfax until the Rev. Richard Templeton Brown, rector of The Falls Church, organized a congregation in 1843. The congregation first met at the historic Fairfax Courthouse and then moved to the private home of Mrs. William Rumsey, a Baptist from New York. There were fourteen communicants. A year later, a plain white frame church was built on the present site of the Truro Chapel and was consecrated as Zion Church in 1845. As Union troops advanced into Virginia at the outset of the Civil War, the congregation was forced to abandon Zion Church. During the Civil War, Zion Church was first used as a storehouse for munitions and then was destroyed.

At the close of the Civil War, the congregation of Zion Church re-formed and began to meet in the

Fairfax Courthouse. Zion Church was rebuilt and consecrated in 1878. Zion Church remained in active use from 1875 through 1933, when a new church (now the Chapel) was built to serve the growing congregation of 100 parishioners.

### **13. Dr. William Gunnell House 10520 Main Street**



On the night of March 9, 1863, Union brigadier general Edwin H. Stoughton was rudely awakened by a slap. “Get up general, and come with me,” said the intruder. “What is this? Do you know who I am?” demanded Stoughton. “I reckon I do, general. Did you ever hear of Mosby?” “Yes, have you caught him?” “No, but he has caught you.”

Ranger John Singleton Mosby also captured 32 other Union soldiers and 58 horses. Upon hearing of the raid, Abraham Lincoln disgustedly observed that he could create another general with the stroke of a pen, but he surely did hate to lose those horses. One officer Lincoln did not have to replace was Colonel Johnstone; he escaped capture by hiding beneath an outhouse, wearing only his nightshirt.

Dr. Gunnell’s house, built in 1835, was purchased for use as a rectory for Truro Church in 1882. At that time it was half the size it is today and was enlarged to its present form in 1911. It served as the residence of the rector of the Episcopal Church in Fairfax until 1991 when it served first as a home for single mothers and their babies (NOEL House) and then as the offices for Truro Church.

**TURN RIGHT AND WALK A FEW MORE STEPS TO THE END OF TRURO LANE AND CONTINUE STRAIGHT ONTO NORTH STREET AND WALK TO THE INTERSECTION WITH CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD.**

**14. Moore-McCandlish House**  
**3950 Chain Bridge Road at North Street**



Built around 1840, this house belonged to the Conrad family before the Murray family owned it until 1882 when Thomas Moore purchased the house. Moore's only son, Robert Walton Moore, served as state senator, U.S. congressman, and assistant secretary of state under President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The estate of F. Shield McCandlish conveyed the property to Fairfax City in 1979. Today it has been restored for office space.

The house played a brief cameo in the Civil War. During his March 1863 raid, Ranger John S. Mosby searched here, with no success, for the Union mercenary Col. Percy Wyndham who had called Mosby a horse thief. Mosby had replied that the only horses he had ever stolen had Union troopers on their backs armed with two pistols and a saber.

**TURN RIGHT ON CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD.**

**15. Efe Quality House**  
**3970 Chain Bridge Road**



In 1930 this home was built on top of the Manassas Gap Railway right-of-way. Conceived to extend the Manassas Gap Railroad to Alexandria, grading on this part of the line began in September 1854. Financial problems stopped the work in May 1857 and track was never laid. In various places the roadbed provided shelter from attack and a route for troop movements during the Civil War.

**16. Ford Building**  
**3977 Chain Bridge Road**



Antonia Ford, a beguiling beauty with a knack for remembering conversations, lived in his brick building, constructed around 1835. Confederate cavalry leader J.E.B. Stuart awarded Miss Ford a written commission as “my honorary aide-de-camp” in recognition of her recollection of Union secrets. Arrested as a spy when the document was found, Antonia was escorted to a Washington prison by Union major Joseph C. Willard, who fell in love with her. He worked to secure her release seven months later, and they were married.

**RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO NORTH ROAD AND TURN RIGHT.**

**17. Pozer Garden**  
**southeast corner of University Drive and North Street**



This small landscaped greenspace honors Kitty Barrett Pozer, who owned the adjacent historic Ratcliffe-Allison House from 1927 until she bequeathed it to the City at her death in 1981. For many years she wrote about horticultural topics as the gardening columnist for the *Washington Post*.

**YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT THE PARKING LOT.**



# A Walking Tour of Fredericksburg, Virginia **from walkthetown.com**

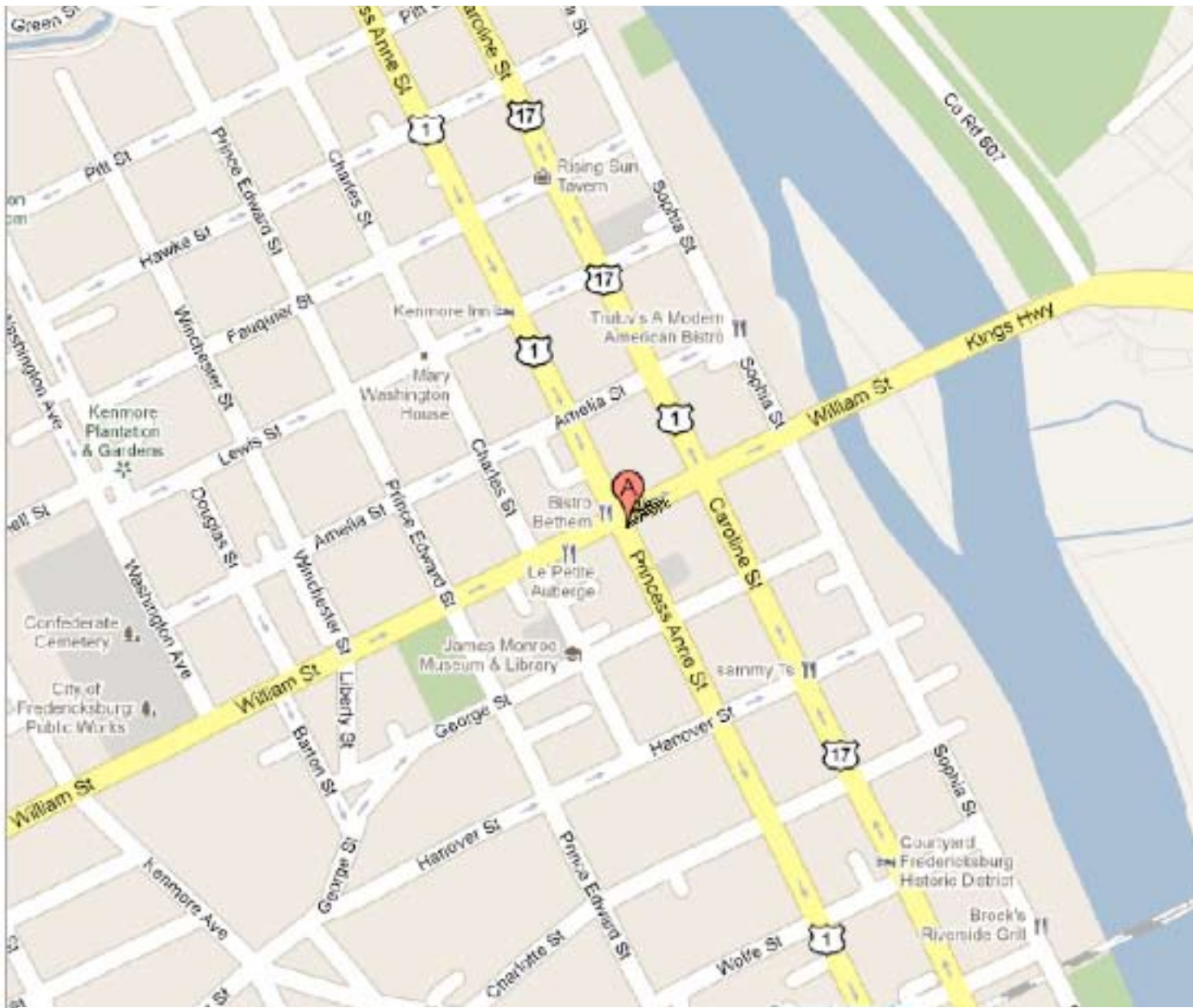
With its advantageous location at the head of navigation on the Rappahannock River and surrounded by prosperous wheat and tobacco plantations, Fredericksburg boasted an impressive roster of early American luminaries. George Washington's sister and mother lived here, James Monroe practiced law here, and naval hero John Paul Jones owned his only home here.

Fredericksburg was incorporated as a town in 1781 and prospered steadily as a transportation center, first on the river, then with great canvas-covered wagons and finally with a railroad in 1837. Its geography would shape its fate with the outbreak of the Civil War as the town lies midway between the Confederate capital in Richmond and the federal capital in Washington, D.C.

On December 13, 1862, the Federals stormed Robert E. Lee's entrenchments in their first attempt to control this critical crossroads. The Union was turned away in such gruesome fighting that Lee was moved to remark, "It is well that war is so terrible; else we should grow too fond of it." The slaughter of Ambrose Burnside's troops was Lee's most one-sided victory of the war. By May of 1863, this area had seen the most intense fighting ever staged on the North American continent.

After the war, Fredericksburg regained its position as a local trade hub and settled into its position as a residential enclave. In the 21st century the many make the daily commute to Richmond or Washington and more than a million people visit each year to investigate the Civil War heritage and explore forty downtown blocks that have been set aside as an historic district.

Our explorations will begin on ground that once held the bones of Fredericksburg's pioneers but today is populated by brick walkways and benches and a fountain...



## 1. Hurkamp Park Prince Edward Street between George Street and William Street



This park began life as a public burying ground until 1853. The cemetery served as a bivouac site during the Civil War and livestock grazed among the graves in its aftermath. In 1875, the Fredericksburg City Council sought to convert the neglected grounds to a public park and crews began removing headstones and graves to other cemeteries. On July 12, 1881, the new park was dedicated and named in honor of prominent local businessman John G. Hurkamp.

German-born John Hurkamp came to town as a skilled leather worker in 1843 at the age of 25. He quickly prospered in the tanning trade and his impressive house at 406 Hanover Street was used as a headquarters by Federal Major General John Sedgwick. Late in the fighting, Hurkamp was one of 55 local people taken prisoner and sent to Fort Delaware Prison although he was able to secure a quick release due to his friendship with Sedgwick.

Hurkamp's creativity and business acumen led to a Centennial Medal in Philadelphia in 1876 and a Paris Exposition Medal in 1878 for a tanning agent he developed using local sumac. Previously, sumac for tanning had all been imported to the United States from the Mediterranean.

**EXIT THE PARK AT THE SOUTHEASTERN CORNER ONTO GEORGE STREET. WALK EAST TOWARDS THE RAPPAHANNOCK RIVER.**

## 2. Masonic Cemetery George Street at Charles Street



This half-acre of turf inside weathered limestone walls is one of the oldest Masonic burial grounds in America. The Masons of Fredericksburg Lodge #4, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, established this cemetery in 1784. There are now approximately 270 graves within these grounds. Included are Basil Gordon, one of America's richest men at the turn of the 19th century and Robert Lewis, private secretary to his uncle, George Washington, and twice mayor of Fredericksburg.

## **TURN LEFT ON CHARLES STREET.**

### **3. James Monroe Museum and Memorial Library 908 Charles Street**



The fifth president of the United States interrupted his studies at William and Mary College to join Hugh Mercer's regiment as a second lieutenant in 1775. After three years of service, James Monroe returned to Virginia to study law under Thomas Jefferson and began his law career here in 1786. Built in 1758, the building is scarcely altered from those days. The museum features the largest collection of memorabilia pertaining to Monroe's life.

### **4. Slave Block northwest corner of Charles and William streets**



This curious relic of America's past is a circular block of sandstone hewn on one side to create a step. The Planters Hotel was located here in antebellum days and it was used for ladies mounting their horses and slaves to be presented for auction.

## **TURN RIGHT ON AMELIA STREET. TURN RIGHT ON PRINCESS ANNE STREET.**

**5. Fredericksburg Baptist Church**  
**1019 Princess Anne Street**



The Baptist church in Fredericksburg was founded in 1804, meeting in a frame building where today's Amtrak station stands. The current sanctuary is an 1855 structure. During the December 1862 Battle of Fredericksburg, Union troops cleared the church for use as a hospital. The chapel and the sanctuary became densely packed with wounded men and surgeons did their best to attend to them while shells occasionally whistled overhead. The despoiled sanctuary rendered the church unusable until after the war, but the Baptist congregation under Reverend T.S. Dunaway, whose 32 years of service were the church's longest, was rebuilding by 1866.

