

**Look Up,  
Shenandoah  
Valley!**

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

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

Front Royal developed along three major travel routes that intersected her. Today's Chester Street was the main route from Chester's Gap in the Blue Ridge to Thomas Chester's ferry that crossed the Shenandoah River near present day Riverton, north of Front Royal. The road continued northwest of the ferry crossing, until it reached Winchester, the valley's main trade center. Today's South Royal Avenue follows the age-old path along the eastern shore of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River before crossing both branches of the Shenandoah River and linking with the Valley's foremost travel route, the Great Wagon Road. Today's East Main Street connected the other two routes with Rappahannock County and the population and trade centers in central Virginia.

Industrious settlers and hard-working teamsters were not the only ones plying pre-Revolutionary War roads, however. Enough shady characters, rough-hewn mountaineers and unsavory river travelers congregated here that it was commonly known as "Helltown." In 1788 the frontier settlement was incorporated as Front Royal, although the murky origins of the name are lost to history.

Industry came to the town in the 1820s when Joseph Tuley put a tannery into operation. The next decade when Warren County was carved out of the political landscape, Front Royal was chosen as the seat of government. With its blend of small industry and civic duties Front Royal was better able to withstand the ravages of the Civil War than some of its plantation-based neighbors. In fact, by 1880, Front Royal's population doubled from 1870. The town's economy ticked along with breweries, flour milling, small manufacturing and other goods and services. Into the 20th century just as the Great Depression was suffocating the country, Shenandoah National Park and Skyline Drive were opening in Front Royal's backyard. It's position at Mile Marker 0.6 has brought the town full circle back to its influential position on a major travel route.

The Front Royal Historic District comprises 170 acres that blanket the commercial core of the town and, appropriately, we will begin our walking tour at the downtown remnant of Front Royal's transportation past...



**1. Passenger Station/Visitor Center**  
**414 East Main Street**



The first trains steamed into Front Royal in 1854 when the Manassas Gap Railroad joined the Orange & Alexandria Railroad. The iron tracks barely had time to cool, however, before they were torn up in the Civil War. Service would not be restored until the 1870s and grew steadily until by World War I six trains a day were chugging into this frame depot, constructed around 1915 by the Southern Railway. The last passenger boarded in 1946 and freight service was discontinued in 1954. The passenger station was refurbished in the 1980s and now tourist brochures are displayed in place of railroad timetables.

**WALK THROUGH THE COMMONS IN FRONT OF THE VISITOR CENTER OVER TO THE DIAGONAL INTERSECTION OF CHESTER STREET AND MAIN STREET. TURN RIGHT ON CHESTER STREET.**

**2. Mullan-Trout House**  
**12 Chester Street**



Thomas Mullan built this three-bay Federal-style house between 1806 and 1815. Methodist preacher David Trout acquired the property in 1853 when he was 58 years old and lived the final 16 years of his life here. Two of his three maiden daughters remained here through the First World War. One of them, Catherine “Brucie” Trout, was remembered in journals from the 1st Virginia Cavalry kept during the Civil War: “Some of us got a girl at the big mill near Luray to make us some real coffee. Very fine. Brucie Trout was the girl and she was very pretty and kind to us.” In her later years she was a well-known local poet and wrote the dedicatory poem for the 1899 unveiling of the stone monument in Prospect Hill Cemetery that honors the seven members of Mosby’s Rangers who were illegally executed as spies by the Federals in 1864 in Front Royal.

**3. Garrison House**  
**15 Chester Street**



This well-proportioned brick house was constructed in the Italianate style in 1882 with tall windows and bracketed cornice. The roofline is augmented by a Gothic-influenced central peak. It was constructed for Confederate Army surgeon Manly Littleton Garrison who practiced family medicine for 50 years in a small office that once stood in the yard.

**4. Samuels Apartments**  
**29 Chester Street**



The core of this building was constructed by a co-founding father of Front Royal, Henry Trout around 1800. Trout was a well-respected wheelwright on the western frontier and lived here until 1817. Beloved town doctor Anderson Brown was a long-time occupant until his death in 1869. Bernard Samuels converted the property into apartments in the mid-1920s. The brick sidewalk out front is the original pavement from the 1800s.

**5. Williams Chapel**  
**231 Peyton Street at Chester Street**



This simple brick Greek Revival building, dating to about 1845, originally housed a small Presbyterian congregation in town. It stands as the only surviving antebellum church in Front Royal. During the first year of the Civil War, it served as the seat of county government when the courthouse was pressed into duty as a hospital. The Presbyterians stayed until 1885 when they left

for more commodious quarters at the northwest corner of South Royal Avenue and West Jackson Street. In 1899 the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church purchased the building and named it for a prominent church bishop, R.S. Williams. The chapel soldiers on today, minus much of its original ornamentation.

**6. Balthis House**  
**55 Chester Street**



Begun as early as 1787, before the town was even chartered, this is considered to be the oldest surviving building in the Front Royal historic district. In its original form, as constructed by James Moore, one of the town's founders, the house was a simple two-story, three-bay wide structure with a side chimney. Over the years the building was added on to and stylized. William Balthis was a village blacksmith whose family lived here from 1838 to 1908.

**7. Buck House**  
**64 Chester Street**



This late Queen Anne-style Victorian house was constructed for Lucy and Laura Buck in 1905. Lucy Rebecca Buck was born on September 25, 1842 the third of what would be thirteen children to William and Elizabeth Buck. Buck was a leading merchant in town and the family lived in an elegant home known as Bel Air, built in 1795 by Captain Thomas Buck. Lucy kept a diary of the events she witnessed from Bel Air during the Civil War that would be published as Sad Earth, Sweet Heaven in 1973. The Buck sisters moved here after they were forced to sell their ancestral home.

**8. Warren Rifles Confederate Museum**  
**95 Chester Street**



Captain Robert H. Simpson, a teacher, organized the Warren Rifles in Front Royal. In early 1860, he attached the Rifles to the 149th Regiment Virginia Militia. The company marched to Winchester on April 18, 1861 to enroll for active service. Their story is told in this small museum, set up in a 1959 brick building. Their collection of Confederate memorabilia is one of the finest in the country with artifacts of such Southern heroes as Lee, Jackson, Early and Mosby on display.

**9. Ivy Lodge**  
**101 Chester Street (front)**



This building has its origins in the Federal period of architecture in the 1920s and picked up Greek Revival detailing later in the 1850s when it was owned briefly by George Tyler. Known as Ivy Lodge, it served as a frequent meeting location for several local groups. In 1868, the Warren Ladies' Memorial Association was founded here and in 1904 the Warren Rifles Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy was established in the same house. The building also did duty as the town library before becoming home to the Warren Heritage society that was established in 1971.

**10. Belle Boyd Cottage**  
**101 Chester Street (rear)**



Front Royal was once known as "Hell Town" for the unsavory characters who gathered here. The temptress Boyd Belle invited Union general Nathaniel Banks and his officers to a ball here, then

sneaked away on horseback to tell Stonewall Jackson of the loose-lipped Federals' plans. The next morning Jackson captured 750 of Banks's 1,000 men. Boyd, born in Martinsburg, West Virginia, in 1843, was arrested twice and released twice. She escaped to England in 1863, where she became a stage performer. She eventually married a Union officer and died in Kilbourne, Wisconsin, in 1900. Her house, now a museum depicting the Civil War era, stood at 317 East Main Street, and was moved here in 1982.

**11. Jones House**  
**106 Chester Street**



This beautifully proportioned Italianate manor house was constructed in 1870 for Gideon Jones. After losing his parents at a young age Jones began his lot in life as an apprentice to become a militia captain, post master, ferry operator and wealthy proprietor of a general store in town. Well-respected in the Methodist church, he served as Sunday School Superintendent for 50 years.

**12. Petty-Sumption House**  
**123 Chester Street**



This log structure, lovingly restored, is believed to have been constructed by George Cheek in 1788. It used to reside across the street. Henry Petty, a local pastor, purchased he house in 1873 for his parents to live out their lives in.



**13. Dunover Apartments**  
**144 Chester Street**



This five-bay brick building was constructed around 1845 and known as a ‘hospitable center of social and religious life” after the Glasscock family acquired it in 1858. So many single men found lodging here it was known as “Bachelor Hall” in the early 1900s.

**TURN LEFT ON 2ND STREET AND TURN LEFT. TURN LEFT ONTO UNION STREET THAT ANGLES BACK TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN. FOLLOW IT TO THE END AND TURN LEFT ON NORTH ROYAL AVENUE.**

**14. Weaver House**  
**35 North Royal Avenue**



Aubrey Weaver was born in Front Royal in 1882 and earned his law degree before he was twenty-one. He gained a reputation as a skilled jury lawyer and served in the Virginia General Assembly from 1912 until 1916. About that time this Colonial Revival brick house with its imposing Doric portico was erected. The Weaver house has danced around fame through the years - Aubrey Weaver secured the first divorce for Wallis Simpson, the Baltimore woman for whom King Edward VII abdicated the throne of England in 1938 and it is reported that Shirley Maclaine and Warren Beatty played here as children while visiting relatives in Front Royal.

**15. First Baptist Church**  
**14 West First Street at North Royal Avenue**



James Ireland was a distinguished Baptist preacher living in the Front Royal area as early as the 1780s and this congregation dates to the 1850s. This spireless brick church with Gothic elements is a 20th century creation.

**16. Town Hall**  
**16 North Royal Street**



The Front Royal municipal building was erected in the 1930s using Public Works Administration funds designed to stir the nation from its Depression doldrums. Architects Bascom J. Rowlett and Allen J. Saville of Richmond contributed the Colonial Revival design that was executed using native Shenandoah Valley stone. The garage bays to the side were occupied by the Front Royal Volunteer Fire Department.

**17. Front Royal United Methodist Church**  
**1 West Main Street at Royal Avenue**



Architect Benjamin D. Price designed the town's most elaborate church for this prominent corner in 1904 using native gray stone. Price incorporated Richardsonian Romanesque hallmarks such as arched windows in triplicate, multi-hued stone trim and a square tower.

**18. Afton Inn**  
**northeast corner of Main Street and Royal Avenue**



Having developed along busy transportation routes into the American frontier, hotels and inns have a long history in Front Royal. During the 19th century, weary travelers enjoyed the hospitality in at least three hotels along the length of East Main Street, referred to as the upper, middle and lower hotels. This is the only remaining hotel structure in the historic district known as the Montview Hotel and later as the Afton Inn. The oldest sections date back to circa 1868; in its boarded-up state it retains its detailed Italianate cornice.

**TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.**

**19. Confederate Monument**  
**Warren County Courthouse**  
**southeast corner of Main Street and Royal Avenue**



On May 23, 1862 Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson surprised the Federal garrison in Front Royal, capturing many prisoners and army supplies and forcing the Union Army to flee in disorder out of the Shenandoah Valley into Maryland. This was the first move in Jackson’s celebrated “Valley Campaign.” The street fighting grew especially hot in this location where one of three Confederate hospitals in town had been built. The Confederate monument stands as a reminder to “to those who fought and lived and to those who fought and died. To those who gave much, and those who gave all.” It was dedicated in 1911 and features a sculpture of a Confederate soldier standing at attention by the McNeel Marble Company of Marietta, Georgia.

**20. Warren County Courthouse**  
**southeast corner of Main Street and Royal Avenue**



This is the second courthouse to stand on this site, constructed in 1936, 100 years after the brick, two-story antebellum original was erected. Funded by Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal funds, the building of native stone was given an early Colonial appearance.

**21. 105 East Main Street**



This tiny elaborately designed brick building was originally the property of the Methodist church when it was erected in the 1890s. It features a Federal-style treatment to the doorway with sidelights and transom and Gothic woodwork in the gable. Through the decades it has done duty as a bank, law offices, restaurant, gift shop and tattoo parlor.

**22. Royal Cinemas**  
**117 East Main Street**



Constructed around 1920, this is the first building in town built purposely for the screening of movies. Opened as the Park Theater, in its original form the building graced the streetscape with a restrained Colonial Revival style.

**23. Murphy Theater**  
**131 East Main Street**



This building was originally constructed as a meetinghouse for the Front Royal United Methodist Church in 1879. In 1909 the building was transformed into a vaudeville and silent motion picture stage known as the Murphy Theater. The original arched, nave windows are still visible on what is now the second story of the brick building that has served many masters since the screen went dark.

**24. Trout Building**  
**201 East Main Street**



Isaac Trout constructed this Queen Anne-flavored commercial building in 1900 with a curved corner facade, tall second story windows to accommodate a photographer's studio and a mansard roof. The Turner and Trout Pharmacy operated on this corner for 82 years.

**25. Bank of Warren**  
**222 East Main Street**



The Bank of Manassas was the first financial institution to organize in Warren County but it did not emerge from the Civil War. This was the second, erected in 1868 for the Bank of Warren, established by Isaac Newton King.

**26. First Citizens Bank  
305 East Main Street**



With nearly a half-century of success behind it, the Bank of Warren moved into this Neoclassical vault, designed by John Sloan, in 1914. It features engaged fluted columns of the Corinthian order supporting a richly decorated frieze and triangular pediment.

**WALK A FEW MORE STEPS ON MAIN STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.**

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

Thomas Harrison staked his claim in the Shenandoah Valley in 1737 near where two traditional paths - the Indian Road and the Spotswood Trail - crossed. For the next forty years Harrison worked to expand his holdings in the valley and improve his estate. It wasn't until the Commonwealth of Virginia officially organized Rockingham County in 1778 that Harrison acted to develop his land as a town. He gave the new government two and a half-acres in 1779 for a courthouse and 50 more the next year as Harrisonburg was designated the county seat of Rockingham.

Harrison's sons continued to provide land and fuel the growth of the new town that became the economic and cultural hub of the valley. By 1850 Rockingham County was the largest producer of wheat and hay in the Commonwealth and most of that crop was processed and transported through Harrisonburg. Population was north of 1,000 making the town a metropolis in the county at that time.

If Harrisonburg was on Facebook during the Civil War it would have listed its relationship with the Confederacy as "complicated." The town's representatives in Richmond had opposed secession and some of its leading citizens supported the Union. Early in the war General Thomas "Stonewall Jackson" passed through hauling Union railroad equipment that included an entire steam locomotive, that his troops had appropriated in a raid at Harpers Ferry. Later Philip Sheridan marched his Union troops down the Valley Road through town. It wasn't like Winchester to the north that changed hands 72 times during the fighting but the prospect that the departing side might someday return may have helped limit damage in town.

Harrisonburg has always been an enthusiastic participant in urban renewal - even before there was such a term. After a devastating Christmas day fire in 1870 the town rebuilt with many impressive Victorian structures. Shelf life on these buildings was scarcely 25 years - many, including a handsome new courthouse were replaced before the new century. The urban renewal movement of the 1960s and 1970s was more insidious - weary buildings were just as often replaced by parking lots as newer models. Visitors who stayed in fine Harrisonburg hotels at the turn of the 20th century would find none if they returned at the turn of the 21st century.

But some intriguing survivors remain and our walking tour of downtown Harrisonburg to find them will begin on that original patch of land given by Thomas Harrison more than 230 years ago to start a town...





## 1. Rockingham County Courthouse Court Square



This is the fifth hall of justice to stand on this site, completed in 1897. The first was a rough-hewn log structure erected in 1780, shortly after Rockingham County, named for Charles Watson Wentworth, Marquis of Rockingham, was formed. T.J. Collins of Staunton was the architect, a versatile designer comfortable working in a variety of styles. Here he delivered a Gothic-flavored building rendered in gray Indiana limestone rising through a clock tower to a green dome surmounted by the statue *Justice*.

**WITH YOUR BACK TO THE FRONT STEPS OF THE COURTHOUSE, WALK OVER TO THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE SQAURE, TO YOUR RIGHT.**

## 2. Grattan Building 66 Court Square



This brick building was assumed to have been constructed after a fire on Christmas Day 1870. It was the home of George Gilmer Grattan, a Civil War veteran who went on to a career in the law that culminated in a judgeship and a seat in the Virginia legislature. He was also a president of Rockingham National Bank. George Jr. followed his father into the law and into the building.

**TURN AND WALK TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF COURT SQUARE, PASSING THE COURTHOUSE ON YOUR RIGHT.**

**3. First Presbyterian Church  
17 Court Square**



The courthouse is complimented by this church which arrived on the square in 1907. Charles Bolton, a Philadelphia architect followed the Gothic motif by incorporating pointed arches and a belltower into his design and also used Indiana limestone in its construction. The congregation is one of the oldest in the Shenandoah Valley, tracing its roots back to the 1780s.

**TURN AND WALK BACK A FEW STEPS TO MARKET STREET. TURN RIGHT.**

**4. Rockingham Motor Company  
50-60 West Market Street**



Art Deco of the Roaring 20s in America meets 16th century English Tudor style in this brick building from the 1920s built as a showroom for the Rockingham Motor Company. Virgil Hawse, Herbert Stiegel, and Andrew Wolfe started the dealership to sell Fords. Decorative hints to the building's origins can be spotted around the facade from the "Rockingham Motor Co." spelled out in the stained glass to the stylish RMCo. anagrams in metal and carved in stone (guarded by a lion's head) to an ornate Gothic "F" carved in a stone shield. Look further up to see a carved vintage tire in a stone shield. In a perfect world shiny automobiles would still be looking out of the showroom windows but the building has been adapted for use as retail space and even a theater stage.

**TURN RIGHT ON LIBERTY STREET. TURN RIGHT ON WOLFE STREET. TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.**

**5. Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church**  
**154 North Main Street**



Blessed Sacrament began in 1844 when Fr. Daniel Downey, rector of St. Francis in Staunton, became the first priest to serve the early Catholic settlers of Irish, German and French ancestry in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County. But it was not until 1876 that the congregation was able to dedicate a former Methodist church building as their permanent home. That building perished in a fire in April 1905 and it was replaced by this Gothic-flavored church dominated by a square corner tower. This is another design from the prolific T.J. Collins.

**6. Federal Building**  
**116 North Main Street**



The first federal building in Harrisonburg came in 1886, on this site. It was replaced by this temple-fronted United States Post Office and Court House in 1939. The building, designed by Rudolph Stanley-Brown, contains five floors, including a full basement and penthouse, and rises to a height of nearly 60 feet above grade. The Classical/Colonial Revival detailing sports Flemish-bond brickwork accented with white marble belt courses, engaged pilaster capitals, frieze bands and cornices. The portico of six Doric columns is executed entirely in grey-veined white marble. Look for greenstone highlights, including window sills, that come from a now-closed quarry in Lynnhburg. In 1941, noted Washington, D.C. artist William Calfee was commissioned through the Federal Works Agency, Public Buildings Administration, Section of Fine Arts to paint the murals that adorn the main Post Office Lobby. His tempera montage depicts Harrisonburg's town square in the 1940s.

**7. Newman-Ruddle Building**  
**2 North Main Street**



This Romanesque Revival corner building was crafted of Indiana limestone in 1897. The “Newman” was Anderson Moffett Newman, president of Rockingham National Bank, who originally owned the building and who moved his bank here in 1900. The “Ruddle” is Don Ruddle who purchased the building in 1946. A couple of Harrisonburg “firsts” took place here - the first use of structural steel in construction and it was the home of WSVA-AM, the first radio station in the area in the 1930s.

**8. People’s Bank Building**  
**2 South Main Street**



Alfred Charles Bossom designed this low-rise building for the People’s Bank in 1916 following the practice of creating skyscrapers in the image of a classical column with a defined base (the limestone ground floors), unadorned shaft (the middle floors of light brown brick) and capital (decorative cornice). The People’s Bank was organized in 1907 and was followed by the National Bank and Valley National Bank into the space.

**9. First National Bank**  
**57 South Main Street**



This has been prime downtown real estate since the Washington Hotel stood here in the town’s early days. After the 1870s it was the site of the Sibert Building when Jacob Sibert operated his tobacco

shop here. That three-story building was purchased by the First National Bank of Harrisonburg and torn down to make way for its five-story Romanesque Revival headquarters capped by a mansard roof that rolls around the corner through a turret. First National Bank, that was chartered in 1865, merged with scores of other local Virginia banks into what would become Sovran Bank and now Bank of America in 1970.

**10. Hostetter Building**  
**103-107 South Main Street**



A splash of Art Moderne styling came to the Harrisonburg streetscape in 1940 with a streamlined facade of honey yellow and salmon brick and glass block windows. Built originally for a drugstore today it hosts an artists' cooperative gallery.

**11. 119-121 South Main Street**



Look up above the permastone covering the street level facade to see one of the earliest buildings in Harrisonburg constructed with handmade brick and not wood. The space began life in the 1870s as a place for farmers to buy agricultural implements; today it is a restaurant.

**12. Keezell Building**  
**120-124 South Main Street**



This has been one of Harrisonburg's premier business addresses since 1907. Included in its roster of tenants over the past century are: the News Register that morphed into the Daily News-Record

from 1907 until 1941, Garber's Shoe Store for 40 years, music schools, the public library for two decades, the Harrisonburg Business College and the Rosetta Stone, a language learning software company that began operations here in 1992.