**6. Fredericksburg Area Museum**  
**1001 Princess Anne Street at William Street**



This square brick Georgian Revival building was constructed in 1920 to house the Planters Bank. It sports stone corner quoins and decorative garlands. Today it is the home of the Fredericksburg Area Museum.

**7. Old Town Hall and Market House**  
**907 Princess Anne Street**



With its location in an accessible valley at the head of the navigable Rappahannock River, Fredericksburg, named for King George III's father, became an important rivertown in Colonial America. Now a museum, the 1816 building was once the town hall and market place where political ideas and farm produce were exchanged with equal passions.

## **WALK ACROSS 9TH STREET ONTO FRANKLIN STREET.**

### **8. St. George's Episcopal Church 905 Princess Anne Street**



The first church for the congregation was a wooden structure on this site erected in the 1730s. It was followed by a brick church in 1815 that cost \$11,000. The current Romanesque Revival sanctuary was designed and built by Robert Cary Long and H.R. Reynold of Baltimore and dedicated in 1849. Among the graves in the churchyard are those of William Paul and of John Dandridge, George Washington's father-in-law. Colonel Fielding Lewis and two of his children are interred beneath the steps of the church.

### **9. National Bank Museum 900 Princess Anne Street**



This was the Farmer's Bank of Virginia when it was built in 1820. President Abraham Lincoln addressed Union troops and citizens from the bank steps during the Civil War on April 22, 1862. During the military occupation of Fredericksburg the bank was Headquarters of the Union command. At the end of the war, Farmers Bank failed and became the home of National Bank. It was chartered in 1865 and restored to its pre-Civil War appearance in 1985. As a museum interpreting 200 years of banking history it contains a restored banking room and local banking artifacts including a scale for weighing gold dust, a counterfeit bank note from the 1800s and bank certificates and correspondence from the 1860s.

## 10. Courthouse

815 Princess Anne Street at George Street



This site has been the court green since 1732 when Fredericksburg became the seat of Spotsylvania County. The current building was completed in 1852 on plans drawn by nationally renowned New York architect James Renwick. Built of brick and covered with stucco, today it is the only Gothic Revival courthouse in Virginia. The bell in the domed cupola was cast in the Paul Revere Foundry at Boston and given to the city in 1828 by New Yorker Silas Wood in honor of his wife, the former Miss Julia Ann Chew Brock.

## 11. Presbyterian Church

810 Princess Anne Street



Fredericksburg's Presbyterian church traces its roots back to 1805 when Dr. Samuel B. Wilson arrived to preach in town and found only two Presbyterians among the populace of 2,500 souls. Its first house of worship was ready by 1810; the present sanctuary was dedicated in 1833. The red brick building features a recessed portico with two Tuscan columns, a plain pediment and a square white cupola. Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, attended Civil War wounded in the church when it served as a Federal hospital. Two cannon balls have been built into the left portico where they lodged during the bombardment of Fredericksburg.

**12. George Washington Masonic Museum  
803 Princess Anne Street**



A 20-year old George Washington was raised a Mason in Lodge No. 4 in 1752. The lodge museum collection includes the Masonic bible on which Washington took his oath of office as president and an original Gilbert Stuart portrait of Virginia's most famous native son. The two-story brick building with twin end chimneys was erected in 1815.

**TURN RIGHT ON HANOVER STREET AND WALK A FEW STEPS UP THE STREET.**

**13. Fredericksburg United Methodist Church  
308 Hanover Street**



This church sanctuary was built in 1882, the fifth building to be used by the congregation, and the second on this site. Additions were constructed in 1912, 1924, 1951, and 1989. The reverend John Kobler, an early leader who raised funds for the church and bequeathed his home to serve as the parsonage, died in 1843 and is buried, with his wife, under the church. The congregation was officially constituted in 1802 when the first minister, the Reverend John Pitts, was appointed. Methodist meetings had been held here as early as 1800.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO PRINCESS ANNE STREET. WALK ONE MORE BLOCK ON HANOVER STREET TO CAROLINE STREET AND TURN LEFT, ENTERING THE FREDERICKSBURG SHOPPING DISTRICT. TURN RIGHT ON GEORGE STREET AND TURN LEFT ON SOPHIA STREET.**



**14. Old Stone Warehouse**  
**southeast corner of Sophia Street and William Street**



This primitive stone building reaches back to the first years of the 1700s. Some believe it was constructed as a jail but its waterfront lot suggests it may have been used as a tobacco warehouse. During the Battle of Fredericksburg in December 1862, the union artillery struck the building at least 5 times. After the battle the warehouse became a morgue. It is now owned by the City of Fredericksburg and administered by Historic Fredericksburg Foundation Inc.

**TURN LEFT ON WILLIAM STREET. TURN RIGHT ON CAROLINE STREET.**

**15. Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop**  
**1020 Caroline Street at Amelia Street**



Scottish physician and soldier Hugh Mercer took time between tours of duty on the battlefield to open an apothecary shop in Fredericksburg, believed to have been in this small clapboard building. With the advent of the American Revolution, the 50-year old Mercer signed on as a colonel and quickly became a brigadier general with the American side. He served splendidly in New York and New Jersey until his heroic death on the field in Princeton in January 1777 deprived Washington of one of his ablest lieutenants.

## 16. **Fielding Lewis' Store** **Caroline and Lewis streets**



This small red brick with its fashionable stone corner quoins appeared on the Fredericksburg street grid in 1749. It belonged to John Lewis whose son Fielding ran the mercantile arm of the family's extensive shipping operations. Fielding married George Washington's only sister the year after the store opened. The marriage produced 11 children who could call the Father of our Country "Uncle George." His experience running the store served Lewis well during the American Revolution when he served as Commissary General of Munitions. He died in Fredericksburg in 1781. The building changed from commercial to residential use in 1823 and remained a private home until 1996 when it was donated to the Historic Fredericksburg Foundation.

## 17. **LibraryPoint** **1201 Caroline Street**



The first books were lent in Fredericksburg in 1822 but the city did not get a public library until 1909 when a small building was constructed at 817 Princess Anne Street with a \$15,000 bequest by Captain S. Wistar Wallace. With the establishment of the Central Rappahannock Regional Library in 1969 the City donated the former Lafayette school building, constructed in the Colonial Revival style in 1907, to house the library.

**18. Rising Sun Tavern**  
**1304 Caroline Street**



George Washington's brother Charles built this steep-gabled structure as his home in 1760, but by the Revolution it was being used as the Rising Sun Tavern under the congenial ministrations of its host, George Weedon. Born in Germany, Weedon was a fervent Revolutionary, and the public house was known as a center of political activity.

Weedon, a German veteran of the French and Indian War, took up arms as lieutenant colonel of the 3rd Virginia Regiment, second in command to Hugh Mercer. Known to his men as "Joe Gourd," Weedon fought with distinction and was soon promoted to brigadier general. His actions at Brandywine were credited with enabling the Continental Army to effect a successful retreat and continue the rebellion. At Yorktown, Weedon directed the Virginia militia as he concluded his military career. After the British surrender at Yorktown Washington and Lafayette celebrated at the Rising Sun Tavern. Weedon died 12 years later in 1793.

**TURN LEFT ON FAUQUIER STREET.**

**19. St. James' House**  
**1300 Charles Street at Fauquier Street**



Dating to the 1760s, this is one the few frame houses in town to survive over 200 years. James Mercer, a lawyer and member of the Virginia House of Burgesses, constructed the core of the oft-expanded house.

**TURN LEFT ON CHARLES STREET.**

**20. Mary Washington House**  
**1200 Charles Street at Lewis Street**



This was the Michael Robinson House before George Washington bought it for his mother in 1772, removing her from the rigors of maintaining the family plantation at Ferry Farm east of town. She lived the last 17 years of her life in this home, just three blocks from her daughter Betty at Millbank. Just before her death in 1789, Washington left for his presidential inauguration from this house, having obtained his mother's blessing.

**TURN RIGHT ON LEWIS STREET.**

**21. Kenmore**  
**1201 Washington Avenue at Lewis Street**



Colonel Fielding Lewis, sporting a prominent Virginia pedigree, married George Washington's cousin Catherine and, after her death, the American commander's only sister, Betty. These personal - and later - business, ties between Washington and Lewis were only strengthened by the Revolution. Poor health prevented Lewis from serving on the battlefield, but he organized and supervised a small-arms factory in Fredericksburg and kept it running through 1781, using loans secured on personal collateral.

**TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON AVENUE.**

## 22. Fredericksburg Confederate Cemetery Washington Avenue and William Street



Established in 1867, the graveyard contains the remains of more than 3,300 Southern soldiers, 2,184 of whom are unidentified. Although the cemetery is relatively small, six Confederate generals are buried here: Seth M. Barton, Dabney H. Maury, Abner M. Perrin, Daniel Ruggles, Henry H. Sibley, and Carter L. Stevenson. A monument of a confederate soldier was erected in 1884.

**TURN LEFT ON WILLIAM STREET AND WALK EAST TOWARDS THE RIVER, BACK TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.**

# A Walking Tour of Leesburg, Virginia

## from **walkthetown.com**

Leesburg has always been a crossroads town; today it is US Highway 15 running north-south and Virginia Highway 7 running east-west. In Colonial times those routes were known as the Carolina Road and the Potomac Ridge Road. In 1757 the Virginia Assembly designated the small settlement at the crossroads for the seat of its new Loudoun County. The land at that time was owned by Nicholas Minor and he knew how to take advantage of his political windfall. He had his 60 acres platted into 70 lots which he began selling for £3 with the provision that a brick, stone or wood house be constructed within three years or the property would revert back to Minor. Thus was a town built.

Minor called his utopia George Town but the King's name was jettisoned the following year in favor of the Lee family, whose members Philip Ludwell Lee and Francis Lightfoot Lee were town trustees responsible for regulating building in the town. By the time of the Revolution had grown to nearly 500 residents. In addition to court business, Leesburg developed into a market town for farmers looking to move goods out of the Shenandoah Valley. The opening of the Leesburg Turnpike in 1820 accelerated that trade.

Leesburg was visited early by the Civil War when on October 21, 1861, a Union force of 1,000 crossed the Potomac River at Ball's Bluff and met one of the North's first disasters of the conflict. Oregon senator Edward Baker, a close personal friend of Abraham Lincoln, led his command foolishly under the bluffs controlled by Confederate troops. Rifle fire from above killed Baker and half his force, many of whom were trapped between rifle fire and unscalable cliffs. Others drowned and their bodies floated down the river to Washington. Union prisoners were held on the courthouse lawn, and wounded from both sides were placed in homes and public buildings. The Battle of Ball's Bluff was the largest battle of the war fought in Loudoun County but settled nothing. By war's end, Leesburg changed hands about 150 times over the course of the war.

After the war Leesburg's proximity to Washington and northern markets enabled it to find its antebellum prosperity with alacrity. Farmers were soon moving corn and milk and beef on the railroad that resumed operation in 1867. Soon that railroad was running commuter trains to Washington and in 1920 the electric express Washington-Leesburg Limited clicked along between the towns at a remarkable 26 mph.

With Leesburg's suburban expansion gobbling up land in the mid-20th century the Town Council established the Old and Historic District in 1963, only the fifth such district to be created in Virginia (after Alexandria, Richmond, Charlottesville, and Williamsburg). Our explorations will follow the brick sidewalks of the historic district and we'll begin on the outskirts of town where one of Leesburg's most famous native sons is honored...



**1. Thomas Balch Library**  
**208 West Market Street**



The first books lent in Leesburg came from a small private subscription library out of the home of a member in 1907. For many years the annual subscription fee was \$1.00. The library society was able to move into this brick Georgian Revival home in 1922 after an energetic fundraising campaign. Chief among the contributors were Edwin Swift Balch and Thomas Willing Balch who donated \$10,000 in the memory of their father, Thomas. Born in Leesburg a century earlier in 1821, Thomas Balch was a noted historian whose most famous work was *The French in America during the War of Independence of the United States, 1777-1783*. But he is best remembered not for the French in the American Revolution but the British in the American Civil War. He drafted a plan for a resolution to the squabble between the United States and Great Britain over the English assistance to the Confederacy that resulted in a \$15 million settlement and earned Balch the title of “Father of International Arbitration.” The building was designed by busy Washington architect Waddy Wood who did much to transform the nation’s capital with his classical designs on the Federal Triangle. It features a hipped roof over a square central block with a cupola and porthole windows. The library remained a subscription-only lending institution until 1960 but was not desegregated until 1965 when books were finally available for all.