## **TURN RIGHT ON BRUCE STREET.**

### **13. Thomas Harrison House 30 West Bruce Street**



This is the oldest house in Harrisonburg, built either in 1750 or 1780. The doubters of the earlier date point to the fact that the house fits snugly into the town's street grid that was not laid out until 1780. The one and one-half story limestone rubble structure was built over a spring and hosted travelers in its early days. One such traveler was Francis Asbury, the founder of the Methodist Church in America, who held the first conference of the Methodist Church west of the Blue Ridge here on June 2, 1794. The house remained in the Harrison family until the 1870s.

## **TURN AND WALK BACK TO MAIN STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

### **14. Asbury United Methodist Church 205 South Main Street**



A small group of Methodists assembled in a log meeting house in Harrisonburg in 1788. A string of church buildings followed until this Gothic Revival sanctuary was completed in 1913. Charles M. Robinson, who practiced in Richmond, designed the building which is constructed of Pennsylvania brownstone laid in a purposeful random pattern. The church is festooned with narrow lancet stained glass windows and a corner tower.

**15. Hardesty-Higgins House**  
**212 South Main Street**



Peter Higgins began construction of a house on this property in 1830 but was never able to finish it. Isaac Hardesty, an apothecary, moved into the Greek Revival brick house that stakes its claim as the second oldest house in downtown Harrisonburg. Hardesty became the first mayor of Harrisonburg in 1849. A Union sympathizer, he left town for Maryland after the Civil War erupted. Today the house has been outfitted as the city visitor center.

**16. Warren-Sipe House**  
**301 South Main Street**



Edward T.H. Warren was an attorney and town councilman who helped form Company G in the 10th Virginia Infantry. He led the regiment for two years in all the major engagements in which the Army of Northern Virginia fought and never returned to the house he built in 1856 - Colonel Warren was killed on the field at the Wilderness on May 5, 1864. Today it is home to the Virginia Quilt Museum that opened in 1995.

**17. Smith House**  
**311 South Main Street**



This Victorian frame house from the 1860s was originally sited on Liberty Street before being moved to this location. It was not unusual for houses to be moved around towns in the 19th century; it was a much simpler matter without wiring and plumbing - as long as you had enough strong oxen.

**18. Harrisonburg Municipal Building**  
**345 South Main Street**



On this site once stood the Harrisonburg Female Academy that became Harrisonburg's busiest and most important hospital during the Civil War. Control of the town vied back and forth during the war and the doctors staffing the hospital changed sides accordingly, sometimes caring for the wounded of the other side. This Neoclassical building, constructed of local bluestone, was designed by Richmond architect Charles M. Robinson in 1908 as Harrisonburg High School. It remained a school building until 1960 and has housed city offices for the past half-century.

**19. St. Stephen's United Church of Christ**  
**358 South Main Street**



The Reformed Church traces its roots to the 16th century Reformation in present-day Germany and Switzerland. In the 1890s the Virginia Classis of the Reformed Church in the United States dispatched J. Silor Garrison to investigate the possibility of establishing a mission congregation in either Harrisonburg or Staunton. Garrison picked Harrisonburg. The new congregation organized in a storefront on Main Street on December 3, 1894. Three years later they were settled in their own sanctuary on North High Street and came here in 1931. Dr. Garrison, who would remain involved with the church until 1943, oversaw construction of the gray limestone building in the tradition of a 14th century English parish church. Like many churches, the doors are painted bright red symbolizing the blood of Christ and the gateway to salvation.



**20. Joshua Wilton House**  
**412 South Main Street**



English-born Joshua Wilton came down from Canada after the Civil War and established a foundry and hardware store in town. After twenty years in business that included purchasing large swaths of land and running the First Virginia Bank, Wilton's prosperity culminated in the construction of this Victorian mansion anchoring the south end of Main Street in 1888. The house betrays Gothic influences (lacy scrolled trim at the eaves and finials atop the gables), a touch of Italianate (one-over-one windows with decorative hoods) and Queen Anne styling (asymmetrical massing, wraparound porch and corner tower). The house endured a rough path in the 1960s and 1970s when it was converted into apartment units and used as a TKE fraternity house but has since been restored to its former glamour as an inn and restaurant.

**TURN AND WALK BACK DOWN MAIN STREET TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN COURT SQUARE.**

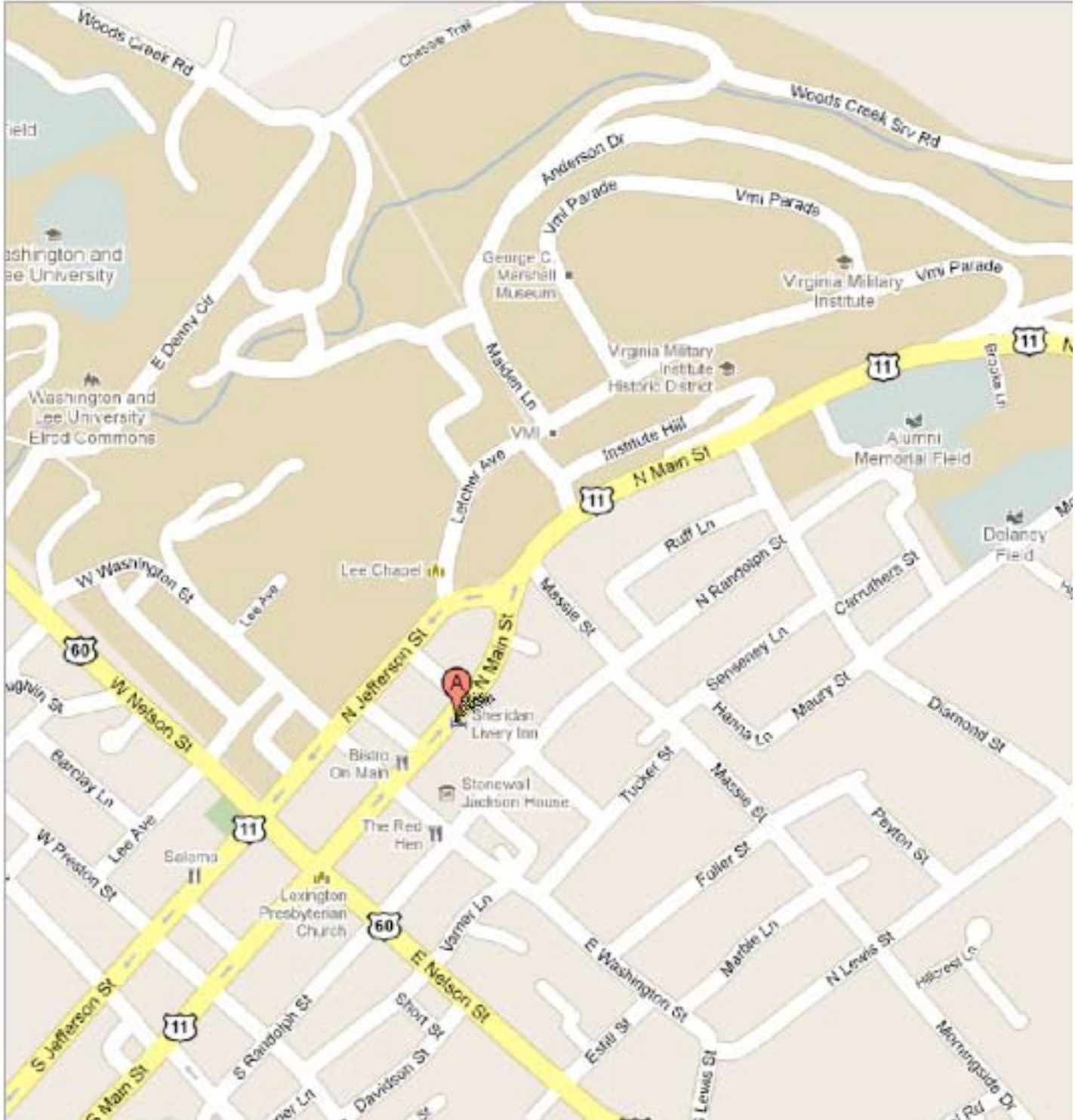
# A Walking Tour of Lexington, Virginia from **walkthetown.com**

Migrants, mostly Germans and Scotch-Irish from Pennsylvania began following a time-etched Indian path known as the Great Wagon Road into the Shenandoah Valley in the 1730s. In 1778 the Virginia Legislature was ready to carve out a new county here which they named Rockbridge for a 90-foot natural bridge of stone that spanned a 215-foot gorge cut by Cedar Creek. The owner at the time was Thomas Jefferson, who acquired 157 acres on the creek for 20 shillings. At the same time a county seat was designated on land donated by Isaac Campbell where his family operated a ford where the Great Wagon Road crossed the North River. It was named Lexington after the Massachusetts town that had helped spark the American Revolution three years before.

Much of the early business of the town was courthouse-related, conducted from mostly log buildings that were erected around the grid pattern that was created to form four interior blocks. Most of those logs burned in a fire that destroyed the town in 1796. Lexington quickly rebuilt from the proceeds of a lottery. Also rebuilding a small struggling 50-year old school started by Presbyterians in 1749. The funds for the school's salvation came from President George Washington himself and Lexington's future course as a college town was set. For more than 200 years the main industry of Lexington has been education; first with Washington and Lee University and then Virginia Military Institute.

Lexington largely escaped the ravages of the Civil War, although Union troops burned buildings during a brief occupation in retaliation for VMI's role in the Battle of New Market. The first steam engine belching smoke arrived from Richmond in 1881 and led to a concentrated area of small manufacturing and commerce in town. Today Lexington holds sway as the cultural hub of Rockbridge County.

Our explorations will touch on three historic districts stuffed into a compact geographic area: downtown, Washington and Lee and Virginia Military Institute. And we will begin in a small greenspace that pre-dates them all...



**1. Hopkins Green**  
**Nelson and Jefferson streets**



This small greenspace was part of the Lot #34 of the original platting of the town of Lexington in 1778. In 1788 James Hopkins purchased the property and it remained in the Hopkins family for almost 200 years until it was gifted to the Historic Lexington Foundation and preserved as a park.

**WITH YOUR BACK TO THE HOPKINS GREEN, TURN LEFT ON NELSON STREET. TURN RIGHT ON LEE STREET. AT THE END OF THE STREET, ACROSS THE ROAD IS...**

**2. R. E. Lee Memorial Episcopal Church**  
**123 West Washington Street**



This was Grace Church when it was Robert E. Lee was a vestryman here. The church was founded in 1840 by a friend of the Lee's, General Francis Henney Smith. Smith was also the first superintendent of Virginia Military Institute and serving for fifty years. The church, constructed in the 1870, was renamed after the Confederate commander's death.

**TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET AND TURN RIGHT PAST THE CHURCH ONTO THE WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, WHICH NOTED BRITISH WRITER JOHN COWPER POWYS ONCE CALLED "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IN AMERICA." THE FIRST BUILDING, UP THE HILL TO YOUR LEFT, IS...**

### 3. Washington and Lee Campus President's House



Education began here in 1780 when the Liberty Hall Academy, started in 1749 as the Augusta Academy, relocated to Lexington. The school was tottering financially, however, in 1796 when George Washington endowed the academy with a gift of \$20,000 of James River Canal Stock. Even though it was one of the largest educational endowments ever given up to that time it was not until 1813 that the name of the school was changed to Washington College. In 1865 Robert E. Lee embarked on his post-military career as president of the College. Three days after his death in 1870 the name was changed to Washington and Lee University.

Robert E. Lee began his tenure at Washington College living in further down the walk. In 1868, at the bequest of school trustees, Lee directed the building of a more spacious home. C. W. Oltmanns, an architectural modeler at the Virginia Military Institute, adapted a popular Italianate design from a pattern book to create the brick house with a broad, bracketed cornice. A cistern on the roof fed running water into the house and in the colder months the Lees enjoyed central heating. The general added the generous porch so that his arthritic wife Mary Custis, the great-granddaughter of Martha Custis Washington, could enjoy the campus and the passing students from her wheelchair.

**NEXT, ON YOUR LEFT IS...**

### 4. Washington and Lee Campus Lee-Jackson House



This was a decidedly smaller house when erected by school president Henry Ruffner in 1842. Ruffner was followed into the residence by his successor, George Junkin. When his daughter Elinor married a 29-year old instructor at neighboring Virginia Military Institute named Thomas J. (to be immortalized as “Stonewall”) Jackson in 1853 an addition was built onto the house for the couple. When Robert E. Lee became president of Washington College he lived in the same home, now known as the Lee-Jackson House.

## ON YOUR RIGHT IS...

### 5. Washington and Lee Campus Lee Chapel



The brick non-denominational chapel with a spired clock tower was constructed in 1868 at the request of new school president, Robert E. Lee. The lower level served as office space and a student gathering area and the upper level was an “audience room,” still the university’s largest. The chapel would become known as “The Shrine of the South” when a mausoleum addition was dedicated in June 1883 as the final resting place for Lee and his wife. The chapel is also home of a life-size marble statue, Recumbent Lee, that had been commissioned by the Lee Memorial Association in 1870.

Robert E. Lee owned many horses but his favorite was an American Saddlebred he purchased in 1861 and rode throughout the Civil War, Traveller. The iron grey stallion died of tetanus a year after Lee and was buried along Woods Creek adjoining the campus. His bones would be exhumed in 1875 and went on display in the university museum. His remains were finally reburied outside the Chapel’s side door in 1971.

## WALK OVER TO THE STATUE ON THE LAWN.

### 6. Washington and Lee Campus McCormick Statue



Cyrus Hall McCormick hailed from a farm in Rockbridge County, north of Lexington. While still in his teens Cyrus, who was born three days after Abraham Lincoln in 1809, joined the family crusade to develop a mechanical reaper. His father had spent nearly 30 years working on a horse-drawn harvesting machine and obtained several patents but could never develop a reliable and marketable reaper. Cyrus received a patent for his version of a mechanical reaper in 1834 but would not sell one for another six years. Orders dribbled in for the next few years with all machines

constructed by hand in the family farm shop. Finally McCormick received a second patent in 1845 for improvements and two years later moved to Chicago to lay the seeds for what would become the International Harvester Company in 1902. Although he himself received no formal education, McCormick was a generous benefactor to the school and this statue was unveiled in his honor in 1931.

## **UP THE HILL TO THE RIGHT IS...**

### **7. Washington and Lee Campus The Colonnade**



Prior to 1840 Washington College proceeded without a master plan for the grounds. The face of the campus going forward would evolve rapidly thereafter. Three disparate existing buildings would be linked by single-story hyphens and given full-height classical porticos. The Center Building, erected in 1824, was the oldest and already sported a Tuscan portico, albeit one that was too tall for its diminutive pediment. It was taken apart and rebuilt and given a cupola modeled on the go-to classical influence of the day - the Temple of the Winds in Athens. The cupola would be surmounted by a statue of George Washington, known affectionately as “Old George.” It was carved from a log found floating in the Maury River decades earlier by Matthew Kahle.

The newly conjoined buildings, an academic building called the Lyceum from 1830 and a dormitory named for “Jockey John” Robinson, who willed his entire estate to the college in 1821, were outfitted with matching square porticoes. Four complimentary buildings were also constructed flanking the Colonnade along the crest of the then-barren hill. Robert E. Lee would plant the first trees and lay out paths of crushed gravel a quarter-century later.

**CONTINUE WALKING ON THE PATH TO THE ROAD THAT IS LETCHER AVENUE.  
FOLLOW LETCHER AVENUE THROUGH THE GATES OF VIRGINIA MILITARY  
INSTITUTE TO THE PARADE GROUND.**

**8. Virginia Military Institute  
Letcher Avenue**



Virginia Military Institute (VMI) was founded in 1839, the first state military college in the land. The campus was built on the site of the crumbling former Lexington Arsenal that had been constructed in 1816. Its appearance today is the handiwork of Alexander Jackson Davis who the leading cheerleader for the “secular Gothic” style of architecture in America in the mid-1800s. At VMI Jackson created the first campus in America executed entirely in the Gothic Revival style. The expansive five-story building across the 12-acre Parade Ground from the entrance road is the Barracks, begun in 1848, where all cadets are quartered. The grounds of the college are speckled with statues and monuments to American military legends.

**ACROSS THE PARADE GROUND OPPOSITE THE BARRACKS IS...**

**9. George C. Marshall Research Library  
VMI Parade**



George Catlett Marshall, the son of a prosperous coke and coal merchant, graduate from VMI in 1901 and rose to become General of the Army, the second highest rank obtainable in the United States Army. Only George Washington and John J. Pershing ever outranked him as General of the Armies of the United States. Marshall, who was twice named Time magazine’s “Man of the Year” and served as Secretary of State, won the 1953 Nobel Peace Prize as architect of the Marshall Plan that rebuilt Europe following World War II. The research library dedicated to his career opened in 1964.

**WHEN YOU ARE FINISHED EXPLORING VMI RETRACE YOUR STEPS OFF CAMPUS ALONG LETCHER AVENUE. AT THE BOTTOM TURN RIGHT ON JEFFERSON STREET AND LEFT ON HENRY STREET. AT MAIN STREET, TURN RIGHT.**



**10. Sheridan Livery Inn**  
**35 North Main Street**



This brick building was constructed in 1887 by John Sheridan to serve as a livery. Sheridan came from Ireland and found himself fighting in the Civil War. He emerged on the other side to become a leading Lexington businessman. Among his interests was the stagecoach line and mail delivery contract in the Shenandoah Valley. Sheridan managed to remain in business through the coming of the automobile until 1919 when he sold the building to the Rockbridge Steam Laundry Corporation. The laundry turned the old carriage doors into custom windows during a stay of over 50 years. In recent years the building has done duty as an indoor shopping mall and, most recently, a restaurant and inn.

**11. Willson-Walker House**  
**30 North Main Street**



Shopkeeper William Willson served the community as postmaster and treasurer of Washington College from 1803 until his death in 1840. He retained local builders John Jordan and Samuel Darst for this impressive house in 1820. The two-story Doric portico supporting a triangular pediment is an early rendering of the Greek Revival style that Jordan and Darst introduced on the Washington College campus. After the Willsons died the property, including several outbuildings, was purchased at auction for \$3,000 by James C. Paxton, the town's first mayor. Walker was Harry Lee Walker who bought the house in 1911 and operated a butcher shop here.

**12. Jacob Ruff House**  
**21 North Main Street**



This Federal-style, center-hall brick house was constructed in the 1820s by John Ruff who had a hat factory next door. This 2-1/2 story building was used as a Ruff residence and showroom. Jacob Ruff was his son and a mayor of Lexington who took possession of the property in 1850. The unusual placement of the street-side door (with delicate fanlight) several feet off the ground is evidence of the lowering of the town streets in 1851 that necessitated the entrance be moved to the side.

**13. McCampbell Inn**  
**11 North Main Street**



John McCampbell began building on this property in 1809; a small addition came along on the southern end in 1816 and a larger section was added to the north in 1857. Over the years townsfolk came here to buy jewelry, visit the doctor, pick up mail and send telegraphs. In 1907 porches were added and opened for business as the Central Hotel. By 1971 the guest house had become run-down and was purchased by the Historic Lexington Foundation who salvaged the building.

**14. Dold Building**  
**1 North Main Street at Washington Street**



The handiwork of local master builders John Jordan and Samuel Darst can be seen on this building from 1820, including sophisticated Flemish bond to lay the brick and a molded brick cornice at the roofline. Samuel M. Dold bought the building, much enlarged, in 1830 and it would stay in

the family for the next 114 years, operating as a general store and pharmacy for much of that time. Movie-goers may recognize this corner for its star turn in the post-Civil War drama *Sommersby* with Jodie Foster and Richard Gere in the leads.

### **ACROSS THE STREET IS...**

#### **15. Alexander-Withrow House 3 West Washington Street at Main Street**



Prosperous merchant William Alexander built this expansive townhouse and store in 1789, using glazed headers to fashion the distinctive patterns in the brickwork. It was one of the few 18th-century Lexington buildings to escape a lethal 1796 fire. The heavy-bracketed Italianate cornice at the roofline came along in the 1870s. The lower floor was exposed with the grading of the streets in the mid-1800s. This was the first building saved by the Historic Lexington Foundation after it was founded in 1966.

### **ON THE OPPOSITE CORNER IS...**

#### **16. Rockbridge County Courthouse 2 South Main Street**



This corner of Main and Washington streets was designated to be the site of Rockbridge County's public buildings from the time of Lexington's founding in 1778. By 1803 a brick courthouse stood here. This building dates to 1897 and was designed by Lexington native William McDowell, who used red Washington pressed brick trimmed with Kentucky bluestone to create the classically inspired courthouse. The symmetrical building with a recessed central block in the front and projecting central blocks on the sides rests on a foundation of gray Rockbridge limestone. The building served over 100 years into the 21st century before the county built a replacement two blocks away. Private ownership resuscitated the crumbling landmark in 2009.

## **TURN LEFT ON WASHINGTON STREET.**

### **17. Stonewall Jackson House 8 East Washington Street**



This brick townhouse was constructed in 1802 and went from unremarkable to historic in 1859 when it was purchased for \$3,000 by a professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy at the Virginia Military Institute named Thomas Jonathan Jackson. Jackson had served in the Mexican-American War before leaving the military at the age of 27 to accept the newly created teaching position at VMI in 1851. He settled into Lexington becoming a leader on campus and in the community, especially as a church leader. This was the only house he ever owned. When the Civil War erupted Jackson widely admired as a tactical commander, signed on with the Confederacy and never saw the house again. He received his famous nickname of “Stonewall” during the first major engagement of the war at the First Battle of Bull Run and was fatally wounded by his own troops during the Battle of Chancellorsville in 1863. In 1907 the Stonewall Jackson Memorial Hospital opened in the house, and it became a museum in 1954.

### **18. Campbell House 101 East Washington Street at Randolph Street**



This house was constructed in the 1840s by hotel owner Alexander T. Sloan who added several elegant Federal-style details to his distinguished manor house, including two false windows on the Randolph street side to maintain a symmetrical appearance without actually experiencing the dust and noise from the street below. Four Waddell sisters acquired the house in 1866 and began taking in boarders from the local schools. Eventually the house was inherited by Leslie Lyle Campbell who deeded it in 1939 to the Rockbridge Historical Society, which he had helped organize, in 1964. It now does duty as the Society’s headquarters and is open as a museum.

## **WALK DOWN WASHINGTON STREET TO THE BUILDING BEHIND CAMPBELL HOUSE.**

**19. Sloan House**  
**107 East Washington Street**



Along Washington Street Alexander T. Sloan constructed rental properties below his mansion house. This one appeared in the 1840s, constructed on a steep slope so there are three stories in the back and two on the street. The property was also donated to the Rockbridge Historical Society. It is currently the home of the *Rockbridge Weekly* that has been covering the valley since 1916.

**RETURN TO RANDOLPH STREET AND TURN LEFT.**

**20. The Castle**  
**6 Randolph Street**



This rambling limestone building lays claim as Lexington's oldest with its earliest parts constructed shortly after the the town was chartered in 1778. Its original use was as offices for lawyers and none of the rooms were connected - each had a separate entrance. It is another rental property of the Rockbridge Historical Society.

**TURN RIGHT ON NELSON STREET AND WALK TO THE CORNER OF MAIN STREET.**

**21. Lexington Presbyterian Church**  
**120 South Main Street**



Area Presbyterians worshiped at Hall's Meeting House, five miles west of town, from the beginning of settlement in the 1740s. The church formally organized in 1789, staging outdoor services during the warmer months and meeting in the county courthouse until 1799 when a brick church was raised near today's Stonewall Jackson Memorial Cemetery. This Greek Revival meeting house came along in 1845, designed by Thomas U. Walter who would become best known for his work on the dome of the United State Capitol. Jackson was a member of the church and a popular Sunday School teacher. The building has undergone several expansions but the superb proportions of Walter's design is still in evidence.

**TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.**

**22. Robert E. Lee Building**  
**30 South Main Street**



In the 1920s civic boosters of small cities across America began craving large, impressive hotels like those commonly found in their big-city sisters. In Lexington it was the Hotel Robert E. Lee that became the town's tallest building. It came with a price tag in 1926 of \$250,000.

**23. First National Bank**  
**22 South Main Street**



This Georgian Revival brick building was designed in 1902 by Colonel R.A. Marr of the Virginia Military Institute. Although its primary purpose was for the First National Bank, chartered in 1890 (it was outfitted with elaborate plaster molding and Italian marble), the building also housed a post office, a barbershop and a radio station. The space has been re-adapted for retail use that incorporates the original 25-ton main vault.

**TURN AND WALK BACK UP TO NELSON STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

**24. State Theatre**  
**12 West Nelson Street**



This historic Georgian Revival-style brick theater is still screening first-run movies. A high point for the State came in 1938 when it hosted the world premiere of *Brother Rat*, a film about students at the Virginia Military Institute and featuring scenes shot on campus. Two of the leading players were Ronald Reagan and Jane Wyman who met on the set and later married.

25. *The News-Gazette*  
20 West Nelson Street



The *News-Gazette* can trace its beginning back more than 200 years to when the *Lexington Gazette* was founded in 1801. The “News” comes down from the *Rockbridge County News* that is a mere pup, having started in 1884. The two merged in 1962 to carry on as *The News-Gazette*. Its ancestry makes the paper the third oldest in Virginia and the oldest in the commonwealth west of the Blue Ridge mountains.

**CONTINUE A FEW MORE STEPS TO THE NEXT BLOCK AND THE START OF THE WALKING TOUR.**



# A Walking Tour of Staunton, Virginia

## **from walkthetown.com**

John Lewis brought his family to this spot in the Shenandoah Valley as the pioneering settlers in the year of Washington's birth - 1732. A few years later William Beverley, a wealthy planter and merchant, won a grant of 118,000 acres here "in consideration for inducing a large number of settlers to the community." The town was laid out in 1747 and took the name of Lady Rebecca Staunton Gooch, wife to Royal Lieutenant-Governor Sir William Gooch. Thanks to its central location the settlement attracted the government and the with the westernmost courthouse in British North America prior to the Revolution was constructed here. It was no small thing - Augusta County in the 1700s extended (theoretically) as far west as the Mississippi River. In 1801 when Staunton was incorporated as a town the population totaled 800.

Staunton grew as a market town for the fertile Shenandoah Valley and small industries churning out carriages and boots and blankets followed. The Virginia Central Railroad arrived in 1854 and during the Civil War the town served as an important supply depot for the Confederacy. Union troops arrived in 1864 and destroyed the railroad station and Staunton's manufacturing capacity but spared much of the town.

The post-war years saw Staunton embark on an economic and building boom. In 1908 it became the first city in America to adopt a city manager form of government based on the corporate form of organization. The elected council appoints a city manager who administers municipal affairs.

The urban renewal fever sweeping America in the 1960s struck Staunton and more than 30 downtown buildings fell before a wrecking ball, igniting the creation of the Historic Staunton Foundation to help preserve much of the streetscape seen today. Much of that streetscape is the vision of one man - Thomas J. Collins, an architect responsible for over 200 buildings in the Staunton area. The nimble Collins worked in many styles we will encounter on our walking tour and we will begin with one of his creations for the railroad that primed the pump for Staunton's growth...



**1. Chesapeake & Ohio Station**  
**42 Middlebrook Avenue**



The Virginia Central Railroad chugged into town in 1854 and built the first station here. The commercial district it spawned came to be known as the Wharf District because the trains pulled into sidings and the cargo was loaded directly into neighboring warehouses via gangplanks. The first station was burned to the ground by Union troops during the Civil War in 1864 and its replacement was destroyed by a runaway train in 1890. The third station, designed in a bungalow style by famed architect Thomas Jasper Collins, was the charm and has stood since 1902. The freight office, freight depot, signal tower, water tank and water standpipe are all there with it.

Collins came to Staunton from Washington, D.C. in 1891 at the age of 47 to work for the Staunton Development Company. Before he could unpack the good china the company went bust and Collins was set adrift. He busied himself with designing or renovating more than 200 buildings around his adopted town until he retired in 1911. His son and grandson would continue shaping the streetscape at T.J. Collins and Son until 1997 with the roster of buildings touched by the firm climbing to more than 1000.

**ACROSS THE STREET IS...**

**2. The American Hotel**  
**125 South Augusta Street**



As soon as the railroad arrived in 1854 a posh Greek Revival guest house was constructed across the street to receive arriving passengers. When Ulysses. S. Grant's Presidential train stopped in Staunton in 1874 he was serenaded by the legendary Stonewall Brigade Band playing from the hotel portico. It was said that the band hailed the Union General for ordering its instruments spared from destruction during the Civil War. That portico was razed in 1891 and the hotel was soon converted into a produce dealer's warehouse. Save for decades when it was vacant, that was how the building spent the 20th century. It has recently received a restoration to revive its Greek Revival origins.

**WALK UP AUGUSTA STREET AWAY FROM THE TRAIN STATION (THE AMERICAN HOTEL WILL BE ON YOUR LEFT).**

**3. Hoge & Hutchinson Building  
119-123 Augusta Street**



Warehouses weren't simply utilitarian commodities in the 1880s. This two-story, six bay brick building for the wholesale grocery house of Hoge & Hutchinson was decorated in the Italianate style with a bracketed cornice at the roofline and prominent window hoods.

**4. Historic Staunton Building  
120-124 Augusta Street**



Unlike its neighbors across the city, this Victorian commercial building's facade is pressed metal, not brick.

**TURN RIGHT ON JOHNSON STREET.**

**5. Augusta County Courthouse  
northeast corner of Johnson and Augusta streets**



This is the fifth, and by far the longest tenured, county courthouse to stand on this site. The handiwork of T.J. Collins, it features a temple front with a richly decorated entablature overflowing with cornucopias, animal heads, rosettes and foliated squares. There are eight pediments around the

courthouse and the roof is topped by a domed cupola supporting a bronze statue of Justice. The first county courthouse was a crude log structure erected on the southwest corner of the lot.

**TURN RIGHT ON NEW STREET AND WALK A FEW STEPS TO THE END.**

**6. White Star Mills**  
**1 Mill Street**



T.J. Collins brought a touch of design to the functionality of a flour mill with his distinctive trapezoidal plans for White Star Mills in 1892. Upper floors of dark brick are supported by a ground floor of rough light-colored stone. Inside, elevator hauled grain from the basement floor to the top of the mill and gravity and horizontal conveyors carried the kernels through the milling equipment. Once one of the largest granaries in the Shenandoah Valley, White Star Mills continued to produce flour until 1966.

**RETURN TO JOHNSON STREET AND TURN RIGHT. WALK UP THE HILL ON KALORAMA STREET (THE ROAD TO YOUR LEFT).**

**7. Stonewall Jackson Hotel & Conference Center**  
**24 South Market Street at Kalorama Street**



H.L. Stevens & Company of New York City, one of America's leading designers of statement hotels in small-city America in the early 1900s, created this Colonial Revival landmark in 1924. The price tag - including marble floors, cut-glass chandeliers and a one-of-a-kind Wurlitzer organ - was \$750,000. Eighty years later a \$21 million renovation blended modern amenities with the restoration of many of the original features of the 124-room hotel. The nine-story brick confection, the tallest building in town, was topped by its iconic neon calling card on the roof in 1950.

**CONTINUE ON KALORAMA STREET.**

**8. Kalorama Castle**  
**215 Kalorama Street**



This was one of the first commissions landed by T.J. Collins when he came to Staunton in 1891, a residence for City treasurer Arista Hoge. Collins adapted elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque style (recessed corner entrance behind a powerful arch, corner turret, and rough stone exterior) and the Victorian Stick Style (small front gable) to create the three-story house known around town as “the castle.”