**WITH YOUR BACK TO THE BALCH LIBRARY, TURN LEFT AND WALK DOWN MARKET STREET TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN.**

**2. Leesburg Presbyterian Church**  
**207 West Market Street**



Circuit-riding Presbyterian preachers began stopping around Loudoun County in the 1760s. This church building was dedicated on May 4, 1804 although the original parishioners would be hard pressed to recognize it today. There were extensive alterations in the 1870s and around 1900 the bell and belfry were installed. One thing that has never changed are the downstairs pews - they are the original ones used since 1804.



**3. Leesburg United Methodist Church**  
**107 West Market Street**



This Greek Revival-influenced brick church with Ionic pilasters was built in 1852. It was used as a hospital in the wake of the Battle of Balls Bluff during the Civil War. The congregation is descended from the very beginnings of the town and the now-demolished Old Stone Church, whose site is...

**TURN AND WALK BACK TO THE CORNER WITH LIBERTY STREET. TURN RIGHT AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO CORNWALL STREET. TURN RIGHT ON CORNWALL STREET.**

**4. Old Stone Church Site**  
**Cornwall Street at Liberty Street**



On May 11, 1766, Nicholas Minor deeded Lot 50, a half acre of property, to Robert Hamilton, a Methodist convert, for "four pounds current money of Virginia, for no other use but for a church or meeting house and grave yard." The site is the earliest known Methodist-owned church site in America. Two years later the town's first church was erected here of fieldstone. It was replaced by a larger meetinghouse on the same site in 1785 and the single gable, five-bay by three-bay structure became known as the Old Stone Church for over a century. In 1901 the church was sold by court order for \$416.05. The building was torn down and the materials incorporated into various buildings in Leesburg.

**5. St. James Episcopal Church  
14 Cornwall Street NW**



Shelburne Parish was cleaved from the western regions of the Parish of Cameron in 1769; the first St. James church would, a small brick meetinghouse, would come along in 1812. It would be torn down and replaced in 1838 and the cornerstone for the present church would be laid in 1895. Washington architect Leon Dessez adapted the Richardsonian Romanesque style pioneered by Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential American architect of the post Civil War era, for this building. It features such hallmarks of the style as powerful arched entries, groupings of window openings in threes, a corner tower and multiple materials, here most evidenced by the brownstone trim.

**TURN LEFT ON KING STREET.**

**6. Chapel of the Immaculate Conception  
231 North King Street**



The original wooden building for Saint John The Apostle Roman Catholic Church was constructed here on the edge of town in 1878 when the parish boasted but 80 families. It was cobbled together by local carpenters. In 1936, a wealthy parishioner directed the transformation of the simple meetinghouse into a version of a medieval French country church. The trefoil, three-lobed windows are French imports and the half-timbered porches are based on the elongated proportions seen in the portals of Chartres Cathedral. With a parish roster of some 3,000 families today, St. John's has moved on to ever larger spaces but the chapel is still used for masses and weddings.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON KING STREET, WALKING SOUTH TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN.**

**7. Lightfoot Restaurant  
11 North King Street**



In 1888, Elijah White assisted in establishing the Peoples National Bank of Leesburg on King Street, which remained in operation until December 31, 1983 when it merged with First American Bank of Virginia. From 1997 to 1999, the Romanesque vault of stone and brick was fully restored and is now the upscale Lightfoot Restaurant.

**8. Loudoun County Courthouse  
East Market Street and North King Street**



This has been the site for the courthouse since Loudoun County was formed in 1757. Although it looks like it could have been here for all those 250 years it is actually the third building to grace the site. It was constructed in 1894 on plans drawn by William C. West of Richmond. West was only 24 years old at the time, having taken over the successful practice of his father, Albert, who had died two years earlier. The Confederate memorial of rough-hewn granite was erected in 1908.

**TURN RIGHT AT MARKET STREET.**

**9. Tally Ho Theatre  
19 W. Market Street**



The Tally Ho Theatre screened its first movie on September 21, 1931, with the *Sporting Blood* starring Clark Gable and some unsavory shenanigans at the racetrack as the feature.

Originally a single theater, it remained in operation until 2000 when Regal Cinemas lost its lease. It remained dark only a few years, however, until local ownership resurrected the movie house for another run.

**10. Town Hall**  
**25 West Market Street**



The town government has led a peripatetic existence through the years. For many years it holed up in the former Leesburg Opera House at the corner of King and Loudoun streets before it was demolished in the 1950s. This property has developed through the years until a dedicated town government center was completed in 1989.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ALONG MARKET STREET BACK TO THE INTERSECTION WITH KING STREET AND CROSS.**

**11. Loudoun National Bank Building**  
**1 East Market Street at South King Street**



In its day, Loudoun National Bank was the county's oldest, established in 1870. This building, still used as a banking house, has anchored the town's most prominent corners since 1901. Its original Beaux Arts-flavored stone facade was given a more streamlined Art Deco-influenced makeover in the 1920s.

**12. Loudoun *Times-Mirror***  
**9 East Market Street**



The first printed newspaper that appeared in Leesburg was called the *True American* and was printed in 1798. Patrick McIntyre purchased the fledgling operation in 1800 and struggled mightily to keep it afloat before he could do no more. But McIntyre was back in the game in 1808 with a mouthpiece for the party of Mr. Jefferson called *The Washingtonian*. It would continue publishing throughout the 19th century.

In 1855 J.B. Taylor and B.F. Sheetz hit the streets with the Loudoun *Mirror*. The new paper would survive the departure of Sheetz and the onset of the Civil War and emerge by 1865 simply as the *The Mirror*. In 1903 *The Mirror* and *The Washingtonian* merged and in 1924 the paper absorbed the Loudoun *Times* that had been started in 1916 by Harry T. Harrison. Today the Loudoun *Times-Mirror* remains the county's largest newspaper and has operated out of this building, constructed as a Dodge Motor Company showroom, since 1955.

**13. United States Post Office**  
**15 East Market Street**



There was a time when the only contact the American people had with the federal government was with the post office. To that end, in the early 20th century the government set out to provide small towns with a significant piece of architecture via its post office buildings. Here the handsome 1923 post office was designed in the fashionable Colonial Revival style with a classical entry, raised brick corner quoins, and a balustraded roof.