**9. 227 Kalorama Street**



This hill overlooking the town was called Gospel Hill beginning in the 1790s when religious meetings were conducted here by Sampson Eagon. A century later this block began harboring some of the town’s most elegant residences. The Jacobean house at #227 was another creation of T.J. Collins in 1898. Gospel Hill was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

**TURN LEFT ON COALTER STREET.**

**10. Woodrow Wilson Birthplace and Presidential Library**  
**18-24 North Coalter Street**



Woodrow Wilson, who would become the 28th President of the United States, was born in the house on December 28, 1856 as the third of four children of Dr. Joseph Ruggles Wilson. At the time, the house at #24 was serving as the Manse of the First Presbyterian Church where

Reverend Wilson was pastor. President Wilson died in 1924 and a group of his family and friends purchased the Manse from Mary Baldwin College in 1938 to form the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation. The house at #18 that was added to the foundation was built in 1870 and remodeled by T.J. Collins.

**WALK BACK TO BEVERLEY STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

**11. Sampson Eagon Inn  
238 East Beverly Street**



According to local lore this is the site where Sampson Eager held Methodist revival meetings in his blacksmith shop. T.J. Collins remodeled the 1840s-era house that was built here and gave it a classical appearance. In recent years it has operated as an upscale guest house.

**AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HILL TURN LEFT ON NEW STREET.**

**12. R.R. Smith Center  
20-22 New Street**



Architect T.J. Collins turned to the French Second Empire style to create the luxury Eakleton Hotel in 1894. The symmetrical building features a central tower piercing a mansard roof. Collins gave his hotel decorative flourishes such as fancy brickwork and wrought iron balconies. The hotel changed hands many times and went through a major Colonial Revival at one point. Like many of its downtown American cousins the grand hotel fell on hard times until it closed in the 1950s. New life was breathed into the old hotel by a consortium of non-profits including the Augusta County Historical Society, Historic Staunton Foundation, and the Staunton Augusta Art Center. It was named for its major benefactor, trucking magnate R.R. “Jake” Smith.

**WALK BACK TO BEVERLEY STREET AND TURN LEFT.**

### **13. Dixie Theatre** **125 East Beverley Street**



This stage was born as the New Theatre on June 16, 1913 as a vaudeville and film venue. The opportunity to design a grand entertainment palace lured go-to Staunton architect T.J. Collins out of retirement to assist his sons on the project. It would be their last collaboration. The result was a richly ornamented Italian Renaissance Revival inspired by the palazzos in Florence. In the 1920s Hollywood's Warner Brothers added the New Theatre to its roster of movie palaces and it became one of the first theaters in Virginia wired for sound, screening the world's first "talkie," *The Jazz Singer*, in 1927.

A fire gutted the building on January 23, 1936 and afterwards America's leading theater architect, John Eberson, was retained to oversee the reconstruction. Eberson was known for his atmospheric creations that transported patrons to exotic lands but, with funds a scarce commodity during the Depression, at the New Theatre he worked with the existing classical motifs. The grand re-opening took place in December 1936 with a new name - the Dixie Theater. Fourteen-year-old Mildred Klotz won the \$50 prize for suggesting the winning name in a contest. The Dixie has been presenting movies ever since. The terra cotta from the original facade can still be seen.

### **14. City Hall** **113 East Beverley Street**



This expansive brick building was constructed as a Grange Hall in the mid-1800s. It was purchased by the City in 1878 which installed the government on the first floor and used the space above as an opera house. In 1929 architect Sam Collins provided a Colonial Revival makeover and afterwards the building was used exclusively as City Hall.



**15. Switzer Building**  
**19-21 East Beverley Street**



This 1911 commercial building was constructed of brick just like its neighbors back in the 1860s but its facade was sheathed in gleaming white terra cotta panels - imported from New York at a cost of \$825 - that accentuate its Venetian Revival design.

**16. Witz Building**  
**11 East Beverley Street**



Julius Witz operated two furniture companies at the turn of the 20th century, one in Waynesboro and one in Staunton. He constructed this Colonial Revival building for his showroom and warehouse in 1906.

**17. Wholey Building**  
**7 East Beverley Street**



William Wholey hired T.J. Collins in 1899 to design a store for his tobacco and cigar business. Look up past the undistinguished alterations at street level to see the twin stone towers Collins created to mimic the appearance of a 14th-century Venetian warehouse.

**18. The Marquis Building**  
**2-4 East Beverley Street**



One of the standouts of downtown, the Marquis Building came from the pen of T.J. Collins. He incorporated an unusual entrance through the corner turret and added classical elements like roof pediments. The Romanesque-styled windows are trimmed in limestone. Collins used this building for his own offices.

**19. National Valley Bank**  
**12-14 West Beverley Street**



National Valley is Staunton's oldest bank, taking its first deposits in 1865. Things went well enough that by 1903 the bank was able to commission T.J. Collins to create this Beaux Arts monument to finance. The arched entranceway was modeled on the Roman Arch of Titus and is flanked by a quartet of engaged, fluted Corinthian columns. Inside depositors were greeted by an awe-inspiring coffered ceiling with an oval, stained glass skylight.

**20. National Valley Trust Department**  
**6-10 West Beverley Street**



This Neoclassical vault for National Valley came along in 1923, executed in limestone and granite from a design by T.J. Collins & Son. The pedimented entrance with Tuscan columns is dwarfed by the full-height, recessed glass wall.

**21. Masonic Temple Building**  
**7-13 West Beverley Street**



The Masons have been active in Staunton since 1786. This brawny 5 1/2-story building joined the city streetscape in 1896. Chicago architect I.E.A. Ross decorated the building with an eclectic mix of classical and medieval details.

**22. Clock Tower**  
**27 West Beverley Street**



This corner building was constructed in 1890 as the home of Staunton's first YMCA. It included a gym, a running track, a lending library and a bowling alley. With its corner clock tower, the building has been a local icon for over a century. The Clock was manufactured by the E. Howard Clock Company in Roxbury Massachusetts, a company founded in 1842 and still in business today. The YMCA didn't last nearly as long here - the organization moved to a larger space on Augusta Street in 1914. A parade of retailers have occupied the space in the years since, most notably Woolworth's.

**23. Stonewall Jackson School**  
**217 West Beverley Street**



This was Staunton's first permanent public school when it was constructed in 1887 but its early graduates would not recognize it within a few decades. The versatile T.J. Collins gave the venerable school an English Tudor Revival facelift in 1913.

**24. Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**214 West Beverley Street**



Trinity Church, the oldest church in Staunton and known for its first eighty years as “Augusta Parish,” was founded in 1746, one year after Augusta County became an independent entity, and one year before the City of Staunton was established. The first meetinghouse on this site was raised in 1763; the current Gothic Revival building dates to 1855. Trinity Church has a varied collection of stained glass windows installed from the mid-nineteenth century until the 1970s. Thirteen of the windows are made of early 20th century opalescent glass; twelve by the Tiffany Studios. The parish house to the rear is a Gothic Revival brick structure added in 1872.

**TURN RIGHT ON CHURCH STREET.**

**25. 18 Church Street**



This brick house with elaborate scrollwork on the bracketed eaves, window surrounds and porch columns was constructed around 1880. It stands as a rare example of the Victorian Eastlake style in Staunton.

**26. Trinity Rectory**  
**northeast corner of Church and Johnson streets**



Another unusual look in Staunton is this brick house designed in 1872 by William A. Pratt in the Jacobean Revival style. It is distinguished by fine brickwork and clustered chimney pots. Today it does duty as the rectory for Trinity Church.

**27. Stuart House**  
**120 Church Street**



This was the home of Judge Archibald Stuart, personal friend and lawyer for Thomas Jefferson. The earliest parts of the house date to 1791 and it has remained in the family for over 200 years. Family tradition likes to maintain that Jefferson had a hand in its design and presented plans to Stuart as a wedding gift but there is no evidence for that.

**WALK BACK TO JOHNSON STREET AND TURN RIGHT.**

**28. Board and Batten House**  
**118 West Johnson Street**



This simple vernacular building lays claim to being the oldest unaltered house in Staunton, dating back to the mid-1850s. Board-and-batten siding is an exterior treatment of vertical boards with battens covering the seams.

**TURN RIGHT ON LEWIS STREET.**

**29. Hite Building**

**111 South Lewis Street at Johnson Street**



In 1871 Dr. S.P. Hite began concocting his first patent medicine, Hite's Pain Remedy, at Moffett's Creek, Virginia. Claiming to cure everything from headaches to gangrene, Hite peddled his potion by horseback. He sold enough to outfit a sales wagon and blanketed the countryside, introducing and demonstrating his remedy. He moved to Staunton and this building in 1893 and stayed until 1905 when he relocated to Roanoke. Hite's firm eventually manufactured a line of over 80 drugs and flavoring extracts.

**CONTINUE TO THE END OF LEWIS STREET AND TURN LEFT ON MIDDLEBROOK STREET (THE BACK OF THE TWO ROADS) AND WALK UP TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT THE RAILROAD STATION.**

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

Near the northern entrance to the Shenandoah Valley and sited at the crossroads of two historic footpaths, Winchester is the oldest Virginia city west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Germans migrating from Pennsylvania did most of the heavy lifting in settling the region in the 1730s but the land belonged to the English lord, Thomas 6th Baron Fairfax of Cameron, part of his proprietary inheritance. In 1749 Lord Fairfax settled in the area that was called Frederick Town after Frederick, father of George III of England. To help figure out just what he had with his Virginia lands one of the surveyors that was hired was an eager red-headed lad by the name of George Washington, enthusiastically digging into his first paid job. Washington would build Fort Loudoun here during the French and Indian War and, at twenty-six, was elected to his first public office as the county's representative to the House of Burgesses.

The town's name was switched to Winchester, honoring an ancient English capital, in 1752. It boasted a population approaching 1,000 and was the trade center of the valley on the Great Wagon Road from Pennsylvania to the southwest. There were many roads leading to ports where goods could be shipped to and from England. In the days after the Revolutionary War, Winchester led a charge to prosperity in America's developing western lands. At one point merchants petitioned the Virginia assembly to build more roads and ferry boats, citing delays up to three days for freight wagons to get across the Shenandoah River.

By the mid 19th-century Winchester was a major supply route; the town lay on the Valley pike and was served by east-west and north-south railroads and the Potomac river. Not surprisingly, from the spring of 1862 until the fall of 1864 Winchester changed flags some 70 times. Four major engagements were fought in and around town. No traces of these battles, which helped drain Union resources away from a march on Richmond, remain.

Although more than 200 homes and buildings were destroyed during the fighting, Winchester shook off the ravages of the Civil War quicker than most Southern towns - mostly on the back of the apple. Winesaps, Pippins, Staymans, the Delicious, Black Twigs and, especially, York Imperials overflowed in some of the world's largest packing houses. The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival began in the spring of 1924 to encourage folks to admire the hundreds of thousands of apple trees coming into bloom each year.

Our walking tour will visit a bit of Colonial history, a bit of Revolutionary War history, a bit of Civil War history and even touch on a bit of apple history and we'll begin in the traditional center of town where folks used to gather for everything from a public hanging to Christmas caroling...





**1. Frederick County Courthouse**  
**center of Old Town Mall at North Loudoun Street**



After conducting business in two previous log structures the courts moved into this large brick building with an imposing Doric portico, constructed to plans drawn by Baltimore architect Robert Cary Long, Jr. in 1840. The Greek Revival courthouse was the centerpiece of a judicial complex here that boasted eleven buildings, tocks, a whipping post and a pillory in the square.

**WITH YOUR BACK TO THE COURTHOUSE IN THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE, TURN RIGHT AND WALK NORTH ON THE PEDESTRIAN MALL.**

**2. Farmers and Merchants National Bank**  
**106 North Loudoun Street**



The bank organized in 1902 with Confederate veteran and Winchester mayor Robert T. Barton at its head and this eye-catching Renaissance Revival building as its home. There is much going on architecturally with fluted columns interrupted by rectangular blocks, corner quoins formed from the golden bricks, rounded multi-paned windows in recessed arches on the first floor and pedimented windows above, fluted two-story pilasters and a wide overhanging eave but perhaps the most memorable feature of the three-story building is its fine corner clock.

**3. Union Bank Building**  
**101 North Loudoun Street**



This Victorian brick building has been renovated back to its original 1878 appearance to become the standout property on the block. The Italianate facade is cast iron, a popular ornamental affect because of its cheap cost and ease of forging the iron into decorative shapes. Despite those advantages, cast iron commercial facades are a rare find on America's downtown streets 150 years later. This one was completely hidden behind a typical modernization until the restoration in 2009.

**4. Hiram Lodge No. 21**  
**118 North Loudoun Street**



This Italianate style Masonic lodge was constructed with a stone facing in 1868. Its most interesting feature was added in 1901 when it picked up a carved stone pedimented Beaux Arts doorway. A copper bay projection on the second floor is also an attention grabber.

**RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON THE MALL BACK TO THE COURTHOUSE AND TURN LEFT. WALK PAST THE COURTHOUSE OUT TO CAMERON STREET. ON YOUR RIGHT IS...**

**5. Rouss City Hall**  
**15 North Cameron Street**



Maryland-born Charles Baltzell Rouss moved with his family to Winchester at the age of 4 in 1840 and lived here until the Civil War, working as a store clerk as a young man. At first opposed to secession he apparently had a change of heart and joined the Confederate Army in 1864. He also placed all his money into Confederate bonds before joining. After the war he was deeply in debt and spent the best part of a year working on his father's farm. In 1866 he moved to New York City where he spent time in debtor's prison.

After his release Rouss developed a specialty of buying distressed and auction merchandise for resale. He was successful enough by 1889 to build his own 10-story cast iron and stone on Broadway in the heart of New York's shopping district. He changed his middle name to honor his new location and the Charles "Broadway" Rouss store stood ready to "make a man fashionable, a lady irresistible and a family comfortable." His store would soon have branches across the globe - in Paris, Berlin, Nottingham, Vienna, Yokohama and Chemnitz.

Rouss was generous with his millions, especially to Winchester, which he considered his hometown. His gifts built a fire hall, a hospital and the town hall. He built the wall around Mount Hebron Cemetery where he was buried after his death in 1902 in what was, at the time, the largest private mausoleum in the United States.

**TURN LEFT ON CAMERON STREET. TURN RIGHT ON EAST PICCADILLY STREET.**

**6. George Washington Hotel**  
**103 East Piccadilly Street at Cameron Street**



This grand Georgian Revival guest house was built in 1924 by The American Hotel Corporation as part of their "Colonial Chain" of hotels. Like many hotels of the era, the property was built in close proximity of a B&O train station and was constructed to provide lodging to railroad passengers.

the height of luxury in Winchester the five-story brick hotel featured 102 rooms and only 45 baths - welcome to 1920s travel. Over the years many famous names have signed the guest register, including Lucille Ball, Jack Dempsey among many others. The George Washington closed in the 1970s and for a time was converted to a home for the elderly. Recently revitalized, the hotel is once again welcoming guests.

**7. B&O Passenger Depot  
East Piccadilly Street at Kent Street**



The Winchester & Potomac Railroad was chartered in 1831 and connected to the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in Harpers Ferry in 1837. In 1867 the Winchester and Strasburg Railroad began operations, also tying into the B&O in Harpers Ferry. Eventually all track fell under the umbrella of the Baltimore & Ohio which erected this picturesque stone-and-wood passenger depot in 1893. The Victorian station retains its decorative brackets and exposed rafter ends supporting a wide overhanging eave. The irregular hipped roof is decorated by a tower, a cupola and eyebrow vents. The tracks are still active but trains no longer stop here.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON EAST PICCADILLY, CROSSING OVER CAMERON STREET.**

**8. Commercial and Savings Bank  
186 North Loudon Street at East Piccadilly Street**



Presenting a formidable entrance to the pedestrian mall, this Neoclassical stone building was completed in 1900 for the Commercial and Savings Bank. The central recessed bay is flanked by stout Doric columns and the large, arched windows are delineated by giant order pilasters. The building still serves as a banking house today.

**9. Shenandoah Valley National Bank**  
**201 North Loudoun Street at Piccadilly Street**



The Shenandoah Valley National Bank took its first deposits in January 1866 and moved into this Beaux Arts vault in the first years of the 20th century. The three-story corner anchor features a first floor of coursed ashlar and thin bricks above. The upper floor bays are defined by brick Corinthian pilasters and are highlighted by decorative sculptures.

**10. Williams House**  
**25 West Piccadilly Street**



Phillip Williams, Jr., Commonwealth Attorney for Shenandoah and Warren counties during the mid-1800s built this Greek Revival, five-bay house around 1845. It stands out today for its decorative cast iron work, including a three-bay porch and property fencing.

**11. Reed House**  
**35 West Piccadilly Street**

This rubble stone house is a relic of the 19th century, constructed by the Reverend George Reed between 1797 and 1800. Irish-born Reed was an early leader in the Methodist church in Winchester and later mayor of the town and high sheriff of Frederick county. He also owned a coppersmith shop next door to the west. The main wing is a solid example of a late-Georgian/early American stone house. In its 200 years the former residence has done duty as an art gallery, commercial space and a bank before moving into its third century as a private residence once again.

## 12. Old Post Office 40 West Piccadilly Street



This federal building was constructed in 1910-11 under the direction of James Knox Taylor, Supervising Architect of the United States Treasury. The building is highlighted by stone Ionic columns that support a full entablature. Stone swags in rectangular panels decorate the brick walls between the porch bays. The building serves private commercial use today.

## 13. Handley Regional Library 100 West Piccadilly Street at Braddock Street



John Handley was born in Ireland in 1835, became a U.S. citizen in New York in 1856, and eventually moved to Scranton, Pennsylvania where he practiced law and was an influential judge. It was said that he was a strong sympathizer of the South during the Civil War and is thought to have first visited Winchester in 1869 where he developed many friendships. So much so that when he died in 1895 he made the town the residuary legatee of one-third of his estate, engorged from investments in Pennsylvania coal and estimated at \$4,000,000. It was a big enough story to be reported in the Baltimore Sun and New York Times, which wrote, “Winchester deserves all this good luck. It is a city ‘beautiful for situation,’ and its population is one of the most intelligent, industrious, and refined to be found anywhere.”

Handley reserved \$250,000 for the construction of a free public library and architects J. Stewart Barney and Henry Otis Chapman of New York designed an exuberant tour-de-force in the Beaux-Arts style. When the Handley Library opened in 1913 the final bill for building and furnishings was \$233,230.28. Its L-shaped design is meant to mimic an open book with the elaborate domed corner entrance serving as the spine.

**TURN RIGHT BRADDOCK STREET.**

**14. Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters**  
**415 North Braddock Street**



Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson made his Civil War headquarters in the small Gothic Revival cottage between November 1861 and March 1862. The house was built in 1854 by William Fuller who later sold it to Lt. Colonel Lewis T. Moore of the Fourth Virginia Volunteers. It was Moore who extended the offer to use his home as Headquarters to General Jackson. One of Colonel Moore’s descendants is actress Mary Tyler Moore, who has helped pay for restorations of the home for the museum - including replica wallpaper matching the original of which Jackson wrote enthusiastically.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON BRADDOCK STREET AND CONTINUE ACROSS PICCADILLY STREET.**

**15. Logan House/Sheridan's Headquarters**  
**135 North Braddock Street at Piccadilly Street**



This stately Greek Revival home was erected in 1850 by Lloyd Logan who made his money peddling tobacco. The building served as headquarters for General N.P. Banks in 1862, for General R.H. Milroy during the next year and Union General Phillip Sheridan directed his Second Valley campaign from behind the imposing Corinthian columns of this house. On October 19, 1864, Sheridan began his famous ride to Cedar Creek from here to rally his troops to victory. After the town’s first Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival in 1924, a five-foot concrete and plaster apple was purloined from a parade float and placed in the yard. That original has since rotted but it has been replaced and spawned the painted apples you see decorated by local artists around Winchester.

**TURN RIGHT ON WEST BOSCAWEN STREET.**

**16. Christ Episcopal Church**  
**114 West Boscawen Street**



A rudimentary wooden church for the Church of England was constructed in the wilderness in the 1740s and it served the area's Episcopalians until about 1766 when a suitable stone church was erected, considered one of the finest pre-Revolutionary buildings in Winchester. By the 1820s, however, the congregation was clamoring for a more substantial meetinghouse and the cornerstone for this building was laid on June 24, 1828. John Bruce is credited with designing the early Gothic Revival church. The square tower was a later addition. Beside the church is the brick tomb of the original landowner of Frederick County, Lord Fairfax.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON BOSCAWEN STREET.**

**17. Charley Rouss Fire Company**  
**3 South Braddock Street at Boscawen Street**



Winchester's Union Fire Company is believed to have organized in the 1780s , although company records were, ironically, destroyed in a fire in 1858. In 1895 Charles Broadway Rouss donated \$5,000 for a new fire hall and this Romanesque-inspired brick building was the result. Afterwards the company became The Charley Rouss Fire Company and today is one of four volunteer fire companies in the City of Winchester. For much of its existence the fire house has been topped by a molded-copper fireman weathervane known as "Old Jake." Measuring over 6 feet high and 6 feet wide, "Old Jake" was dismantled from his perch above the Winchester skyline in 2008 and put for sale by Sotheby's auction house. Expected to bring between \$3 million and \$5 million, the high bid came in a tick over \$2 million and the sale was withdrawn. "Old Jake" is currently in the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley and a replica may once again crown the Rouss Fire House.

**CONTINUE ON BOSCAWEN STREET ACROSS BRADDOCK STREET..**



**18. Grace Evangelical Church**  
**26 West Boscawen Street**



The German Lutherans who settled in the valley laid a cornerstone for their first church building on April 16, 1764. It would remain standing until 1854 when a sparks from a nearby stable incinerated the property; the remains of the stone walls stand today in the church cemetery. The present structure was constructed as a meeting hall in the Greek Revival style and later converted to Gothic Revival for ecclesiastical purposes. The congregation added a Gothic Revival to the west in the 1920s. A carillon of ten bells placed in the belfry was installed in 1917 in the memory of David Brevitt Glaize.

**TURN RIGHT ON LOUDOUN STREET, BACK ONTO THE OLD TOWN MALL.**

**19. Godfrey Miller House**  
**28 South Loudoun Street**



This finely crafted gray stone Georgian style house was built in 1785 by Daniel Sowers; Lord Fairfax granted him the land back in 1753. It was purchased by merchant Godfrey Miller in 1850 and today is operated as an historic house.

**20. First Presbyterian Church**  
**116 South Loudoun Street**



The tentacles of the Presbyterian Church in the northern Shenandoah Valley reach back into the 1730s. In 1826, a church building was erected at the corner of Kent and Boscawen streets. In 1841, the congregation built a Gothic Revival “lecture room” here that was the beginning of a permanent home for First Presbyterian Church. The tower is topped by a crowning pinnacle with accompanying pinnacles on the corners of the crenelated parapet.

**21. Hill’s Keep**  
**126 South Loudoun Street**



This vernacular stone building was constructed on East Cork Street around 1810. It was relocated here in 2004.

**TURN RIGHT AT THE END OF THE MALL ONTO CORK STREET.**

**22. Vostrikov’s Academy of Ballet**  
**20 West Cork Street**



This large Neoclassical brick building was constructed in 1924 for the Cork Street Christian Church. Since 1982 it has been the home of the Vostrikov Academy of Ballet.

**23. George Washington's Office**  
**northeast corner of South Braddock Street and West Cork Street**



In Winchester, long a crossroads town at the head of the Shenandoah Valley, George Washington began his surveying career in 1748, working under Lord Thomas Fairfax. Washington eventually staked out much of the prime land on the Virginia frontier for himself and family members. Later, as a landlord, he required each tenant to plant at least four acres of apples.

Washington returned to Winchester in 1755 to supervise the construction Fort Loudon; he used this small building as his office for the next 15 months. The newer part is built of rough stone, the older of hewn logs covered with clapboards. He remained in Fort Loudon as commander and was twice elected to represent Winchester in the Virginia House of Burgesses, in 1758 and 1761..

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON CORK STREET, HEADING EAST AND CROSSING LOUDOUN STREET.**

**24. Red Lion Tavern**  
**southeast corner of Cork and Loudoun streets**



Pennsylvania native Peter Lauck returned from the Revolutionary War, where he was captured in the Battle of Quebec, to build this two-story limestone tavern in 1783. He was not an owner-operator but leased the Red Lion to a succession of proprietors. The original grant of land on which the Red Lion Inn is situated, is written on parchment and bearing the signature of Lord Fairfax. George Washington was known to have stopped here several times.

**25. Friendship Fire Hall**  
**10-12 East Cork Street**



This brick building was constructed in 1831 and modified into an Italianate-styled firehouse for the Charley Rouss Company in 1892, highlighted by a square 2 1/2-story tower. The first floor central bay contains a large garage door marked by voussoirs and keystone detailing. The windows present variations of Federal-style sunburst fanlights.

**26. John Kerr School**  
**203 South Cameron Street at East Cork Street**



When it was completed in 1883 the John Kerr School ended the peripatetic existence of the Winchester public school system that had rented space in buildings across the town. Kerr donated half of the \$20,000 construction cost for the large Italianate-flavored building. A native of England, he came to Winchester about 1825 in his early twenties and found work as a cabinet-maker. John Kerr died childless in 1874 and left his property to provide a schoolhouse for the children of his adopted town. The building went through major renovation in the early 80's and is now managed by Shenandoah University.

**27. Centenary Reformed United Church of Christ**  
**202 South Cameron Street at East Cork Street**



Centenary was the first church built in Winchester, about 1749, served by horseback riding circuit preachers. A brick church was erected on this spot in 1842 to celebrate the centennial of the

founding of the congregation in the Shenandoah Valley. Union soldiers torched the church during the War Between the States and the current rebuilt Gothic Revival structure was dedicated in 1906.

The museum, featuring the largest collection of Confederate artifacts in the world, moved into the adjacent building in 1976. Artifacts from every important Southern leader, including Lee's surrender sword at Appomattox, are on hand. Also on display is the last Confederate flag, flown by the *CSS Shenandoah*, a warship harassing a United States whaling fleet in the Pacific Ocean when the war ended. Unaware of the fall of the Confederacy until August, the crew then sailed 17,000 miles around Cape Horn to England, finally surrendering to the British on November 6, 1865.

## **TURN LEFT ON CAMERON STREET.**

### **28. Market Street Methodist Church 131 South Cameron Street**



This is the third house of worship for the Winchester Methodists who trace their beginnings to 1772 when circuit riders William Watters and Richard Wright preached here. James Walls, a local carpenter, started the first congregation of eleven members in 1789. The two-story Classical Revival church was dedicated on May 20, 1855. Tall windows in each front bay are topped by a bracketed entablature and brick pilasters support Corinthian capitals and a richly carved pedimented entablature.

### **29. Star Building 37-45 East Boscawen Street at Cameron Street**



Winchester got its first daily newspaper on January 12, 1895 when John I. Sloat put out his first edition of the *Evening Item*. Sloat was a mere lad of 21 who had learned the printing trade in the employ of Howard Gosorn who operated the *Winchester Leader*, a weekly organ of the Republican party. Sloat's four-page daily was successful enough that he was shortly able to sell the *Item* to Bernard Wade, editor of the *Winchester Weekly News*.

And then Sloat went right back to press and debuted the *Evening Star* on July 4, 1896. His new daily was now competing with his old daily - and did so for more than a decade until the two papers merged in 1907 under the *Star* masthead and has continued so for more than 100 years.

This brick building was constructed in the 1830s and given an Italianate makeover in the 1890s. Each first floor bay contains a double door entrance with a fanlight and all the windows are spotted by a small keystone. This was the offices of the *Winchester Item* and the *Star* occupied the space from 1910 until 1946 when the offices moved over to the Kent Street corner.

### **30. Kurtz Building**

**2 North Cameron Street at East Boscawen Street**



This Federal-style building was erected in 1836 by a group of businessmen from Harper's Ferry to house grain before shipping it on the new railroad to the mills in western Virginia. George Kurtz bought the building in 1876 and adapted it to use for his furniture business. Alterations included a fashionable Second Empire mansard tower and cast-iron cresting along the roof. The Kurtz family sold the building to the city in 1968 and it resisted demolition and modernization to emerge as a restored property.

**TO CONCLUDE THE TOUR WALK UP A FEW STEPS TO CITY HALL AND TURN LEFT OR TO VISIT THE HISTORIC 250-YEAR OLD COMMUNITY CEMETERY, TURN RIGHT ON EAST BOSCAWEN STREET AND WALK TWO BLOCKS.**

**Detour Stop: Mount Hebron Cemetery**  
**305 East Boscawen Street**



This complex of four adjoining burying grounds started in the 1760s as the churchyard of the old Reformed Church. Next door was a small acre-and-a-quarter cemetery of the Lutheran Church. In 1844 five acres were acquired for a graveyard dubbed Hebron after the biblical city that provided

refuge to Abraham. A fourth contiguous burying ground was dedicated in 1866 as the Stonewall Cemetery for the bodies of 2,576 Confederate soldiers who died in the fields and hospitals in the Shenandoah. The tall shaft in the center of the graveyard honors 829 unknown soldiers; it is one of the earliest Civil War monuments, dedicated in 1866.

The most esteemed Mount Hebron resident is Daniel Morgan who began his military career alongside George Washington in the service of Edward Braddock in the French and Indian War. In the American Revolution General Morgan covered himself with glory whenever he took the field - in the assault at Quebec, in the defeat of Burgoyne at Saratoga, in the crushing of Tarleton at Cowpens. He was the most renowned rifleman of the Revolution.

In 1779, in nearby Boyce, he began work on an impressive mansion that he named Saratoga. much of the work was performed by Hessian prisoners. In the decade after the Revolution Morgan acquired over a quarter-million acres of land through speculation, becoming one of the most powerful men in the Shenandoah. In 1797 he was elected to congress, but ill health, which hampered him throughout his military career, limited him to a single term. When he returned to western Virginia, encroaching lameness forced him to abandon Saratoga in 1800 and live on Amherst Street in Winchester. He died in 1802 at the age of 66 and is buried along with five members of his Revolutionary bodyguard near the entrance at East Boscawen Street.

## 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

**TURN RIGHT ON GOVERNOR STREET AND WALK INTO THE HEART OF THE SHOCKOE HISTORIC DISTRICT, THE REMNANTS OF RICHMOND'S DAYS AS A BUSY PORT CITY.**

**AFTER EXPLORING THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, RETURN TO EAST MAIN STREET AT GOVERNOR STREET. AT THIS POINT YOU CAN CHOOSE A DETOUR TO CHECK OUT ONE OF RICHMOND'S OUTSTANDING LANDMARKS. IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO TAKE THE DETOUR, CONTINUE WALKING NORTH ON GOVERNOR STREET. TO TAKE THE DETOUR, WALK TWO BLOCKS EAST ON EAST MAIN STREET UNDER I-95.**

### **Detour Stop. Main Street Station and Trainshed 1520 East Main Street**



The Seaboard Air Line was America's major north-south rail line in the 19th century and at this point it crossed the tracks of the Chesapeake and Ohio. Railroad architects Wilson, Harris and Richards of Philadelphia tapped elements of French Renaissance architecture to craft this monumental five-story depot of stone and brick in 1901. Attached to the rear was a 400-foot cast iron train shed. Main Street Station reigned as the gateway to the city until passenger service was