**14. Leesburg Academy**  
**16 East Market Street**



Leesburg Academy was chartered by an act of the Virginia Assembly in 1799 to provide education in classical Latin studies for boys. A \$10,000 lottery was proposed in 1836 to fund a new building for the school which appeared in 1845, next to the courthouse. The private school, unlike many of its brethren, survived the Civil War but abandoned its handsome Greek Revival quarters for new digs on North Street. But the coming wave of public education soon swept the Leesburg Academy out of business in 1879. The original Academy building with its imposing Ionic portico was purchased by the county and incorporated into its judicial complex.

**WALK DOWN THE SLOPE AND STAY ON EAST MARKET STREET AS IT BENDS RIGHT AT THE SPLIT. MAKE YOUR WAY THROUGH THE PARKING LOT FOR THE SHOPS OF DODONA AND ONTO THE GROUNDS OF DODONA MANOR VIA A BRICK WALKWAY.**

**15. Dodona Manor**  
**310-312 East Market Street**



Sixty-one year old Brigadier General George C. Marshall was two years into his job as Army Chief of Staff in 1941 and, with an eye towards retirement, purchased this 3.88 acre property and its early 19th-century manor house. Marshall hoped to devote most of his hours to his love of gardening but winning World War II and rebuilding Europe in its aftermath, for which he would win a Nobel Peace Prize, would instead occupy most of his time. Marshall would not be able to formally retire to Dodona Manor, which he named after the ancient Greek oracle that spoke through oak leaves like the ones that graced the grove of trees surrounding his house, until 1953. The manor house that Marshall would call home after 41 years of military housing was an elegant two-story Federal-style residence built between 1805 and 1826 by John Drish. George Marshall died in 1959 and the house remained in his family until 1995. Today the house and gardens are open to the public.

**WALK BACK OUT TO EAST MARKET STREET AND HEAD BACK TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN. TURN LEFT ON HARRISON STREET IN FRONT OF THE NEW COUNTY GOVERNMENT BUILDING AND TURN RIGHT ON LOUDOUN STREET.**

**16. Patterson House**  
**4 Loudoun Street, SE**



Mentally remove the entrance porch, a later Colonial Revival addition, and you have a fine example of a typical late 1700s Leesburg building. It is a relatively unadorned symmetrical Georgian-style structure with a heavy modillion cornice, composed of uncoursed local fieldstone. John Patterson was a land agent who arrived in Loudoun County in 1759 to collect rents for Charles Bennett, the Earl of Tankerville. He also was doing a bit of speculating himself and died mired in debt in the early 1770s. This was his property and his brother was forced to sell it off to help settle the dead man's affairs. Patterson may have developed the property but this large five-bay stone structure is generally thought to have been built as a tavern by Henry McCabe after the Revolutionary War in the 1780s.

**17. Loudoun Museum Log Cabin**  
**14 Loudoun Street SW**



This log house was the first project undertaken by the Loudoun Restoration and Preservation Society. It was originally constructed around 1760 by Stephen Donaldson, a silversmith. Donaldson obtained the property after the lot's original owner failed to erect a structure meeting the specifications in the deed issued by Nicholas Minor who subdivided his land to form the Town of Leesburg.

Leesburg was actually not that rustic a place when this diamond-notch log house was constructed. Donaldson clad his house in wooden siding. When the building was saved from demolition in the 1970s it was decided to strip away the veneer to highlight its construction.

**18. Do Drop Inn**  
**16 Loudoun Street SW**



This simple two-story structure began life in the mid-19th century as the home of a furniture/undertaking business. In the early 1900s it was outfitted as the Do Drop Inn, one of the earliest African American businesses in Leesburg. Now home to the Loudoun Museum, there are many Civil War artifacts here, especially those pertaining to Loudoun's war hero, Confederate "Gray Ghost" John Singleton Mosby.

**19. The Birkby House**  
**109 Loudoun Street SW**



This example of a high-style Federal five-bay residence is an 1820s brick composite accomplished by Thomas Birkby. Birkby acquired the property in 1827, a piece of land that was designated as lot 59 on the original survey of the town. The first owner was James Hamilton, a trustee of the town and future member of the House of Burgesses, who purchased it in 1758 for £10, a premium since it already included a structure on the property. Across the street is another Federal-style house, the Norris House, that has been gussied up over the years. The two houses are linked not only by period of construction but by marriage, a Birkby girl married a Norris boy.

**TURN RIGHT ON LIBERTY STREET AND LEFT ON MARKET STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.**



# A Walking Tour of Manassas, Virginia **from walkthetown.com**

The Manassas Gap and the Orange and Alexandria railroads crossed in Manassas, a surveyor's decision in the 1850s that transformed this small farming community into one of America's best known towns in the Civil War. In an attempt to control that railroad junction the Northern and Southern armies clashed twice in the first two years of the war five miles north of town near a creek called Bull Run, resulting in 30,000 casualties.

On July 21, 1861, the Civil War was expected to end. The fully equipped Union army under General Irvin McDowell was prepared to take the field for the first time at Bull Run. The complete submission of the rebels was considered such a certainty that the Federal troops were accompanied by picnickers and sightseers. After ten hours of bloody fighting, the Union army was in retreat and it was apparent this was not going to be a one-battle war.

The armies returned to Bull Run a year later, seasoned and spirited. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia was at the peak of its power, and he out maneuvered General John Pope's Union army in three days of struggle beginning on August 28. With his masterful victory here, Lee was able to carry the war to the North for the first time.

During the Civil War, both sides used the fledgling town as a supply base and twice Manassas was ravaged. Rebuilt after the hostilities ended, the town grew during the Victorian era of the 1880s and 1890s and became the Prince William County seat in 1892. A devastating fire swept through the commercial district in 1905 with only two brick buildings surviving the conflagration. Thereafter Manassas remained a small town for most of the 20th century. It became a city in 1975. Known for its Civil War history, Manassas trumpets its Old Town historic district.

Our explorations of the early 20th century Manassas streetscape will begin at the landmark that defines the town, a splendid relic from the golden age of railroading...



**1. Norfolk-Southern Railway Passenger Station  
at railroad tracks between West and Battle streets**



This well-preserved passenger depot, still active today, was constructed for the Norfolk-Southern Railway in 1914. It is the third station to be built on this site and stands as one of the few such preserved stations in northern Virginia. The hipped shingle roof overhangs eaves supported by large brackets and posts. The station is surmounted by a central octagonal turret; it is patterned after its 1910 predecessor which burned.

**WALK SOUTH ON WEST STREET, STAYING ON THE SAME SIDE OF THE TRACKS AS THE PASSENGER STATION. TURN LEFT ON PRINCE WILLIAM STREET.**

**2. Baldwin Park  
9101 Prince William Street**



The small greenspace includes the Manassas Museum, established in 1974 to preserve and present the history and culture of Manassas and the Northern Virginia Region. Civil War artifacts and lithographs tell the story of the fighting in Manassas and the importance of the railroads to both sides.

**WALK NORTH ON BATTLE STREET ACROSS FROM THE PARK. CROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS, WITH THE PASSENGER STATION ON YOUR LEFT.**

**3. Hopkins Candy Factory**  
**9416 Battle Street**



C. A. S. Hopkins, an Ohio native, began making soft candies in 1900 in a frame building on West Street. Inside his living room-sized factory some two dozen churned out an assortment of regionally popular sweets. In 1908 the operation moved to this three story brick building, designed by Manassas architect Albert Speiden. Hopkins added confectionery, toys, cereal products, extracts, cakes, crackers and candy to his product line and soon a small platoon of salesmen had Hopkins candy in every state east of the Mississippi River. More than 10,000 pounds of candy was shipping from the factory every day.

The Hopkins Company, operated from 1900 to at least 1915. They apparently sold out in 1916 to the Manassas Feed and Milling Company which operated from this building for decades. After that it served many masters until being donated to the City of Manassas in 1998. Today, the building begins its second century as an arts center.

**4. Peoples National Bank**  
**9110 Center Street at Battle Street**



The People's National Bank brought this sophisticated example of the Renaissance Revival style to this corner in 1904. In addition to the decorative brick frieze the building is ornamented by stone corner quoins and window lintels. The single story addition to the west is a later addition.

**TURN RIGHT ON CENTER STREET.**

**5. Old Post Office**  
**9113 Center Street at Battle Street**



This prominent town corner was graced in the early years of the 1900s with excellent examples of Renaissance Revival architecture. This brick building with decorative brickwork in the parapet was built by Judge C.E. Nicol in 1906 and was used to house the post office until 1923.

**6. Nicols Building**  
**9107 Center Street**



Architect John Tillett gave this building an imaginative blend of Renaissance motifs - a falt roof with parapet, a blind arcade at the second floor, decorative brickwork, bricks laid to resemble rusticated stone blocks and a curvilinear parapet to display the Masonic emblem. The facade has changed little since its construction.

**7. Conner Building**  
**9102 Center Street**



This two-story, six bay commercial Italianate building appeared on the Manassas streetscape in 1907. It was constructed by E.R. Conner after a fire in 1906 destroyed this entire block. It sports a cornice with bracketed modillions and decorative brick work that creates stringcourses and arches over the upper windows. The first floor housed stores and the second floor hosted the town's opera house. the Conner Building was the first place in Manassas to be electrically lighted.

**8. Manassas Town Hall**  
**9025 Center Street**



Hometown architect Albert Speiden drew up the plans for Manassas' first town hall, which was built in 1915. The Colonial Revival composition features a rusticated stone and brick base, segmental-arched openings with keystones, wrought iron balconets, and a refined classical cornice with castellated parapet. The brick building was originally surmounted by a balustraded platform supporting a domed wooden cupola that was removed after a storm in 1958 and restored in 2002. The large lower windows were once bays for the fire company that was housed on the first floor with the town council chamber above.

**RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO MAIN STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

**9. National Bank of Manassas**  
**9366 North Main Street**



Currently the home of Historic Manassas, this compact Romanesque Revival structure was built by John A. Cannon in 1896 on plans drawn by the town's go-to architect Albert Speiden for the National Bank of Manassas. The red brick building is richly decorated with red sandstone trim that creates corner quoins, arches, keystones and a prominent lunette in the front gable. A small pinnacle atop the gable crowns the confection. This was the town's first bank and after 1912 it did duty as a law office, art gallery and the original Manassas Museum from 1974 until 1990.

The bank is one of the first projects undertaken by Albert Speiden after he and his brother William left the U.S. Patent Office where they were draftsmen to start their own architectural shop in Alexandria. Albert moved to Manassas in 1904 to marry a local girl. He would design scores of houses, theaters, churches and commercial buildings throughout northern Virginia until his death in 1933.

**10. Bull Run Universalist Church**  
**9400 North Main Street at Church Street**



This is the best example of early 20th-century Gothic Revival architecture in Manassas, constructed as the Grace Methodist Church and dedicated in 1931. The brick building is dominated by a square corner bell tower with an open belfry and crenellated parapet.

**TURN LEFT ON CHURCH STREET.**

**11. Manassas Presbyterian Church**  
**9329 Church Street**



The oldest church in Manassas, locally quarried red sandstone was used to craft the Victorian Gothic structure. After a century of service to the congregation the building was remodeled to serve as a restaurant. Its one-time steeple was removed and original Tiffany windows followed the congregation to its new home. The church had a cameo role in the anti-communist Hollywood melodrama *My Son John* from 1952 with Helen Hayes coming out of retirement to play the lead role.

**12. Manassas Post Office**  
**9108 Church Street**



This Depression-era project, helmed by supervising architect James A. Wermore, is a fine representation of the Colonial Revival construction that was sponsored by the federal government across the country in the 1930s. The single-story brick building features stone keystones over the windows, a denticulated stone cornice, brick corner quoins and a triangular entrance pediment with full entablature under styled Corinthian columns.

**TURN RIGHT ON WEST STREET.**

**13. Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**9325 West Street**



Albert Speiden took the original frame church that stood on this site and incorporated it into his Gothic design for this 1922 yellow brick church. It sports pointed arch windows and entry, brick-formed buttresses and a corner belltower.

**TURN LEFT ONTO BARTOW PLACE OPPOSITE THE CHURCH AND FOLLOW IT TO GRANT AVENUE.**



**14. William County Courthouse**  
**Lee and Grant avenues**



In the early 1890s the town council issued \$3,000 in bonds to construct the courthouse and the adjoining jail and clerk's office. The courthouse, designed by James C. Teague and Philip T. Marye, of Norfolk and Newport News and completed in 1894, is a polychromatic structure built of sandstone and brick with a wooden octagonal cupola crowning the composition. It is one of only a handful of Victorian Romanesque courthouses in Virginia. This is the fifth county courthouse and was replaced by a newer model in 1984.

In July, 1911, a week-long celebration of national healing and reunion took place when the Manassas National Jubilee of Peace brought together Union and Confederate veterans fifty years after the first major battle of the Civil War. The festivities culminated on July 21, the battle's anniversary. The Union and Confederate veterans fell into opposing lines on Henry House Hill, where fifty years before they had clashed in mortal combat. On a signal, the two sides approached each other, and as they met they clasped hands in friendship and reconciliation. After a picnic on the battlefield, the crowd returned to the Prince William County Courthouse to listen to a speech by President William Howard Taft. Civil War veterans later held reunions on other great Civil War battlefields, but just as Manassas had been the site of the first major engagement of the war, it was also the site of the first reunion of these former adversaries.

**TURN LEFT ON GRANT AVENUE. TURN LEFT ON CENTER STREET**

**15. Loy E. Harris Pavilion**  
**9201 Center Street at West Street**



Opened in 2002, the development of this City Square is dedicated to the community improvement efforts of Loy E. Harris. Through the year the pavilion hosts a farmer's market, ice skating, chili

cook-offs and the like. Also in the Square is a caboose that has been retired from its days on the Southern Railway.

**EXIT THE SQUARE ON THE WEST STREET SIDE. TURN RIGHT AND CROSS THE TRACKS TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.**

## IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

### *Recognizing Early American Architecture:*

#### Postmedieval English Colonial (1600-1700)

- \* steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
- \* small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
- \* massive chimney
- \* vertical board (batten) door
- \* little or no eave overhang, no cornice detailing
- \* one room deep

#### Dutch Colonial (1625-1840)

- \* side-gabled roof
- \* usually one story
- \* batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
- \* little or no eave overhang

#### French Colonial (1700-1830)

- \* steeply pitched roof, either hipped or side-gabled
- \* one story
- \* tall, narrow door and window openings
- \* doors and windows typically divided vertically into pairs
- \* walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

#### Spanish Colonial (1660-1850)

- \* low-pitched or flat roof
- \* normally one story
- \* few small windows
- \* multiple external doors
- \* walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
- \* long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

#### Georgian (1700-1780)

- \* windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- \* paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most often pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supported by decorative pilasters
- \* row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
- \* cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- \* windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

### Adamesque (Federal) (1780-1820)

- \* windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- \* semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
- \* cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- \* windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
- \* while similar to Georgian, features are often “lighter”

### Greek Revival (1825-1860)

- \* gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
- \* entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
  - Doric: plain capitals
  - Ionic: capitals with scroll-like spirals
  - Corinthian: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
- \* narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
- \* cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

### *Recognizing Victorian Architecture:*

#### General Victorian Features (1840-1910)

- \* roof ornaments
- \* bay (protruding) windows
- \* three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
- \* gingerbread porch trim

#### Gothic Revival Style (1835-1875)

- \* high-pitched center gables
- \* pointed arch windows and doors
- \* pendants and finials extending from roof

#### Italianate Style (1840-1885)

- \* brackets under roof cornices
- \* cupolas on the roof
- \* narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
- \* tall, slender windows

### Second Empire Style (1855-1885)

- \* mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
- \* molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
- \* eaves normally with decorative brackets below

### Stick Style (1860-1890)

- \* stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
- \* stick-like grid on wall surfaces
- \* Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
- \* pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
- \* decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gables
- \* wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

### Queen Anne Style (1880-1910)

- \* asymmetrical facade
- \* patterned shingles
- \* turned porch posts and trim
- \* corner towers and turrets
- \* wraparound porch
- \* steeply pitched, irregular roofline

### Shingle Style (1880-1900)

- \* shingled walls without interruption at corners
- \* multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
- \* extensive porches
- \* walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

### Richardsonian Romanesque (1880-1900)

- \* based on the innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
- \* round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
- \* most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
- \* always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
- \* facade usually asymmetrical

## *Recognizing 20th century Architecture:*

### Colonial Revival (1885 and beyond)

- \* accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
- \* symmetrical facade around centered entrance
- \* windows with double-hung sashes
- \* large dormers
- \* round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

### Neoclassical (1895-1950)

- \* facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
- \* facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
- \* revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
- \* often very large

### Tudor (1890 -1940)

- \* massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
- \* facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply perched
- \* decorative half-timbering often present
- \* steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
- \* tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
- \* walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

### French Chateausque (1890-1930)

- \* busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
- \* steeply pitched hipped roof
- \* multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
- \* walls of masonry, usually stone

### Beaux Arts (1890-1930)

- \* wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
- \* masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
- \* facade with corner quoins and columns, oftne paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
- \* first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
- \* facade symmetrical

### Spanish Mission Style (1890-1930)

- \* shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
- \* porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
- \* commonly with red tile roof covering
- \* widely overhanging eaves, usually open
- \* wall surface usually smooth stucco

### Pueblo Revival (1910-present)

- \* flat roof with parapeted wall above
- \* stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
- \* projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
- \* wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
- \* unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
- \* tile or brick floors

### Prairie Style (1900-1920)

- \* low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
- \* two stories with one-story porches or wings
- \* massive square porch supports
- \* detail emphasizing horizontal lines
- \* hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
- \* one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

### Craftsman (1905-1930)

- \* low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
- \* roof rafters usually exposed
- \* porches supported by square columns
- \* decorative braces or false beams under gables
- \* columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
- \* generally one or one-and-a-half stories

### Art Deco (1920-1940)

- \* zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
- \* towers and other vertical projections
- \* smooth stucco wall surface
- \* decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reeding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern

### Art Moderne (1920-1940)

- \* streamline, curved corners
- \* smooth stucco wall surface
- \* asymmetrical facade
- \* flat roof, usually with ledge at roof line
- \* horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
- \* windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
- \* glass-block windows or sections of the wall

### International (1925-present)

- \* no decorative detailing at doors or windows
- \* smooth, unornamental wall surface
- \* asymmetrical facade
- \* flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
- \* windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls