

*Look Up,  
Virginia!*

Walking Tours of 20  
Towns In The Old Dominion

DOUG GELBERT



**CRUDEN BAY BOOKS**

*About the author:*

Doug Gelbert has written over 30 guidebooks on such diverse topics as public golf courses, the Civil War, movie filming locations and the best places to hike with your dog. For more information on this title visit the website *walkthetown.com*.

LOOK UP, VIRGINIA!  
WALKING TOURS OF 20 TOWNS IN THE OLD DOMINION

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## The towns...

Abingdon	5	Manassas	81
Alexandria	11	Norfolk	87
Charlottesville	19	Petersburg	95
Danville	27	Portsmouth	101
Fairfax	35	Richmond	107
Fredericksburg	41	Roanoke	117
Front Royal	47	Staunton	125
Harrisonburg	53	Williamsburg	133
Leesburg	59	Winchester	139
Lexington	65	<i>Identifying American Architecture</i>	148
Lynchburg	73		

## *How to use this book...*

There is no better way to see Virginia than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are visiting a new town or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a walking tour is ready to explore when you are.

Each of the 20 walking tours in **Look Up, Virginia!** describes a mix of historical and architectural and ecclesiastical landmarks. A quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on Virginia streets can be found at the back of the book on page 148.

### *Where are the maps?*

Let's face it, in today's world of GPS, Google Maps and Mapquest trying to squeeze a detailed map onto a 7" a 10" piece of paper can be a superfluous exercise. The best way to get a map of these towns is to pick an address from the tour and plug it into your favorite mapping program. Adjust the map to whatever size best suits your needs and print it out to carry with you.

These tours are designed to be followed and enjoyed without maps. Each entry includes a street address and step-by-step directions. Note that when following a tour, street crossings are omitted. Always continue walking on your current street until a turn is indicated. Whenever possible the tours complete a circular route but sometimes retracing your steps is required. The tour starting points have been selected to be near convenient parking.

One more thing. Consider tearing out the pages from this book when you take a tour - the book is created so that each tour can be pulled out without impugning another tour. You may find it easier to tour with just a few foldable pages in your hand than holding an entire book.

And, one really last thing. Look twice before crossing the street. So get out and look up, Virginia!

*Look Up,*

# *Albington*



## A Walking Tour of Abingdon...

Abingdon was founded in 1778 but the surrounding hills of southwestern Virginia would remain frontier for many years to come. Before so-called civilization arrived the area was called Wolf Hills, supposedly named by Daniel Boone after his hunting dogs were attacked by a pack of predatory lupines. The first encroachment on the wilderness here was a fort constructed by Joseph Black to give settlers refuge from attacks by displaced bands of Cherokee Indians.

When Washington County was formed in 1778 the site of Black's Fort was designated the county seat. On 120 acres donated from landowner Thomas Walker's tract the town was laid out. By 1793 Abingdon, perhaps named for the ancestral home of Martha Washington, was the distribution point for all mail that made its way into southwestern Virginia.

In the early 1800s the western outpost produced well more than its share of historical figures who would impact Virginia. There was John Campbell who would serve as Secretary of the Treasury under Andrew Jackson, Joseph E. Johnston who would become one of the leading generals of the Confederacy and three Virginia governors: Wyndham Robertson (1836-37), David Campbell (1837-41) and John Buchanan Floyd (1849-52).

The Virginia & Tennessee Railroad rolled into town in 1856, providing a link to the markets of eastern Virginia and Abingdon developed into a center for the shipping of tobacco and the construction of wagons. The Civil War came to Abingdon on December 14, 1864 when General George Stoneman marched 10,000 Federal troops through town burning the train depot and the wagon-shops and storehouses for Confederate supplies but otherwise leaving the town intact.

The result today is a 20-block Historic District peppered with outstanding examples of Federal architecture, including a handful constructed in the 1700s. Our explorations will begin at a structure that did not survive the Civil War, but not because of the hostilities between North and South - it was a personal thing...

**1. Washington County Courthouse**  
**189 East Main Street**

This is the fourth courthouse to serve Washington County from this site. It was completed in 1868 to replace its predecessor that was burned during the Civil War. General George Stoneman's Union troops had marched out of town on December 14, 1864 sparing the courthouse but Captain James Wyatt of the 13th Tennessee Cavalry lingered behind. Wyatt had been raised in Abingdon, piling up several scrapes with the law and he harbored enough resentment that he set fire to the courthouse. The blaze roused Confederate troops in town and Wyatt was hunted down and killed in the vicinity of Church and Water streets. The rebuilt courthouse incorporated the then popular Italianate style with its square tower and and cornice and fronted by a classical Greek Doric portico. In 1919 a Tiffany stained-glass window was installed above that entranceway to honor Washington County soldiers who served in World War I.

IN THE SMALL SQUARE  
BESIDE THE COURTHOUSE IS...

**2. Confederate Monument**  
**Court Square on Main Street**

Abingdon's memorial to the Confederate soldiers of Washington County was sculpted by Frederick William Sievers in 1907. Sievers would go on to become the famed designer of the "Virginia Monument" on the field at Gettysburg and many other notable statues but this was the 35-year old's first important commission. The 20-foot high monument depicts a soldier "just as he appeared in his last fight at Appomattox - advancing, gun in hand, with a determined fearless cast of mien." It was officially dedicated on June 3, 1908 - the centennial of the birth of Confederate President Jefferson Davis - and sited in the center of the intersection of Main and Court streets. It was moved to its present location in the 1930s with the soldier facing south, as is the wont of most Confederate monuments.

WALK OVER TO THE  
INTERSECTION WITH COURT  
STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**3. King House**  
**108 Court Street NE**

William King was one of the parade of Scotch and Irish who flowed out of Pennsylvania into the Shenandoah Valley after the American Revolution. He arrived in 1791, peddling goods to other settlers, a line of endeavor that led to a string of wooden stores. But his real money came from the saltworks he established in Saltville. King showed off his wealth and means in 1803 by constructing Abingdon's first brick house here. He called it "Grace Hill." King would later endow the private Abingdon Male Academy with \$10,000 and the school was renamed in his honor.

WALK BACK TO MAIN  
STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**4. Abingdon Bank**  
**225 East Main Street**

This three-story building was constructed in the 1840s by Robert Preston, the resident cashier of the Abingdon Bank. Preston and his family lived in one part of the building and the bank, counting room and vault were also located here. Elements of the Victorian and earlier Greek Revival styles can be detected in the brickwork, plaster lintels over the windows, cornice and entrance. The bank was shuttered at the end of the Civil War and the building carried on as a residence only.

**5. William H. Pitts House**  
**247 East Main Street**

This Greek Revival house with parapet walls on either end was constructed in 1854 by Adam Hickman. The symmetrical five-bay form with a recessed central entrance was a familiar one in Abingdon. The brick house was constructed on a foundation of limestone blocks and is the only house in town sheathed in stucco. Hickman sold the house in 1858 to William Pitts, a physician who moved from Richmond. Pitts was one of

five surgeons who tended to wounded soldiers at Abingdon's Confederate hospital during the Civil War.

**CROSS THE STREET AND TURN  
RIGHT TO WALK BACK UP MAIN  
STREET ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE.**

**6. The Tavern  
222 East Main Street**

This is the oldest building in Abingdon, and one of the oldest in western Virginia, constructed in 1779 as a stagecoach stop, inn and tavern. The first post office on the western slopes of the Blue Ridge Mountains operated here in the east end of the building and the original mail slot can still be seen. Henry Clay stopped here and so did Andrew Jackson. During the Civil War the building was pressed into duty as a hospital. In its 23 decades of existence other uses have been as a bank, bakery, general store, cabinet shop, barber shop and others and is operating today as an eatery once again.

**7. Virginia House  
208 East Main Street**

This was Dunn's Hotel when John Dunn had this brick building constructed in 1849. It continued as a guest house under the name Virginia House. The building would be converted into one of the town's most important Civil War hospitals.

**8. Abingdon House  
206 East Main Street**

This mid-block Federal-style brick building was constructed in 1850 by John S. Preston for his daughter Margaret. Preston was born in 1809 at "Salt Works," a sprawling estate owned by a prominent military family near Abingdon. Preston had studied law at the University of Virginia and Harvard College before his 20th birthday and was in practice in Abingdon by 1830. That year he married Caroline Hampton, a daughter of South Carolina's wealthiest planter, Wade Hampton and moved to Columbia, South Carolina where he became one of the most strident voices in support of secession.

**9. County Office Building  
174 East Main Street**

This limestone Neoclassical presence on Courthouse Hill came courtesy of a bank in the 1920s but has been doing government duty since 1947. The 8-ton vault inside is still operational.

**10. Star Museum  
170 East Main Street**

The Star Museum is exactly what you would think it would be - a repository for Hollywood memorabilia. The building houses the personal collection, thousands of items strong, of Robert Weisfeld. The three-story brick building housed the *Abingdon Virginian*, the newspaper operated by his family from 1841-2006. After the paper, which Weisfeld edited after spending 16 years pursuing an acting career in New York City, put out its final edition he opened the museum stuffed with glamour-tinged curiosities.

**11. Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church  
136 East Main Street**

This is the fifth meetinghouse for the congregation whose roots extend back into the 1700s. It is the third to occupy this site, dating to the 1830s when a break-away group established a new Presbyterian church here, leaving the church that would become Barter Theater. The two factions re-united on April 9, 1865, the day that Robert E. Lee was surrendering the Army of Northern Virginia. The current Gothic-flavored sanctuary was dedicated on December 21, 1890.

**12. St. Thomas Episcopal Church  
124 East Main Street**

The Episcopalians organized in Abingdon in 1846, meeting in a frame church building marked by an open belfry. After 78 years the frame church burned to the ground. Its replacement, an English-style stone church, appeared in 1925 and has recently passed the original in length of service.



**13. Martha Washington Inn**  
**150 West Main Street**

The Martha Washington Inn was built in 1832 as an elegant residence for General Francis Preston and Sarah Buchanan Preston and their nine children. In 1858 the Preston estate was purchased for \$21,000 (at a time when a good wage was \$1 a day) to be converted into an upscale college for young women. Named for Martha Washington, the college grounds were shortly transformed into training barracks for the Washington Mounted Rifles and the building converted into a hospital ward. Martha Washington College continued to educate women until the Great Depression when declining enrollment forced it to close in 1932. In 1935, The Martha Washington Inn opened as a luxury hotel, becoming a favored destination for the rich and famous. Among those who signed the guestbook at the Martha: Eleanor Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Lady Bird Johnson, Jimmy Carter, and Elizabeth Taylor.

CROSS THE STREET AND TURN  
RIGHT TO WALK BACK DOWN  
MAIN STREET ON THE OPPOSITE  
SIDE.

**14. Barter Theatre**  
**127 West Main Street**

This building began life as the Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church in 1832. Title passed to the Sons of Temperance after the Methodists departed and in 1890 the building was transferred to the town to be used as a town hall, fire hall and performance hall. The Barter Theatre opened here in 1933 and was designated the State Theatre of Virginia in 1946. It was the "barter" theatre because owner Robert Porterfield allowed patrons to exchange vegetables and produce in lieu of the 40-cent ticket price. Barter has a reputation as a stage where many famous actors first performed before they went on to achieve fame and fortune. Today, Barter is one of the last year-round professional resident repertory theatres remaining in the United States.; its best known alumni include: Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine, Hume Cronyn, Ned Beatty, Gary Collins, David Birney, and Larry Linville.

**15. Abingdon United Methodist Church**  
**101 East Main Street**

Circuit riding preachers ministered to Abingdon's first Methodists in congregants' homes as early as 1783. They did not get their own church until a small frame meeting house was built in 1822 over on Court Street. It was followed by a brick replacement in 1848 and on August 9, 1883 the cornerstone for this Gothic-influenced brick church.

**16. Valentine Baugh House**  
**129 East Main Street**

The core of this house was a log structure built in 1798. It was added onto in 1807 when Valentine Baugh - surveyor, postmaster, publisher of the *Abingdon Democrat* - purchased the house. Only two of Valentine's daughters, Minnie and Ethel, lived to adulthood, but neither of them married. Local legend tells that both their spirits still reside in the privately owned residence.

**17. Rohr House**  
**133 East Main Street**

This house was constructed for Reverend Philip Rohr in 1845. The symmetrical structure sports fine Flemish bond brickwork of alternating headers and stretchers and a splendid Greek Revival entrance presentation.

**18. Preston Law Office**  
**159 East Main Street**

Francis Preston, whose father William was a compatriot of George Washington in the surveying of western Virginia, was born in 1765 and studied law at the College of William & Mary. Preston veered towards politics rather than law and was elected to the Third and Fourth Congresses of the United States from 1793 to 1797. He declined re-nomination and settled in Abingdon to practice law. About the time this law office was constructed in 1815 Preston caught the political bug again and began a stint in the Virginia State Senate. In 1820 he became Brigadier-General of the Virginia Militia.

**19. Andrew Russell House**  
**165 East Main Street**

The western portion of this building was constructed in 1792 and was used in the Civil War as the headquarters of the Confederate Military Department of Southwest Virginia. The east wing that projects towards the street was an 1870s addition.

**20. James White House**  
**171 East Main Street**

This building began life as the brick home of James and Elizabeth White in 1819. A store and office were added in 1828. The house suffered damage when the courthouse at the other end of the block was burned during the Civil War in 1864. In the post-war restoration the Federal-style structure picked up the Italianate cornice. This was the boyhood home of Robert Sayers Sheffey, where he was reared by an aunt when his mother died. A flamboyant circuit-riding preacher, Sheffey became legendary for his big-hearted generosity to people and animals alike, earning the nickname St. Francis of the Wilderness.”

**WALK A FEW MORE STEPS TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.**

*Look Up,*

# *Alexandria*



## A Walking Tour of Alexandria...

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

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

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

**1. Founders Park**  
**North Union Street between**  
**Oronoco Street and Cameron Street**

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

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

**2. The Torpedo Factory**  
**105 North Union Street**

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

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

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

rowing enthusiasts and eventually power-boating was added to the water sports activities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**TURN RIGHT ON  
WASHINGTON STREET.**

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

Completed in 1773 on plans by James Wren, this Georgian brick Episcopal church is Alexandria's oldest. Centered on the west facade is a square tower supporting an octagonal belfry in three stages, and a domed cupola that were added in the early 1800s. When Christ church opened

George Washington purchased Pew 60 for 36 pounds and 10 shillings. It is preserved in the active church today. Robert E. Lee was confirmed here; Confederate officers and a mass Confederate grave are on the grounds.

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

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

STOP AT PRINCESS STREET.

**13. Princess Street**

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

CONTINUE TO ORONOCO STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

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

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

Fendall built a three-section telescoping house more commonly seen on the Maryland Eastern Shore.

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

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

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

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

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

In Colonial America, Alexandria was the most developed settlement on the main north-south road between Baltimore and Fredericksburg, and the City Tavern, built in 1770, was the hub for social and political goings-on. John Gadsby became proprietor in 1794. George Washington was a frequent visitor and participated in the first Birthnight Ball in his honor in 1798. In Novem-

ber 1799 he made his final military review from the tavern steps. The museum consists of two 18th century brick buildings - the tavern and the City Hotel.

TURN LEFT ON KING STREET.

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

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

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

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

From the time of its founding in 1749 this ground was designated for a market and city hall. The core of the current building dates to 1871 when it replaced a city hall that had stood since 1817 and was destroyed by fire. Adolph Cluss, a go-to architect across the river in Washington D.C., designed the U-shaped building around a central courtyard. The focus of City Hall, its steeped tower, is a reconstruction of the original cre-

ated by pioneer architect Benjamin H. Latrobe. On the southern half of the City Hall block is a plaza completed in 1967 during an urban renewal project. Through the years, the City Hall building has undergone several interior and exterior alterations including filling in the old courtyard.

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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



*Look Up,*

# *Charlottesville*



## A Walking Tour of Charlottesville...

In the 1720s wealthy landowners began receiving land patents in this area but few came to settle on their estates. One who did was Peter Jefferson who acquired the estates of Shadwell and Monticello. And so it was that Charlottesville, named for the new young Queen of King George III, became the town of Thomas Jefferson and his University of Virginia.

The town was formed by charter in 1762 “for the reception of traders” and as a seat for Albemarle County that had been cut from a wide area on both sides of the James River in 1744. A county courthouse was constructed around which 50 acres were laid out in streets and building lots. This legacy of service as a commercial center never left the town that has seldom seen importance in industry. For most of its history Charlottesville has been a university and residential city.

Unlike many of its sister towns in Virginia, Charlottesville felt only a light brush with the American Revolution and Civil War. During the struggle for independence prisoners - mostly German mercenaries - from the Battle of Saratoga were detained here briefly and the town endured a raid by British Colonel Banastre Tarleton in 1781.

There were no major Civil War battles in Charlottesville, which was used primarily as a hospital. Perhaps the biggest impact the military had on the town came via the Charlottesville Woolen Mills that organized in 1868 and for many years churned out the “cadet gray” material used for uniforms by the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Our explorations of Charlottesville will begin along the Downtown Mall, one of America’s iconic pedestrian malls and our first stop will be at the eastern end at the City Hall where three hometown Presidents look on...

**1. City Hall**  
**605 East Main Street**

City Hall features unique municipal monuments. On the wall are bas-relief figures of three American Presidents who frequented the town - Thomas Jefferson, James Madison and James Monroe. Out front on The Mall is the *Freedom of Speech Wall*, two-side slabs of Buckingham slate that stretch over 50 feet where anyone can write - or erase - anything in chalk at any time. The chalkboards are wiped clean on a regular basis but permanently inscribed is the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE CITY HALL, TURN LEFT AND WALK A FEW STEPS OVER TO THE END OF THE DOWNTOWN MALL.

**2. Charlottesville Pavilion**  
**610 East Main Street at east end of The Mall**

The outdoor entertainment venue opened in 2005, presenting a mix of national and local and regional acts.

TURN AROUND AND WALK UP THE DOWNTOWN MALL.

**3. Downtown Mall**

Settlers moved from the Virginia Tidewater towards the mountains along established trails carved by Indians and migrating game. Beginning in the 1730s the most popular trails were widened and graded into roads. The road that led to the Great Valley from Richmond became known as the Three Notch'd Road or Three Choptd Road, named from a system of marks chopped into wayside trees in the early 1740s. In 1762 Charlottesville was laid out in a simple grid of 56 building lots, each one acre in size, on both sides of the Three Notch'd Road. In the 20th century the historic road became US Route 250, tracing essentially the same route as it had for hundreds of years. In 1976 seven blocks were closed to vehicular traffic to create one of America's pioneering pedestrian malls.

**4. Charlottesville Hardware Company/  
Urban Outfitters**  
**316 East Main Street**

The Charlottesville Hardware Company was founded in 1889 and moved into this space in 1895. After fire swept this block of Main Street in 1909 all that was left was the shell of its three-story facade. The conflagration, that started in the hardware store, caused an estimated \$220,000 in damages and news of the blaze was reported in the *New York Times*. Firefighters were hampered in their efforts by the constant explosion of cartridges from inside the store. Known by its loyal customers as "Old Reliable," the store quickly rebuilt. After the demise of the hardware business the longest tenant of the space was the Hardware Restaurant that was a fixture on The Mall for thirty years beginning in 1976.

**5. People's National Bank**  
**300 East Main Street**

People's Bank took its first deposits in 1875 at 401 East Market Street. The bank had moved into the 300 block by 1909 when it escaped complete destruction in the Charlottesville Hardware Company fire that destroyed many of its neighbors. In 1916 People's moved into this two-story Neoclassical vault designed by Eugene Bradbury with its imposing Corinthian columns and pilasters.

**6. Paramount Theater**  
**215 East Main Street**

The Paramount was a latecomer to the golden age of American movie palaces, opening its doors on Thanksgiving Eve 1931. Theater architects C.W and George Rapp of Chicago specialized in creating ornate decors that transported patrons to exotic locales of the mind but for the Paramount they designed an octagonal auditorium in a Neoclassical style in the fashion of Thomas Jefferson that melded into the surrounding community. The grand theater with seating for 1,300 was a success from the beginning and enjoyed a run of more than 40 years before closing in 1974. After lying dark for the next 30 years the meticulously restored venue once again began greeting theater-goers on December 15, 2004.

**7. Wachovia Building**  
**123 East Main Street**

The eight-story office building that looms over The Mall was built in 1920 for the National Bank and Trust. Architect William Johnston Marsh followed the traditional practice of erecting high-rises in the style of a classical Greek column with an elaborate base (the two-story stone facade), a relatively unadorned shaft (the brick upper floors) and an ornate capital (the decorative roof).

**8. Jefferson Theater**  
**110 East Main Street**

If this theater looks like a bank it is because that is what the building was created for, back in 1901. In 1912 it was sold to a theater company. Fire scorched the interior in 1915 and theater architect C.K. Howell brought the performing space back to life in a classical style he used for downtown theaters in Richmond. The Jefferson specialized in bringing silent films and vaudeville acts to Charlottesville. Harry Houdini performed here. Its historical arc, however, followed hundreds of similar downtown theaters: conversion to a movie house, loss of patronage in the 1960s and stints as an adult theater and a dollar house. But the Jefferson survived and approaches its second century as a performing arts venue.

CONTINUE WALKING UP THE DOWNTOWN MALL AND TURN RIGHT ON 2ND STREET NW (THE SECOND 2ND STREET YOU ENCOUNTER). CROSS MARKET STREET.

**9. McGuffey Art Center**  
**201 2nd Street, NW**

This two-story, brick building in the Colonial Revival style was Charlottesville's first primary school building constructed for that purpose. Completed in 1916 and lauded for its physical harmony, both on its facade and with its interior layout, the building became a model for subsequent school construction in Charlottesville. It carried the name of William H. McGuffey, author of the first standard U.S. reader series and

staunch advocate of public education, who also taught ethics at the University of Virginia. The McGuffey Art Center was established in 1975 as school rooms were transformed into galleries and studios. The building was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2009.

CROSS JEFFERSON STREET.

**10. Christ Episcopal Church**  
**120 West High Street at 2nd Street**

This Gothic Revival stone church, shepherded into existence by architect George Wallace Spooner in 1895, replaced the first church building in Charlottesville from 1820. Serving on the building committee for that pioneering structure was Thomas Jefferson.

WALK BACK A FEW STEPS TO JEFFERSON STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**11. Magruder Sanitarium**  
**100 West Jefferson Street**

Edward M. Magruder, an instructor in physical diagnosis at the University of Virginia, built this brick building in 1899 for his patients, qualifying it as the first building in Charlottesville designed to be a hospital. The University of Virginia Hospital opened shortly afterwards and Dr. Magruder adapted the building for his own practice and living quarters for his family.

**12. Lee Park**  
**bounded by Jefferson Street, Market Street, 1st Street NE, and 2nd Street NE**

Paul Goodloe McIntire, who made a fortune on Wall Street, donated the property for a park in 1924. The focal point of the park on its highest point is a majestic equestrian rendering of Robert E. Lee. The design is by Henry Merwin Shrady who was known for his bronze wildlife and Indian sculptures and whose masterwork was the *Appomattox Memorial Monument* to Lee's counterpart, General Ulysses S. Grant in Washington, D.C. Shrady died before the bronze could be cast and the work was completed by Leo Lentelli.

**13. First Methodist Church**  
**101 East Jefferson Street**

This is the third sanctuary for Charlottesville's Methodists. The first Methodist house of worship was erected in 1834 on Water Street and served the congregation for 25 years. The current church was raised in 1924 on plans drawn by architect Joseph Hudnut. Hudnut gave the brick building a bold portico under Doric columns and a beefy entablature.

**14. Social Hall**  
**109 East Jefferson Street**

This was one of Charlottesville's finest Federal homes of the early 19th century, highlighted by a fine fanlight over the entrance. It was constructed by John R. Jones in 1814. Jones was a prosperous merchant, banker and land agent who lived here for more than forty years. The front veranda is a later addition.

TURN RIGHT ON 2ND STREET, NE.

**15. McIntire Building**  
**200 2nd Street, NE**

Paul Goodloe McIntire provided Charlottesville with its first public library in this building in 1921. Architect Walter Dabney Blair provided a Beaux Arts design with a prominent semi-circular portico enhanced with marble steps and columns. The Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society, founded in 1940, moved into the space in 1994.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO  
JEFFERSON STREET AND  
TURN RIGHT.

**16. Temple Beth Israel**  
**301 East Jefferson Street**

The congregation was organized in 1882 and settled into worship at the corner of Market and 2nd streets. Their location was coveted for a new post office in 1904 and the temple building was moved brick by brick to this spot. The synagogue survived a 1948 fire and was rebuilt.

TURN RIGHT ON 4TH STREET, NE.

**17. Massie Wills House**  
**215 Fourth Street, NE**

This Federal-style brick residence was constructed in 1830 by Harden Massie and picked up a face-lift in the 1870s when F.M. Wills owned the property. Despite decades as a rental property, this is one of the few remaining houses that stands in Charlottesville close to its original condition.

RETURN TO JEFFERSON  
STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

**18. Butler-Norris House**  
**410 East Jefferson Street**

This house, now a small-scale inn, is the only building remaining in downtown Charlottesville from the 1700s. Edward Butler began the house in 1785. During the days of the American Revolution Butler was a signer of the Albemarle Declaration of Independence. The house features Flemish bond brickwork and the only molded brick cornice in the city. Opie Norris, a Town Trustee and Magistrate, was the third owner, acquiring the property in 1816.

WALK ACROSS THE  
STREET INTO THE PARK.

**19. Jackson Park**  
**4th Street, between High Street  
and Jefferson Street**

This area on the west side of the courthouse was a bustling commercial district beginning in the early 1800s - the town's first newspaper, the *Central Gazette*, began publishing here in 1820. This is another gift to the City from Paul Goodloe McIntire, who donated the property for a park in 1919. McIntire also provided funds for the regal equestrian monument of Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson that dominates the greenspace. Executed in bronze by Charles Keck, the strident Jackson rests above a base of granite.

WALK OVER TO THE  
COURTHOUSE NEXT DOOR.

**20. Albemarle County Courthouse**  
**501 East Jefferson Street (Court Square)**

Thomas Walker was born in 1715 into a family of plantation owners going back three generations in Tidewater Virginia. After an education at the College of William and Mary Walker practiced medicine and honed his skills as an explorer and surveyor. He became the physician to Peter Jefferson and the guardian to his son Thomas upon his death. Walker built a home he called Castle Hill on his wife's 15,000-acre estate and in 1762 donated the land for the original courthouse for Albemarle County.

That wooden frame building served the county's legal needs and was also used for religious services - Thomas Jefferson called it "The Common Temple." In 1803 the building was razed and replaced by a brick courthouse that can still be seen today in the rear wing. In 1859 a front addition in the Gothic Revival style came along. The portico seen today dates to 1867.

WALK AROUND COURTHOUSE  
SQUARE TO THE LEFT AND WALK  
UP TO THE NEXT CORNER AT  
HIGH STREET.

**21. Town Hall/Levy Opera House**  
**350 Park Street at southeast corner**  
**of High Street**

Private money erected this three-story Greek Revival red brick building in 1852 to house the town government and host traveling entertainment troupes. The building was sited on the location of the town's former battery. It picked up a connection to Thomas Jefferson in 1887 when it was purchased by Jefferson Monroe Levy who owned Monticello at the time. Levy reconfigured the interior into a state-of-the-art Opera House and bringing nationally known acts and lecturers to its stage. In more recent times the building has done duty as apartments and office space.

TURN AND WALK BACK  
DOWN PARK STREET.

**22. Red Land Club**  
**300 Park Street at northeast corner**  
**of Jefferson Street**

The edges of Court Square have always been popular for proprietors of taverns and guest houses. The first of these establishments was the Swan Tavern opened by John Jouett in 1773. The tavern achieved a spot of notoriety in 1781 when Jouett's son Jack made a harrowing 45-mile nighttime ride across county back roads to warn Governor Thomas Jefferson's government, which had relocated to Charlottesville in the waning days of the American Revolution, of an impending raid by British forces under the command of Colonel Banastre Tarleton. The tavern was torn down and replaced with the current brick building in 1832. It has been occupied by the Redland Club for the "the swell and aristocratic of Charlottesville" since 1905.

**23. 0 Court Square**  
**southeast corner of Park Street and**  
**Jefferson Street**

The classical design of Thomas Jefferson's University of Virginia buildings seeped into the town with the construction of this building in 1828. By the time this storehouse appeared the buildings around Court Square had already been sequentially numbered so it was given the unusual address of #0.

CONTINUE TO THE CORNER OF  
JEFFERSON STREET. ACROSS THE  
STREET TO THE RIGHT IS...

**24. Monticello Hotel**  
**500 Court Square**

The national trend for impressive high-rise hotels in small towns came to Charlottesville in 1924 with the groundbreaking for the Monticello Hotel. Lynchburg architect Stanhope Johnson did the design honors and delivered a nine-story Georgian Revival hotel that greeted its first guests in 1926. On the roof was a searchlight said



to be visible for 300 miles. The hotel closed in the 1970s and found renewed life as condominiums.

DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF YOU IS...

**25. Farish House Hotel**  
**100/300 Court Square**

This was the site of the Eagle Tavern, a popular lodging for visitors on courthouse business beginning in 1791. It was replaced in 1854 by a “modern” brick hotel, designed in the popular Greek Revival style with a recessed central entrance and bracing quartet of molded brick pilasters. Named the Farish House, it operated as a hotel for more than a century.

TURN LEFT AND FOLLOW 6TH STREET NE OUT TO MARKET STREET. TURN LEFT AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO 7TH STREET NE AND TURN RIGHT. WALK ONE BLOCK TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT ON THE DOWNTOWN MALL.



*Look Up,*

# *Danville*



## A Walking Tour of Danville...

Danville is a town built on tobacco, not the manufacture of it but the storage and transporting of it. In the early 1790s inland tobacco growers began agitating for a more convenient inspection station than Richmond or Petersburg and in 1793 the Virginia Assembly established a tobacco warehouse at Wynne's Falls, a fording spot on the Dan River. Later in the year the village name was changed by the Legislature to Danville, the name coming from pioneering settler William Byrd who, in 1728, named the river.

In short order Danville would become Virginia's largest market for bright leaf tobacco, laying claim to being the "World's Best Tobacco Market." By the Civil War Danville had evolved into a bustling town of 5,000. During the fighting the town's cavernous tobacco warehouses were converted into hospitals and prisons. Starvation and dysentery, plus a smallpox epidemic in 1864, caused the death of 1,314 of these prisoners. Their remains now lie interred in the Danville National Cemetery. Danville was a major supply depot for the Confederacy but was never reached by Union troops.

Danville's industrial era began in 1881 with the opening of a small yarn mill that would evolve into the largest single-unit textile mill in the world. Dan River textiles were known the country over. Fortunes made in tobacco and cotton showed themselves on Main Street as it stretched westward away from the city clinging to the Dan River. While downtown Danville lost many of its most impressive buildings to fire and urban renewal energetic preservationists have kept this section of Main Street, known as Millionaire's Row, looking much as it did in the town's glory days.

Danville is home to some of the finest Victorian architecture in the South and our walking tour will work up and down Main Street (although topographically speaking down and then up) and we will start at the top of the hill with the house that launched Millionaire's Row and witnessed the end of the Confederacy...

**1. Sutherlin Mansion/Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History  
975 Main Street**

While still in his thirties William Thomas Sutherlin was operating the second largest tobacco factory in the Commonwealth and was the first Virginian to apply steam power to hydraulic tobacco presses. In his spare time Sutherlin founded and served as the first president of the Bank of Danville. In 1855, at the age of 33, Sutherlin was elected as Danville's mayor and served for 6 years.

The Italian villa he constructed on this hilltop in 1857-58 triggered development of the town's fashionable West End and stands today as the city's only such ante-bellum mansion. During the Civil War Sutherlin's ill health kept him from serving actively but he was appointed Quartermaster of the critical Danville supply depot and arsenal. In the final week of the Confederacy from April 3 to the 10th Major Sutherlin quartered Confederate President Jefferson Davis in an upstairs bedroom. In this house, Davis wrote and delivered his final proclamation to the Confederacy on April 4th and later that day, met for the last time with his full Cabinet - events that enabled Danville to lay claim to being the "Last Capitol of the Confederacy."

After the war Sutherlin went back to his business interests and drifted into politics. He died at the age of 71 in 1893. In disrepair, the mansion was spared the wrecking ball in 1912 by a campaign from Confederate veterans that launched Danville's preservation movement. Beginning in 1928 the Sutherlin Mansion began duty as the city's first public library and since 1974 has served as the home for the Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History.

WITH YOUR BACK TO SUTHERLIN MANSION TURN RIGHT AND WALK DOWN MAIN STREET TOWARDS THE CENTER OF TOWN, STAYING ON THE SOUTH (RIGHT) SIDE OF THE STREET.

**2. First Presbyterian Church  
937 Main Street**

The Presbyterians were the first congregation to organize in Danville (1826) but the last denomination to arrive on Main Street - and they brought game. This monumental Ionic temple-fronted sanctuary was completed in 1912, executed in light-colored sandstone and cream colored pressed brick. This is the fourth Presbyterian meetinghouse in town, designed by Reuben H. Hunt of Chattanooga, Tennessee. The elegant egg and dart molding on the interior was contributed by Danville master plaster craftsman Charles Orchard.

**3. Witcher Jones House  
903 Main Street**

This was a much smaller house when tobaccoist Witcher Jones had it built in 1875. You can see how the Italianate-flavored house was enlarged by the coloring of the bricks.

**4. First Baptist Church  
871 Main Street**

This congregation was established in 1834 and prospered over the next half-century until more spacious quarters were needed. The Baptists secured this lot in 1885 for \$8,000 and spent another \$32,500 to construct a new church to the High Victorian Gothic design by John Rochester Thomas of Rochester, New York. Lightning struck the building in 1905 sparking a fire which left only the walls, tower and a bit of the steeple standing. Today's appearance dates to the subsequent rebuilding.

**5. Edward Fox Acree House  
833 Main Street**

This beefy Victorian was built in 1881 by Edward Fox Acree, who, with his brother James founded Acree's Warehouse that helped propel Danville to the forefront of the loose leaf tobacco trade. Several styles are represented here. The eyebrow window is a Shingle-Style affectation, the elaborate milled roof brackets and window hoods are borrowed from the Italianate style and the fish-scaled gables and delicate columns of the

porch are trademarks of the Queen Anne influence.

**6. Paxton Grant House**  
**815 Main Street**

John W. Paxton, an accomplished silversmith and clockmaker, purchased this land in the early 1800s. His son Walter, a tobacconist, constructed this Queen Anne confection in 1895. It is slathered with fish-scale shingles and boasts asymmetrical massing, wrap-around porch, and a sly eyebrow window on the roof.

**7. Elm Court**  
**811 Main Street**

Today this house, set well back from the street, sports an empty front lawn but at one time a massive American elm tree lorded over the property. Jacob Davis started this structure in 1853 and sold it to his son-in-law George Ayres for \$20,000 a decade later. Ayres spent the coming decades re-modeling and added the hooded gable and bracketed Italianate details. Since 1920 the building has operated as four apartment units.

**8. Robert Bruce James House**  
**803 Main Street**

For three generations Danville residents sought care here, with Robert Bruce James being the first of three doctors who used the brick building as their residence and office. The house features asymmetrical Queen Anne massing and elements with a splash of Neoclassical details. Look up to see a tripartite Palladian window.

**9. Episcopal Church of the Epiphany**  
**781 Main Street**

The Church of the Epiphany was founded in 1840 with Dr. George Washington Dame preaching to a congregation of four. Dame had come to town to be headmaster at the Danville Female Academy. Four years later a small Gothic-styled wooden church was erected on this site; Confederate President Jefferson Davis attended service here in the waning days of the Civil War. In 1880 the original frame building was demolished and the present structure with three-stage

corner tower and octagonal spire, was built along the lines of the original wood church. The building was completed in time for Easter services in 1881; the final cost was \$16,000.

**10. Education Annex, Main Street**  
**United Methodist Church**  
**769 Main Street**

Go-to Danville architect J. Bryant Heard delivered a complimentary fellowship hall for the Main Street United Methodist Church next door in 1923. It features the same outstanding brickwork and Romanesque arched windows. The space has been re-adapted for community use since the congregation disbanded in 2007.

**11. Main Street United Methodist Church**  
**767 Main Street**

The city's Methodist tradition dates back to 1834. The core of this building was erected in 1868 but its Romanesque appearance - the city's best - came in 1891 courtesy of architect William M. Poindexter. The make-over came with the prominent castellated tower. In 1909 the widow of tobacco magnate James G. Penn donated an eleven-bell carillon for the church tower.

**12. Hotel Leeland**  
**601-623 Main Street**

Along with the Hotel Danville across the street, the Hotel Leeland is the only remaining grand hotel from the go-go days of a century ago. The brainchild of local businessmen and brothers E.C. and K.C. Arey, the 72-room hotel, developed in a Colonial Revival style, opened in 1918. It was said the cost of the building was \$500,000 with \$300,000 spent to create the Strand Theatre alone. The chairs in the 900-seat theater were hand-carved in Richmond from solid oak and outfitted with brass plates. Local architect J. Bryant Heard shepherded the project to completion.

**13. Southern Amusement Building**  
**549 Main Street**

The two-story building has an elegant Neoclassical facade of glazed cream-colored terra cotta that rises to a frieze of purple and cream swags and a row of free-standing urns. This was erected in 1922 by the Southern Amusement Company as the ornate front of a 2,000-seat theater that was never built. Finally it was sold in 1936 to Sears, Roebuck & Company.

**14. Herman Building**  
**515-517 Main Street**

This four-story buff-colored brick building has stood for 100 years in more or less its original form. This was one of the first projects undertaken by architect Charles G. Pettit, Jr. after he came to town in 1909 to open an office for the Lynchburg firm of McLaughlin, Pettit and Johnson. Along with J. Bryant Heard, Pettit was responsible for much of the look of downtown Danville's streetscape. For Louis Herman's new department store Pettit incorporated geometric patterns that would mark some of his later work as well.

**15. The Masonic Building**  
**105 South Union Street at Main Street**

This is Danville's first skyscraper, completed in 1921, and still reigns as the city's tallest building. The tandem of ten-story towers were constructed to relieve a shortage of office space and serve as a showcase for the Masons. It is actually the third lodge built in Danville by the fraternal organization. Fred F. Farris, a West Virginia architect, designed the Neoclassical building with traces of Tudor and Gothic ornamentation. The two towers are constructed of concrete and steel and sheathed in white terra-cotta. The price tag - \$550,000.

CROSS THE STREET AND TURN  
LEFT, WALKING UP MAIN STREET  
ON THE NORTH SIDE.

**16. Elks Lodge**  
**560 Main Street**

The B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 227 in Danville was established in 1892 and this lodge and apartment building came along in 1912. Danville architect Charles G. Pettit, Jr., tapped into the emerging Craftsman style with geometric patterns into this brick building. Overall, the bricks are laid in the decorative Flemish bond pattern of alternating headers and stretchers.

**17. Hotel Danville**  
**600 Main Street**

Danville boasted a number of grand hotels in its glory days of the late 1800s and early 1900s: Hotel Leeland, Morgan Hotel, Hotel Dan, Burton Hotel. Most are gone today. The red brick, nine-story Hotel Danville joined the roster in 1927. It was an upscale affair, boasting its own theater and amenities attracting a well-heeled clientele. Among the notables who signed the guest book were Eleanor Roosevelt and movie stars Greer Garson, Randolph Scott and Lash Larue. The Colonial Revival building was also the site of Danville's first commercial radio station when WBTM erected its transmitting antenna to the roof in 1930. The Hotel Danville closed operations in the 1970s and carries on as housing for the elderly.

**18. Danville Post Office**  
**700 Main Street**

This Depression-era project to create a federal post office and courthouse was completed in 1932, replacing a 50-year old building two blocks east on Main Street. J. Bryant Heard provided the plans for the stripped-down classicism of the Art Deco style building.

**19. Lanier House**  
770 Main Street

This is the oldest house on Main Street, built around 1830 by James Lanier. In 1833 he became Danville's first mayor. Lanier would do a double take if he saw his Federal-style house today. When it was owned by the Wylie family in the 20th century a quartet of full-length Doric columns were added to the entrance. It did duty as an Elks Lodge in the early 1900s for a spell.

**20. Peatross House**  
776 Main Street

Richard Warner Peatross was born on the family farm in Caroline County in 1839. An ardent secessionist, Peatross was mustered into service for the Confederacy on the day of the First Battle of Bull Run and surrendered with the Army of Northern Virginia, having passed through the Civil War without a serious injury. He taught himself law and won admission to the Virginia bar, beginning practice in Danville in 1867. Peatross had this Georgian Revival house built in 1905 when he was serving as city attorney.

**21. Lawson House**  
782 Main Street

Architect-builder T. B. Fitzgerald constructed the original two-story, red-brick Italianate dwelling in 1881 for Robert W. Lawson, a successful tobacconist. You can see the Italianate details such as a flat roof, arched window hoods, one over one windows and corner quoins. What is decidedly not Italianate is the semi-circular Ionic portico that came along in 1911, added by William Daniel Overbey, president of the Danville Lumber & Manufacturing Company.

**22. James H. Fitzgerald House**  
802 Main Street

This is a rare example of the luxurious Chateausque style in Danville, seen most conspicuously in its varied roofline. Erected in 1891, the brick house sports terra cotta detailing, rough stone beltcourses and a well-proportioned conical corner tower.

**23. B.S. Crews House**  
806 Main Street

The most eye-catching detail of this eclectic Queen Anne house from 1890 is its octagonal corner tower decorated with ornamental scrolled ironwork. The tower of this beautifully preserved house is capped by a wrought iron finial. The plans were drawn by local architect R.B. Graham.

**24. E.G. Moseley House**  
840 Main Street

This picturesque Victorian house, lovingly restored after decades of decay, was constructed in 1903 for E.G. Moseley, president of the Danville Tobacco Association. Moseley was also a long-time Methodist minister for whom Moseley Memorial Methodist Church was named.

**25. Wiseman House**  
842 Main Street

This well-proportioned English cottage-style house designed by J. Bryant Heard snuck onto the street in 1917. Henry A. Wiseman, a physician, built it for his bride. He had been born in the family home that had been on this property since 1870. The house was in the Wiseman family for 100 years before beginning a three-decade stint as the headquarters for the Danville chapter of the American Red Cross. It has since been returned to its roots as a residence.

**26. William H. Lipscomb House**  
854 Main Street

This Italianate-flavored brick house with its patterned slate conical tower is actually one-half of twin houses constructed for brothers William and James Lipscomb in 1885. The brothers, two of twelve children, operated a grocery and merchandise house at the foot of Main Street and purchased an 80-foot lot here for \$4,350. When James died in 1902 his house was sold and torn down by new owner James Gabriel Penn. The bricks were saved and used for Penn's carriage house.



**27. James G. Penn House**  
**862 Main Street**

James Gabriel Penn was born at Penn's Store on November 14, 1845 and as a cadet at Virginia Military Institute was part of the celebrated Cadet Corps that fought with valor for the Confederacy at the Battle of New Market in 1864, forcing the Union Army out of the Shenandoah Valley. After the war Penn arrived in Danville in 1868 and entered into a partnership in a mercantile concern. He sold that interest and became a commission merchant for the purchase of leaf tobacco as a principal in the firm of Pemberton and Penn beginning in 1872.

He spent an estimated \$60,000 to build this Victorian mansion in 1876, liberally decorated with Italianate details and strengthened by a three-story Second Empire-style central tower. The house picked up several remodelings through the years as it evolved into a Danville landmark. The family lost the house during the Depression and it was sold at public auction in 1934 for \$9,300. It is one of only two houses on Millionaires Row listed individually on the National Register of Historic Places.

**28. Charles M. Sublett House**  
**878 Main Street**

Tobacco magnate Charles M. Sublett built this spectacular rendering of a High Victorian Gothic mansion for his new bride Jennie Crosby in 1874. Sublett died two years later, but the house remained in the family for the next 120 years. The mansion is awash in pointed arched windows, corbeled cornices, finials capped by a complex roof massing and all enclosed by a splendid wrought iron fence.

**29. E. J. Bell House**  
**904 Main Street**

Merchant E.J. Bell constructed this house in the Italianate style in 1860 but he suffered financial reversals in 1868 and the house was sold at auction. H. Lee Boatwright, a vice-president at the tobacco firm, Dibrell Brothers, moved here in 1893 and set about overhauling the 33-year old mansion. He had visions of a grand classical visage and added Palladian windows and doors with

beveled glass and a two-story Ionic portico intersected by a one-story Ionic colonnade.

**30. W.A. Cherry House**  
**912 Main Street**

This land was once owned by James Lanier, Danville's first mayor. W.A. and Maggie Cherry erected this eclectic two-and-a-half story clapboard house in 1898. It features asymmetrical massing and a Neoclassical porch of slender, fluted Ionic columns. The ancient oak that shades the front yard is a survivor of an original grove of nearly two acres. The house was acquired by J. Pemberton Penn, son of James Penn, in 1905.

**31. James Rufus Jopling House**  
**918 Main Street**

This interpretation of the French Second Empire style was crafted in 1890 for J.R. Jopling. The focal point is the three-story central tower crowned with a mansard roof. Jopling was a Bedford County farm boy who left to fight in the Civil War and came home to the fields. He was appointed deputy sheriff of Bedford County in 1866 at the age of 21. In 1868 he left the farm to begin his business career as a clerk in Lynchburg. By 1874 he was in Danville managing a hardware store. When he built this house he was running a wholesale and retail enterprise. Active in both the Methodist church and the Democratic party, Jopling became president of the Merchants Bank in 1893 which he merged into the First National Bank of Danville, which he also helmed.

**32. William F. Patton House**  
**926 Main Street**

Local lore maintains that the shrouded facade of this stone and brick Queen Anne house was "unveiled" by banker William Patton when it was completed in 1890. A look up close reveals exquisite terra cotta detailing and craftsmanship. The house would be visited by tragedy within a few years when Patton's wife died from typhoid and the family left to live with his mother-in-law. O. Witcher Dudley, a prominent tobacco leaf dealer, purchased the house and the Dudley family resided here until 1954. By the 1960s an absentee owner laid out plans to replace the aging 27-room

mansion with an apartment building. The scheme kick-started Danville preservationists and it became the first house to be rescued.

**33. John H. Schoolfield House**  
**944 Main Street**

John Harrell Schoolfield was part of the six-man consortium, including two of his brothers, who pooled \$75,000 to charter The Riverside Cotton Mills on July 27, 1882. Known familiarly as the Dan River Mills, the company would hold sway in the community for 126 years. Thomas B. Fitzgerald, one of the founding partners and an architect-builder, constructed this splendid Italianate mansion for the Schoolfields in 1884. The composition is highlighted by a decorative cast iron porch and the superb metalwork is carried down to the steps leading up to the entrance.

**34. Lewis E. Harvie House**  
**954 Main Street**

Lewis Harvie served as a surgeon in the Confederate army and hung out his shingle in Danville for many decades. He built this frame house in 1873 when residences on Main Street were a bit more modest. Over the years it picked up a Neoclassical face.

**35. David Ayres House**  
**968 Main Street**

Long-time tobacco merchant David Ayres built this Georgian Revival brick house in 1874. Look up to see a centered Palladian window. The Ionic portico was added around 1910.

**CROSS THE STREET TO RETURN  
TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT.**

*Look Up,*

# *Fairfax*



## A Walking Tour of Fairfax...

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

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

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

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

**1. Old Town Hall**  
**3999 University Street at northeast corner**  
**of Main Street**

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

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

**2. Ratcliffe-Allison House**  
**10386 Main Street**

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

the first city-owned building to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**TURN LEFT ON  
CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**12. Truro Church**  
**10520 Main Street**

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

was appointed to the Truro Parish vestry on October 25, 1762.

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

At the close of the Civil War, the congregation re-formed and began to meet in the Fairfax Courthouse. The church sanctuary was rebuilt and consecrated and Zion Church remained in active use from 1875 through 1933, when a new church (now the Chapel) was built to serve the growing congregation of 100 parishioners.

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

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

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

Dr. Gunnell's house, built in 1835, was purchased for use as a rectory for Truro Church in 1882. At that time it was half the size it is today and was enlarged to its present form in 1911. It served as the residence of the rector of the Episcopal Church in Fairfax until 1991 when it served

first as a home for single mothers and their babies (NOEL House) and then as the offices for Truro Church.

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

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

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

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

**TURN RIGHT ON CHAIN BRIDGE ROAD.**

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

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

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

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

RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO  
NORTH ROAD AND TURN RIGHT.

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

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

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



*Look Up,*

# *Fredericksburg*



## A Walking Tour of Fredericksburg...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2. Masonic Cemetery**  
**George Street at Charles Street**

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

TURN LEFT ON CHARLES STREET.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This was the Farmer's Bank of Virginia when it was built in 1820. President Abraham Lincoln addressed Union troops and citizens from the bank steps during the Civil War on April 22, 1862. During the military occupation of Fredericksburg the bank was Headquarters of the Union command. At the end of the war, Farmers Bank failed and became the home of National

Bank. It was chartered in 1865 and restored to its pre-Civil War appearance in 1985. As a museum interpreting 200 years of banking history it contains a restored banking room and local banking artifacts including a scale for weighing gold dust, a counterfeit bank note from the 1800s and bank certificates and correspondence from the 1860s.

**10. Courthouse  
815 Princess Anne Street at George Street**

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

**11. Presbyterian Church  
810 Princess Anne Street**

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

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

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

story brick building with twin end chimneys was erected in 1815.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**17. Library Point  
1201 Caroline Street**

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

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

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

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

TURN LEFT ON FAUQUIER STREET.

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

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

TURN LEFT ON CHARLES STREET.

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

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

TURN RIGHT ON LEWIS STREET.

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

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

TURN LEFT ON  
WASHINGTON AVENUE.

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

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

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

*Look Up,*

# *Front Royal*



## A Walking Tour of Front Royal...

Front Royal developed along three major travel routes that intersected here. 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 1820s 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 the 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 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 Stonewall Jackson surprised the Federal garrison in Front Royal, capturing prisoners and 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, 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.**

*Look Up,*

# *Harrisonburg*



## A Walking Tour of Harrisonburg...

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 SQUARE,  
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 created 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. logos 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 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 WSVB-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 perma-stone 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 vollied 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 congrega-

tion 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 patch 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.

*Look Up,*

# *Leesburg*



# A Walking Tour of Leesburg...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Shelburne Parish was cleaved from the western regions of the Parish of Cameron in 1769; the first St. James church would, a small brick meetinghouse, would come along in 1812. It would be torn down and replaced in 1838 and the cornerstone for the present church would be laid in 1895. Washington architect Leon Dessez adapted the Richardsonian Romanesque style pioneered by Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential American architect of the

post Civil War era, for this building. It features such hallmarks of the style as powerful arched entries, groupings of window openings in threes, a corner tower and multiple materials, here most evidenced by the brownstone trim.

TURN LEFT ON KING STREET.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TURN RIGHT AT MARKET STREET.

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

The Tally Ho Theatre screened its first movie on September 21, 1931, with *The Sporting Blood* starring Clark Gable and some unsavory shenanigans at the racetrack as the feature. Originally a single theater, it remained in operation until 2000 when Regal Cinemas lost its lease. It remained dark only a few years, however, until local ownership resurrected the movie house for another run.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



*Look Up,*

# *Lexington*



## A Walking Tour of Lexington...

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 was 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 (VMI).

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 Robert E. Lee was a vestryman here. The church was founded in 1840 by a friend of the Lees, General Francis Henney Smith. Smith was also the first superintendent of Virginia Military Institute and served for fifty years. The church, constructed in the 1870s, 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. **McC Campbell Inn** **11 North Main Street**

John McC Campbell 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 townfolk 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 in the church. 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. 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 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.



*Look Up,*

# *Lynchburg*



## A Walking Tour of Lynchburg...

John Lynch, who was only 17 at that time, established a ferry at a difficult ford in the James River in 1757. Over the years dwellings sprung up on the navigable river near his ferry house. Lynch expanded his enterprises himself in the 1780s when he constructed a tobacco warehouse on his land north of the river. In 1784 the ambitious Lynch petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to authorize a town charter for his little fiefdom. In 1786 his request was granted to establish “a town on the lands of Lynch in the County Campbell.”

The new town was raised on tobacco, a variation known as dark leaf tobacco suited for chewing and rolling cigars. Hogsheads of tobacco from the surrounding farms arrived at the James River and were poled down to Richmond in flat bateaux boats. By the time John Lynch died in 1820 at the age of 80 the town that developed on the hills surrounding his old ferry was well on its way to being the industrial star of southwestern Virginia. Thomas Jefferson wrote, “Lynchburg is perhaps the most rising place in the U.S.... It ranks now next to Richmond in importance...” In the years before the Civil War Lynchburg was among the richest towns per capita in the country.

Tobacco also kickstarted the Lynchburg economic engine following the Civil War. In 1882 Lynchburg native James Bonsack revolutionized the tobacco industry by inventing a cigarette rolling machine. Within five years more than 30,000,000 pounds of tobacco were marketed from Lynchburg. The foundation laid by tobacco led to a thriving trade in iron and steel. Its shoe factories were among the busiest in America. For a time the world’s largest tannin extract plant operated here.

The 1880s to 1930s brought Lynchburg’s greatest prosperity and the downtown area retains a wealth of commercial buildings from this era that we will see on our walking tour but first we will begin where the town began, at the site of John Lynch’s ferry...

**1. Langley Fountain**  
**James River at 9th Street**

At this spot on the James River in 1757 John Lynch established his ferry. In 2004, with money raised from local citizens, this jet-powered water spout designed by Georgia Fountain Company was put into action. Secured to a stone pier from the remains of a 19th century bridge, the fountain throws James River water 190 feet in the air, laying claim to being the highest river fountain east of the Mississippi River.

**WITH YOUR BACK TO THE JAMES RIVER, WALK UP 9TH STREET TO JEFFERSON STREET.**

**2. Amazement Square**  
**27 9th Street at Jefferson Street**

An innovative children's museum today, the J. W. Wood Building stands as one of the largest and best-preserved pre-Civil War structures in Lynchburg. Featuring a cast iron facade on the ground level, the building was constructed as a warehouse in 1853. During the Civil War it did duty as a hospital and commissary and during the 1900s a wholesale grocery firm operated here.

**WALK UP ONE BLOCK TO COMMERCE STREET AND TURN LEFT.**

**3. Tobacco Warehouses**  
**Commerce Street**

Lynchburg's first tobacco warehouse was constructed in 1792. Over the next century scores more would be built along the James River and the largest were sited along Commerce Street between 10th and 13th streets. Some of these brick behemoths have survived in whole or part and been re-adapted - each could hold a couple million pounds of tobacco leaf.

**TURN RIGHT ON 11TH STREET AND TURN RIGHT ON MAIN STREET.**

**4. Mutual Savings Bank & Trust**  
**1030 Main Street**

The Mutual Savings Bank & Trust Company organized in 1913 and moved into this compact Neoclassical vault. The one-bay stone building is dominated by a large central-arched opening. The bank did not survive but the original building approaches its centennial having most recently operated as a restaurant.

**5. Union Trust and Deposit Company**  
**1024 Main Street**

The razing of the east side of Main Street on this block stops at this slender four-story brick structure from the late 19th century. Its eclectic design, originally for the Union Trust and Deposit Company, features Richardsonian Romanesque-style rough stone arched windows in sets of three (notice how the arches flatten as they go up), bands of terra cotta and a wildly decorative Victorian cornice with a flared gable at its center. The building has served many masters through the years, including one who added the street level storefront: a bookseller, sporting goods firm, a shoe peddler and antiques dealer among them.

**6. Lynchburg Furniture Company**  
**1021-23 Main Street**

In the 1850s cast iron began to be used in New York City for large commercial facades. Cast iron could be forged into a wide array of shapes and designs, allowing elaborate facades that were far cheaper than traditional stone carved ones. These facades could also be painted a wide array of colors. Cast iron came to Lynchburg in the 1880s and a number of commercial buildings boasted ornate facades but this building from 1887 is the only remaining example. At its creation it was even more decorative with a fancy iron balcony overhanging the sidewalk at the first floor. Today you have to look above the street level to appreciate this survivor of the cast iron age.

**7. The Famous  
1019 Main Street**

This building has been occupied by purveyors of men's clothing for 100 years, beginning with the Webb-Whitaker Company. It presents a classic downtown recessed entry framed by glass windows and a splendid art glass transom.

**8. Shearer Brothers Furniture Store  
920-924 Main Street**

This beefy four-story brick Romanesque-styled building liberally covered in red terra cotta was constructed in 1891 for the Guggenheimer family's dry goods enterprise. But it is best known as the home of Shearer Brothers Furniture that occupied the space for much of the 20th century. In the 1950s the upper floors were clad in a corrugated aluminum and a new brick storefront. The aluminum has been stripped away but the intruding storefront remains.

**9. 1880s/1890s Retail Trio  
902-904-906 Main Street**

Look up past the altered storefronts to see this decorative triad of retail survivors from the 19th century. The standout is the center building constructed for F.M. Kirby and Company. Its center is dominated by a two-level oriel that is surrounded by richly decorated terra cotta swags and garlands. Its tenants through the years have included several drug stores, Woolworths and Kresge. The building is flanked by red brick commercial properties crowned with ornate copper cornices.

**10. Lynchburg National Bank  
901 Main Street**

The Lynchburg National Bank took its first deposits in 1865 and moved into this imposing Neoclassical home in 1916. The architect was an Englishman, Alfred Bossom, who was a great champion of large sky-tickling buildings in the first decades of the 20th century. He designed several impressive banks in Virginia and it was a comforting thought to work in a Bossom-built bank since he invented a device for protecting people from suffocating if they

accidentally got locked in a bank vault. Here he executed the Lynchburg National Bank in granite with engaged Tuscan columns and two distinct entrances. The building is capped with a balustrade and copper dome. In 1926 Alfred Bossom returned to England and embarked on a long career as a member of Parliament in the House of Commons.

**11. Krise Building  
827-829 Main Street**

In 1905, rising above Lynchburg's traditional center of commerce for over 200 years, rose the city's first skyscraper - a seven-story masonry structure created for the Krise Banking Company. As with many early high-rises the Krise Building was formed to resemble a classical column with a distinct base (the rusticated lower floors perforated with arched openings), a shaft (the relatively unadorned center stories) and a capital (the decorated top floor and bracketed cornice. In addition to being the city's tallest building (an honor it held until 1913) it was the most modern as well with fire-proofing features, mail chutes and electrical hydraulic elevators.

**12. People's National Bank  
801 Main Street**

The next prince of the Lynchburg skyline arrived in 1914 courtesy of the People's National Bank. The ten-story Neoclassical tower rises from a granite base and is faced in stone and terra cotta. People's National was only the first of a parade of financial institutions who have put their name on the building.

**13. Academy of Music Theatre  
600 Main Street**

This was one of six Academy of Music Theatres constructed across the Commonwealth around the turn of the 20th century and the only original one remaining. Busy Virginia architects E.G. Frye and Aubrey Chesterman delivered a Beaux Arts creation for the Lynchburg streetscape in 1905, liberally displaying classical elements on the exterior (rusticated base, Ionic pilasters, pediments) and especially inside. The Academy boasted perfect sightlines, extraordinary

acoustics, and was Lynchburg's first fully electrified building.

TURN LEFT ON 6TH STREET.  
TURN LEFT ON CHURCH STREET.

**14. Young Women's Christian Association**  
**626 Church Street**

The first Association in the U.S., Ladies Christian Association was formed in New York City and the term "YWCA" was first used in 1866. This impressive Colonial Revival brick home for the Lynchburg chapter, founded in 1912, was constructed in 1919.

**15. Anthony & Company**  
**701 Church Street**

This building began life as a church, designed by William Ellison in 1850 for St. Paul's Episcopalians. In 1894 the funeral for Confederate General Jubal Early was held here, just before the congregation departed for a new meetinghouse on Clay Street. In the 1920s the three-story, dark brick structure received the Georgian Revival makeover seen today. Walk around the corner on 7th street to see some of the original windows from its days as a church more than 150 years ago.

**16. Virginian Hotel**  
**712 Church Street**

Lynchburg received a "European-class" hotel when the five-story Virginian Hotel was built in 1913 at a reported cost of \$250,000 and stuffed with all the modern amenities a traveler could want. Look up to see the variation in the brick color from an addition in the late 1920s to bring the number of rooms to 164. By 1969 there was not such a need for a downtown Lynchburg hotel and the Virginian was sold at auction for \$163,000. Today it has been redeveloped for residential use.

**17. Allied Arts Building**  
**725 Church Street**

The 17-story Allied Arts Building stands as a monument to the optimism that gripped Lynchburg during the pre-Depression 1920s. With the city booming and office space at a premium a group of business and community leaders came together to form the Allied Arts Corporation in 1928 to draw up plans for a new major office building. The consortium hired Stanhope Johnson, a Lynchburg native and the city's leading architect, to shepherd the project to completion. Although Johnson and his top designer Addison Staples were known for conservative structures here they tackled the newly popular Art Deco style for the first time. The resulting building that is cut into a steep hillside stands more than 80 years later as one of Virginia's best Deco skyscrapers. The first three stories are faced in panels of dark greenstone, an unusual stone quarried from a vein in western Lynchburg. Local builders had used greenstone since the 1870s but only as an accent material - never in such profusion and as the quarry has been closed the highly polished base here remains the best expression of this local resource. The upper floors are created with contrasting yellow brick. Johnson moved his firm into the penthouse suite on the 17th floor of his masterwork when it opened in 1931. The Allied Arts Building reigned as the city's tallest structure until 1974; Stanhope Johnson died the following year.

**18. Hygeia Hospital**  
**801 Church Street**

This three-story brick building was constructed in 1900 for the Hygeia Hospital. It is typical of downtown commercial buildings in its Italianate style seen in the cornice brackets supporting a flat roof, arched window hoods and slender one-over-one windows.

**19. Commercial Building**  
**820 Church Street**

This otherwise routine three-bay brick building is enlivened by fanciful fenestration and an imaginative cornice. The street level is faced with Lynchburg greenstone rubble.

**20. *News & Daily Advance* Building**  
**863 Church Avenue**

The first edition of *The News* appeared in 1866; a competitor, *The Daily Advance*, hit the streets in 1880. That year Carter Glass, who had grown up down the street, was hired as a reporter at *The News*. He rose to become the newspaper's editor by 1887 and purchased the business the following year. Soon, Glass was able to acquire the afternoon *Daily Advance*, to buy out the competing *Daily Republican*, and to become the only newspaper publisher in Lynchburg. Carter Press entered politics as a state senator in 1899. He was appointed Secretary of the Treasury by Woodrow Wilson and went on to serve 26 years in the United States Senate, a post he held until his death at the age of 88 in 1946.

The Glass family continued to publish both papers until 1979 when they were purchased by Worrell Newspapers and eventually morphed into *The News & Advance*. This Art Deco confection, designed by Roanoke architect Robert M. Allen, was constructed in 1931 to house the paper's operations. It remained here until 1974.

**21. Monument Terrace**  
**9th Street between Church  
and Court streets**

The first monument here honored five firemen killed in the line of duty on May 30, 1883. Designed by August Forsberg, the monument was set in a plaza and featured a couple of steps in the hillside. In the 1920s Aubrey Chesterman created a memorial to the memory of 47 local soldiers killed in World War I by extending the terrace up the 70-foot hill to Court Street. *The Listening Post*, crafted by Charles Keck, stands at the base of the terrace. The granite and limestone stairway pauses at memorial-studded landings en route to the top where a statue of a Confederate infantryman sculpted by James O. Scott stands.

**22. City Hall**  
**900 Church Street**

Today's city government is housed in Lynchburg's third federal building, a Depression-era project completed in 1933. It originally did duty as a post office and courthouse. The facade is punctuated by two-story recessed windows nestled between Ionic pilasters.

**23. Monument Terrace Building**  
**901 Church Street**

This three-story Neoclassical building was constructed as the United States Post Office in 1912 under the auspices of James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the United States Treasury. Arched windows and the main entrance pierce a rusticated stone base on the ground floor.

TAKE A FEW STEPS BACK TO  
MONUMENT TERRACE AND  
WALK TO THE TOP.

**24. Lynchburg Museum**  
**901 Court Street**

This Greek Revival building was constructed as the Lynchburg Court House in 1855, sited on the summit of one of the town's many hills. The former hall of justice is dominated by a quartet of imposing fluted Doric columns. In the pediment fronting Court Street is a clock that was crafted in Boston back in 1833 and used in the first building of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. The clock was hauled out of mothballs and installed in the courthouse with its weights cleverly dropping into the portico's two inside columns to keep time. The Old Court House trundled on until 1970; it was restored in the 1970s and opened as a museum in 1979.

TURN RIGHT ON COURT STREET.

**25. First Presbyterian Church**  
**815 Court Street**

The Presbyterians first began assembling in 1815; this is their third sanctuary. The Romanesque tour-de-force with broad arched entryways and soaring corner tower was created in 1899-1900 by architect Edward G. Frye and is often tabbed as his masterwork. The church, slathered with multi-colored brick and stone corbels carved as humans, was abandoned by the church in 1952 and became a property of the city.

**26. John Marshall Warwick House**  
**720 Court Street**

This brick house was erected in 1826, one of the earliest to be situated at the crest of Court House Hill, by John Marshall Warwick, a prominent tobacconist and future mayor of Lynchburg. Hailing from the late Federal period, the house features stone lintels over the windows and decorative panels between the windows. In 1842, Warwick's grandson John W. Daniel was born in this house. Daniel, despite being crippled in the Battle of the Wilderness during the Civil War, became a politician who represented Virginia in the United States House of Representatives and then spent 23 years in the United States Senate.

**27. Court Street United Methodist Church**  
**621 Court Street**

If this church building looks vaguely familiar it is because architect Edward Frye followed his Romanesque work at First Presbyterian Church with a similar design for city Methodists. Completed in 1902, the structure is executed in buff-colored rough-face Kentucky stone.

TURN LEFT ON 6TH STREET AND  
WALK UP TO CLAY STREET AND  
TURN LEFT.

**28. St. Paul's Episcopal Church**  
**605 Clay Street**

Lynchburg's oldest Episcopal church organized in 1822. The cornerstone for this massive Richardsonian Romanesque of gray Virginia granite was laid in 1891. Frank Miles Day, a Philadelphia Victorian architect, drew up the design that draws on the influences of America's most famous architect of the post-Civil War period - Henry Hobson Richardson including broad powerful arches, multi-colored rough stone, a corner tower, arched windows created in groups of threes and a mixing of materials.

TURN LEFT ON 7TH STREET AND  
WALK DOWN TO JEFFERSON  
STREET. TURN RIGHT TO RETURN  
TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT  
BELOW 9TH STREET.





*Look Up,*

# *Manassas*



## A Walking Tour of Manassas...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

C. A. S. Hopkins, an Ohio native, began making soft candies in 1900 in a frame building on West Street. Inside his living room-sized factory some two dozen workers churned out an assortment of regionally popular sweets. In 1908 the operation moved to this three story brick building, designed by Manassas architect Albert Speiden. Hopkins added confectionery, toys, cereal products, extracts, cakes, crackers

and candy to his product line and soon a small platoon of salesmen had Hopkins candy in every state east of the Mississippi River. More than 10,000 pounds of candy was shipping from the factory every day.

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

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

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

TURN RIGHT ON CENTER STREET.

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

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

**6. Nicols Building  
9107 Center Street**

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

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

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

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

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

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO MAIN STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

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

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

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

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

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

TURN LEFT ON CHURCH STREET.

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

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

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

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

TURN RIGHT ON WEST STREET.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Opened in 2002, the development of this City Square is dedicated to the community improvement efforts of Loy E. Harris. Through the year the pavilion hosts a farmer's market, ice skating, chili cook-offs and the like. Also in the Square is a caboose that has been retired from its days on the Southern Railway.

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



*Look Up,*

# *Norfolk*



## A Walking Tour of Norfolk...

Few American cities have been as repeatedly shaped by war as Norfolk.

During the American Revolution the town, that had been incorporated in 1705 and granted a Royal charter as a borough in 1736, was a Loyalist stronghold mostly concerned with keeping its trade routes to England filled. This didn't prevent the British from shelling the city in 1776. When eight hours of bombing ended almost two-thirds of the city was in flames. Local patriots destroyed the remaining buildings for strategic reasons.

British warships returned in the War of 1812 and again attacked the bustling port that had rebuilt in the previous 30 years. This time batteries at Fort Norfolk and Fort Nelson repulsed the invaders. Half a century later the War between the States brought a new series of disasters. After Virginia departed the Union, exiting Federal troops burned the Navy yard in Portsmouth. The ironclad *CSS Virginia* gained the Confederacy's greatest naval victory when it sank the *USS Cumberland* and *USS Congress* on March 8, 1862, in Hampton Roads. When the *Virginia* set sail the next morning it was with the full expectation of finishing the destruction of the wooden Union fleet. Instead, it met the *USS Monitor*, another ironclad. People gathered on shore to watch the battle that would forever change naval warfare. After three hours, the *Virginia* retired, the battle a draw. Two months later, in May 1862, Mayor William Lamb surrendered Norfolk to General John E. Wood and Union forces. The city would remain under martial law for the duration of the war.

In 1907 the city staged the 300th birthday of the founding of Jamestown and during the exposition high-ranking naval officers agreed that the site was ideal for a permanent naval base. During World War I there were 34,000 enlisted men on the base. Eventually Naval Station Norfolk became the largest naval base in the world. The military remains the largest employer in Virginia's second-largest city (behind neighboring Virginia Beach).

As a nod to the entwinement of the city's fortunes with its military past our walking tour will begin at a monument to Norfolk's brief stay in the Confederate States of America...



**1. Confederate Monument  
opposite Commercial Park at East  
Main Street and Commercial Place**

This towering pedestal of white Vermont granite is surmounted by the bronze figure of a Confederate soldier, sculpted by William Couper. The pedestal was erected in 1889 on this center lot of the original town of Norfolk, but the monument was not completed until 1907 when more funds became available.

**WALK NORTH THROUGH  
COMMERCIAL PARK TO PLUME  
STREET AND TURN LEFT.**

**2. U.S. Post Office and Courts Building  
235 East Plume Street at Bank Street**

This rare Neo-Palladian Revival Style building from 1898 would be more at home on the streets of Europe than in a southern U.S. city. While similar to the Neoclassical style popular for early 20th century municipal buildings the rusticated stonework, engaged entrance pavilion, and interior arcades suggest the influences of the Palladian school. The architects were James Wyatt and William Nolting of Baltimore. After the federal government moved up Granby Street in 1934 the building was transferred to the city which used it as City Hall from 1937 until 1965. After decades as a private office building the Main Branch of the Norfolk Public Library, organized in 1870, moved here.

**TURN RIGHT AND WALK NORTH  
ON BANK STREET ONE BLOCK TO  
EAST CITY HALL AVENUE. TURN  
LEFT.**

**3. Monticello Arcade  
200 block of East City Hall Avenue**

The Greek concept of a protected, enclosed trading area began in America in Providence, Rhode Island in 1828 and became popular in downtowns across America. Percy S. Stephenson, who dabbled as an attorney, real estate agent and auctioneer built Norfolk's version in 1907. The three-story Beaux Arts building of the Ionic or-

der is faced with polychromed terra-cotta. The Monticello Arcade thrived into the 1940s and after a 1980s restoration is one of only two shopping arcades standing in Virginia.

**TURN RIGHT ON MONTICELLO  
AVENUE AND AFTER ONE BLOCK  
TURN LEFT ON TAZEWELL STREET.**

**4. Wells Theatre  
110 East Tazewell Street**

Jake Wells was the player-manager of the Richmond Colts baseball team in the 1890s. During the off-season in 1898 Wells was shopping downtown for equipment in a store in the former Opera House. Intrigued by its history, before he left Wells was out of the baseball business and in the vaudeville business. He renovated the theater and by January 1899 was welcoming the day's top performers to Richmond.

Two years later Wells was in Norfolk with the Granby Theatre. With his brother Otto, Wells would eventually operate 42 theaters in nine states - the largest theater circuit outside New York City. This Beaux Arts namesake Wells theatre came online as the flagship playhouse in 1913. The ornate Wells Theatre sported 1,650 seats with 12 boxes and three balconies. The Wells brothers sold their theater interests in 1926. Jake Wells left town for Hendersonville, North Carolina where he committed suicide the following year and after winning two minor league baseball pennants with the Norfolk Tars Otto Wells died of a heart attack at the age of 66 in 1940. The Wells Theatre, since restored to its 1913 splendor, is home to the nationally recognized Virginia Stage Company.

**TURN LEFT ONTO GRANBY  
STREET, HISTORICALLY THE  
MAIN COMMERCIAL STREET  
IN NORFOLK.**

**5. Virginia Bank and Trust Building  
101 Granby Street**

This four-story Beaux Arts building was erected in 1908-09 on plans by Baltimore architects Wyatt and Notting. The site had previously been occupied by the Atlantic Hotel that had been de-

stroyed by fire. Notable for its parade of massive fluted Ionic columns, the structure was hailed as “one of the finest bank buildings in the state by the *Ledger-Dispatch*. The Virginia Bank and Trust Company was founded in 1902 at the center of Norfolk’s emerging financial district. The building was subsequently the home of various banks until it was acquired by Donald S. Lewis in 1977 who set up the Auslew Gallery that evolved into the Tidewater’s leading art gallery. While the interior was re-adapted the exterior remained intact as one of the area’s few classically designed structures.

**6. Norfolk Customhouse**  
**Main Street at Granby Street**

The Customs Collection District of Norfolk and Portsmouth was one of the first 59 collection districts established on July 31, 1789. The customs inspectors occupied at least six earlier buildings before the first dedicated customhouse was built in 1819. It would eventually be converted into a Federal prison during the Civil War, after which it was burned. It was replaced by this stone temple that was completed in 1859, designed by Ammi B. Young, the first supervising architect for the United States Treasury Department. Young oversaw the development of more than 70 government buildings across the country, including the customhouses in Richmond and Petersburg. The Corinthian capitals of the portico and the columns of the interior are of cast iron. Until 1900 all the Federal agencies in the city were located under this roof. The United States Customs Service lost many of its historic customhouses and when this building dodged demolition in the late 20th century it became the oldest extant building constructed for and continuously occupied by the Customs Service until it was replaced in 2000.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK ONE  
 BLOCK, CROSSING OVER  
 WATERSIDE DRIVE INTO THE PARK.

**7. Town Point Park**  
**120 West Main Street**

Town Point Park is what emerged after the Norfolk waterfront cycled through urban renewal in the 1970s. The park recently received an \$11 million facelift. It plays host to over 100 days of free special events each year. You can relax on one of the park’s 87 benches.

**8. USS Wisconsin/Nauticus**  
**One Waterside Drive**

This maritime-themed science museum on the downtown Norfolk waterfront features hands-on-exhibits and the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. Berthed at Nauticus, the Battleship *Wisconsin* is one of the largest and last battleships ever built by the U.S. Navy. Commissioned in the Philadelphia Naval Yard in 1943, the *Wisconsin* earned five battle stars for her World War II service and one for the Korean War. The ship also received the Navy Unit Commendation for service during the first Gulf War.

WALK NORTH ON BOUSCH STREET  
 (THE WATER WILL BE ON YOUR  
 LEFT. TURN LEFT ON TAZEWELL  
 STREET. TURN RIGHT ON DUKE  
 STREET.

**9. Allmand-Archer House**  
**327 Duke Street**

This two-story Georgian-style house wrapped in corner quoins was constructed in the 1790s for Matthew Hervey, a shipping merchant. The front of the brick house was stuccoed and scored to resemble more elegant ashlar stone. Harrison Allmand bought the property in 1802 and offered the house to the United States military as a headquarters during the War of 1812. The house acquired its Greek Revival doorway and heavy window lintels during the mid-19th century as it passed into the Archer family through marriage.

TURN LEFT ON  
 FREEMASON STREET.

**10. James W. Hunter House**  
**240 West Freemason Street**

The blocks around Freemason Street were the first to be developed outside the boundaries of the original fifty acres of the Colonial town. In 1850 the City's first gas lamps were installed along Freemason Street as the neighborhood evolved into one of Norfolk's finest residential enclaves. Now designated an Historic District, West Freemason Street retains its cobblestone paving, granite curbs, cast iron fences and brick sidewalks.

James Wilson Hunter, a prominent Norfolk merchant and banker, retained Boston architect W.P. Wentworth to design a new town house for his family on Freemason Street. Wentworth created a compact Richardsonian Romanesque style building with such hallmarks of the style as rough-cut stone, prominent entrance arch, arched windows in groups of three and side tower. The three Hunter children never married and all lived out their lives in this house; when the last daughter died in the 1960s the family home became a house museum.

**TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS  
ON FREEMASON STREET, WALKING  
EAST, AWAY FROM THE WATER.**

**11. Taylor-Whittle House**  
**227 West Freemason Street at Duke Street**

Norfolk once boasted many brick Federal-style houses constructed in the bustling days after the American Revolution. Most are gone today but this one that survives is one of the finest standing in the country. The site was confiscated from Tory sympathizers after the battle for Independence. The origins of the early 1790s house are murky but Norfolk merchant and mayor, John Cowper, was living here by 1802 when he sold it to Richard Taylor, an English importer. His descendants lived here until the early 1970s when the house was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

**12. Epworth United Methodist Church**  
**124 West Freemason Street**  
**at Bousch Street**

The Epworth congregation broke away from Cumberland Street Church in 1850 and established themselves as the Granby Street Methodist Church on the second floor of a building on the corner of Granby and Freemason streets. In 1894 the church laid the cornerstone for its new church here to be constructed on plans by Norfolk architects John Edwin Ruthven Carpenter and John Kevan Peebles who drew heavily on the work of Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential architect of the late 19th century. Highlighted by brawny, rough-cut stone and multi-chromatic materials the church is the only Richardsonian Romanesque building in the Tidewater region. Upon its dedication on January 19, 1896 the congregation adopted the name Epworth from the boyhood home of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism.

**TURN LEFT ON GRANBY STREET.**

**13. Granby Theater**  
**421 Granby Street**

The grand opening for this exuberant vaudeville and motion picture house took place on February 21, 1916. The Granby thrived until television and the development of suburban malls drained American downtowns in the 1960s. The closing of the theater doors in 1987 marked both the end of an era and the final days of the old building's life as a movie house. For nearly two decades, the Granby sat, empty and forgotten, until recently when this lovely building was painstakingly restored to its original splendor.

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

**14. US Post Office and Courthouse**  
**600 Granby Street**

Here is Norfolk's only prominent public building executed in the Art Deco style, designed by local architect Benjamin F. Mitchell. The four-story gray limestone building, rising in tiers, is highlighted by carved geometric bands. The stripped-down classicism of the Art Deco style was a favorite for government buildings during the Depression. The impetus for the new post office, completed in 1934, was an "8-fold" increase in local mail volume.

TURN RIGHT ON BUTE STREET.

**15. Norfolk Scope Arena**  
**201 East Brambleton Avenue at**  
**Monticello Avenue**

Opened in 1971, Norfolk Scope is the host to a wide variety of events, including Ringling Bros and Barnum and Bailey Circus, conventions, concerts and family shows. Scope is also the home of the Norfolk Admirals of the American Hockey League.

TURN RIGHT ON MONTICELLO AVENUE AND TURN LEFT ON CHARLOTTE STREET. TURN RIGHT ON BANK STREET.

**16. Norfolk Academy**  
**420 Bank Street at east Charlotte Street**

Norfolk Academy was created on November 12, 1728. After several incarnations, in 1840 the Trustees determined to build a new schoolhouse and famed architect Thomas U. Walter was retained. He modeled his building after the Temple of Theseus in Athens, Greece, with six beautiful Doric columns at the entrance to the east and west porticos. During the 1855 yellow fever epidemic it was used temporarily as Norfolk's Post Office. The building also housed Norfolk's first public library. The Academy moved on in the 20th century and sold the building to the City; the school continues today and the building has served as a court, a Naval headquarters and Chamber of Commerce office since.

**17. Freemason Street Baptist Church**  
**400 East Freemason Street at Bank Street**

Founded in May of 1848 with 77 charter members, the congregation has spent over 150 years in this magnificent Gothic Revival church designed by Thomas U. Walter, best known for his work on the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Normally at home with the columns and domes of classical designs, here Walter outfitted this landmark church with buttresses and pinnacles for Norfolk's most prominent Baptist congregation. It was the tallest building in Norfolk until its original steeple was toppled in a storm in 1879; the replacement was much more modest in height.

**18. Moses Myers House**  
**Freemason and Bank streets**

Moses Myers came to Norfolk from New York City at the age of 34 in 1787 and became of the town's richest merchant princes. He built this distinguished Federal town house in 1792, one of the first brick buildings to appear on Norfolk streets after the destruction of the the town during the Revolution. The house was added on to through the years as Myers became superintendent of the Norfolk branch of the Bank of Richmond and accepted diplomatic positions in Europe. The addition containing the octagonal end dining room, considered one of the finest rooms of its period in the country. The Marquis de Lafayette, James Monroe, Stephen Decatur, Henry Clay and President Theodore Roosevelt and William Howard Taft all dined here. The house remained in the Myers family until 1931.

TURN LEFT ON FREEMASON STREET.

**19. Willoughby-Baylor House**  
**601 East Freemason Street**

Captain William Willoughby built this brick house in 1794 on ancestral family land. He was a descendant of Captain Thomas Willoughby who received a Royal grant of 200 acres here in 1636. Fifty of those acres became the town of Norfolk in 1682. The brick house slid into disrepair after it was sold out of the Willoughby-Baylor family in

1890 and faced the wrecking ball for years until it was rescued by the Historic Norfolk Foundation in 1964. It was restored to its 1790s appearance and stands as an early middle class Norfolk home in contrast to the upper crust Moses Myers House across the way.

TURN RIGHT ON  
ST. PAUL'S BOULEVARD.

**20. St. Paul's Church**  
**201 St. Paul's Boulevard and**  
**City Hall Avenue**

In Colonial Virginia, Norfolk was the largest and most prosperous town in America's dominant colony. As the Revolution brewed elsewhere the ruling merchant class in Norfolk was more concerned with business than politics. After being driven from the capital in Williamsburg in 1775 John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, relocated his Royal government in Norfolk.

In December 1775, after skirmishing at Great Bridge, it became apparent that Dunmore would not be able to hold the town in the face of growing Patriot pressure. The Loyalists boarded ships from the Royal Navy and anchored offshore. Ongoing negotiations with rebel leaders to allow foraging in Norfolk proved fruitless and Dunmore announced he was going to shell the city.

Before dawn on January 1, 1776, the bombardment began. As waterfront warehouses burned, the intractable rebel militia set fire to prominent Tory homes in spiteful retribution. The conflagration soon became so widespread that Patriot militia decided to destroy the entire town to prevent its use by the British. When Dunmore moved back to Norfolk he built provisional barracks but soon departed. The city would not revive until after the Revolution.

Built in 1739 on the site of an earlier 1641 church known as the "Chapel of Ease," St. Paul's is Norfolk's oldest building and only structure to survive the British destruction of the city on New Year's Day, 1776 - albeit with only its walls standing. The old building was repaired and reconsecrated as St. Paul's Episcopal Church in 1832. A cannonball fired by Lord Dunmore of the British fleet remains lodged in the southeastern wall.

TURN RIGHT ON  
EAST CITY HALL AVENUE.

**21. MacArthur Memorial**  
**422 City Hall Avenue**

After Norfolk became an independent city in 1845 work got under way to build a home for the new government. Portsmouth architect William Singleton, then practicing in St. Louis, designed the Classical Revival building, getting an assist on the dome from Philadelphian Thomas Ustick Walter who designed the dome for the United States Capitol. Mayor and Confederate major William Wilson Lamb stood on these steps on May 10, 1862 and surrendered the city to Union forces in the Civil War after which there was an elaborate flag raising of "Old Glory." The Federal force of 6,000 landed under Major General John E. Wood, with President Abraham Lincoln and key cabinet members watching the movement from a ship in the harbor.

The city offices were relocated in 1918 and the building carried on as a courthouse until 1960. After General Douglas MacArthur chose Norfolk - the city of his mother's birth and childhood - as his final resting place the city offered to reconfigure the former city hall as a memorial to the United States' youngest major general and Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the Pacific during World War II. Restored and remodeled, the building contains nine museum galleries whose contents reflect the general's fifty years of military service. Douglas MacArthur died in 1964 and was interred in a sunken marble crypt in the building's rotunda.

TURN LEFT AND MAKE YOUR WAY  
BACK THROUGH MARKET SQUARE  
AND COMMERCIAL PARK BACK TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.



*Look Up,*

# *Petersburg*



## A Walking Tour of Petersburg...

There was a trading post on this spot at the head of navigation on the Appomattox River before 1850. When Peter Jones became proprietor the small settlement became known as Peter's Point. Petersburg was granted a charter in 1748 and by the time of the American Revolution the town was important enough to be raided by British forces under the direction of turncoat Benedict Arnold.

In the early 1800s Petersburg was the rival and even the superior to its neighbor to the north, Richmond. Crippling fires in 1815 and 1826 impeded progress but in 1850, when the town was consolidated with the nearby settlements of Blandford, Pocahontas, and Ravenscroft to become a city it was the third largest in Virginia with a population of 14,010.

During the Civil War, Ulysses S. Grant based his assault on the Confederate capital in Richmond on severing the supply line from the south at Petersburg. In June of 1864 the city became the "last ditch of the Confederacy." Four days of sharp fighting pushed the Southern lines back one mile, where both armies entrenched. The longest siege ever to take place on American soil was about to begin.

Almost immediately the 48th Regiment of Pennsylvania Volunteers, comprised mostly of coal miners, began digging a 511-foot mine shaft into the Confederate line, quietly carrying out tons of soil in cracker boxes. On July 30, after a month of digging, the Federals exploded four tons of powder under the Confederate battery, blowing 278 Southern defenders into the air. In the confusion that followed, the Union troops storming the line plunged directly into the massive crater created by the explosion rather than advancing around it. The Confederates were able to seal their defensive line and inflicted horrible casualties in a determined counterattack. The siege was to last nine months. Before it ended on April 2, 1865, a total of 42,000 Union and 28,000 Confederate troops were killed or captured in the Petersburg campaign.

The city began anew almost immediately after the war ended. The port of Petersburg was a commercial center and the city evolved into an important railroad hub as well. Census reports in 1880 indicated there were 70 more businesses operating in Petersburg than there were twenty years earlier when the Civil War began. Most found work in the tobacco factories but there was peanut processing and flour mills a silk mill, pencil plants and furniture-building as well.

Our walking tour will start where Peter Jones managed the loading and unloading of packets 350 years ago and continue up the hill to the historic Courthouse District...



**1. Union Station**  
**River Street at Third Street**

The Norfolk and Western Railway constructed this Colonial Revival passenger depot in 1909-1910 to replace an earlier structure that was damaged by rampaging Appomattox River flood waters. The Atlantic Coast Line Railroad also used Union Station for a time; the ACL's line curved off to the northeast while the Norfolk and Western's ran east-west. It remained an active station until 1971.

WITH YOUR BACK TO UNION STATION, TURN RIGHT AND WALK UNDER THE ROUTE 1 OVERPASS.

**2. South Street Station**  
**River Street at Market Square**

This original South Side Railroad station, the oldest such building in the state, was built around 1854 when the line was completed from Petersburg westward to Lynchburg, a distance of 123 miles. During the Civil War, many Confederate troops were brought here from distant battlefields and camps, and sent to the numerous Petersburg hospitals. In the final year of the war, the railroad would be the target of at least three Federal cavalry raids, with service being disrupted from time to time while the tracks were repaired. Damage from a 30-pound artillery shell can still be seen in the western freight wing where it crashed into a roof support beam. This building served as the post-war offices for the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad under former Confederate General William Mahone. This rail line is now the Norfolk-Southern.

WALK INTO MARKET SQUARE.

**3. Old Towne Market**  
**9 East Old Street in Market Square**

This octagonal red brick building was constructed in 1879, replacing a simple frame market building. The site for a public market was donated in 1805 by Colonel Robert Bolling. In its early days it was the only place in town to buy meats and vegetables for the dinner table.

WALK TO THE EAST SIDE OF MARKET SQUARE, ON COCKADE ALLEY.

**4. McIlwaine House**  
**425 Cockade Alley at Old Street**

This Federal-style frame residence was built around 1794 by Erasmus Gill and was later owned by George H. Jones, Mayor of Petersburg, in 1815-16. It takes its name from Archibald Graham McIlwaine, a Petersburg industrialist and financier, who made it his residence from 1831-78. After standing vacant for nearly four decades the house, filled with exquisite woodwork buried under some 20 coats of paint, is being restored.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK SOUTH UP THE RISE TO THE END OF COCKADE ALLEY AT BOLLINGBROOK STREET. TURN RIGHT.

**5. Farmers' Bank**  
**19 Bollingbrook Street**

This early Federal-style commercial building was constructed in 1817 and is one of Virginia's oldest bank buildings. Granite string courses divide the three stories. The keystones over the windows are granite as well. As it approaches its bicentennial the building is doing duty as the Old Towne Visitor Center.

TURN RIGHT ON SYCAMORE STREET. TURN LEFT ON OLD STREET.

**6. Appomattox Iron Works**  
**20-28 Old Street**

This Federal style brick building was constructed between 1810 and 1825 for ironworking craftsmen. From 1899 to 1972 this was the home of the Appomattox Iron Works. The building was scheduled to be razed but escaped its date with the wrecking ball only to be torn into by a tornado in 1993. Still, the building survived to receive renovation early in this century.

**7. Dunlop Tobacco Factory**  
**45-127 Old Street and Market Street**

After the Civil War the economy of Petersburg recovered on the back of tobacco. In 1880 nearly seven of every ten workers in town were employed in one of the 12 tobacco factories in the city. In 1888 David Dunlop, a local magnate, constructed this expansive brick factory. Shortly it was employing over 700 people and churning out more than two million pounds of tobacco products each year. The city's last remaining tobacco manufacturing company in Petersburg closed its headquarters in 2010; this old factory was redeveloped into living space.

**8. Golden Ball Tavern**  
**West Old Street and North Market Street**

Here stood a dwelling house, constructed about 1764 by prosperous tobacco merchant, Richard Hanson, who, as a fervent Loyalist, fled Virginia in 1776. From the time of its erection until 1825, its sign of a large golden ball as famous in Virginia. According to tradition, British officers serving under Cornwallis were quartered here in 1781. When Petersburg was incorporated as a town in 1784, the town council and the courts used the tavern as their first meeting place. The structure was enlarged by 1820 and utilized as a hotel until after the Civil War when it was used for a number of retail ventures. The building was demolished in 1944.

TURN LEFT ON MARKET STREET.  
TURN LEFT ON BANK STREET.

**9. Charles Leonard Hardware**  
**Company Building**  
**20-22 West Bank Street**

Charles Leonard began his business in Petersburg in the 19th century as a "Manufacturer and Wholesale and Retail Dealer in Hardware, Carriage Material, Leather and Rubber Belting, Saw Mill and Ship Chandler's Supplies, Sash, Doors and Blinds, Sportsmen's and Fishermen's Supplies and Household Sewing machines." The firm moved into this four-story brick building in 1919. Look up over the altered ground floor to see the decorative brickwork on pilasters and

spandrels. The building dates to 1845 and was struck by Union artillery shells during the Civil War.

**10. The Siege Museum**  
**15 West Bank Street**

The ten-month Union siege of Petersburg was the longest such military operation ever conducted on American soil. The museum portrays the human story of the Civil War as lavish lifestyles gave way to a bitter struggle for survival. The museum itself is housed in the historic Greek Revival Exchange Building, built between 1839 and 1841 as a commodities market.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO  
MARKET STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**11. Trapezium House**  
**244 North Market Street**

Charles O'Hara was known around town for his eccentricity. When he built this three-story red brick house in 1817 he made sure there were no right angles or parallel walls because his West Indian servant told him that such a house could not harbor evil spirits. For years the place was known as "Rat Castle" because of the rats O'Hara kept as pets.

TURN LEFT ON WEST TABB STREET.

**12. City Hall**  
**135 North Union Street at**  
**West Tabb Street**

Now serving as the Petersburg City Hall, this superb example of mid-19th century Italian Renaissance architecture began life as a United States Customs House and Post Office. The Petersburg granite-faced building is one of a series of Customs Houses designed by Ammi B. Young, Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department. Two others were constructed in Richmond and Norfolk. During the Civil War, this upper story served as headquarters for the Confederate military department of Southern Virginia and North Carolina, commanded variously by James Longstreet, D.H. Hill, George E. Pickett, and P.G.T. Beauregard.

The three southern bays of the building were added between 1908 and 1910. The post office moved to Franklin Street in 1936 and the property transitioned to the city and became City Hall in 1938.

**13. Tabb Street Presbyterian Church**  
21 West Tabb Street

The Tabb Street Presbyterian Church is a monumental temple-form structure of stuccoed brick with granite detailing. It was brought to the Petersburg streetscape in 1843 by architect Thomas U. Walter in the days before he would re-design the United States Capitol dome in Washington, D.C. The building is dominated by six fluted Doric columns supporting a full entablature. It originally sported a tapered, octagonal steeple but it was removed in 1938. This is the third building to serve the congregation since its creation in 1813.

TURN RIGHT ON SYCAMORE STREET, STAYING ON THE WEST (YOUR RIGHT) SIDE OF THE STREET.

**14. Petersburg Savings and Insurance Company**  
150 North Sycamore and West Tabb streets

The Petersburg Savings and Insurance Company began business June 1, 1860. It transacted a banking and insurance business, the former being much the more important branch. The company occupied this corner Neoclassical headquarters, constructed of brick on an ashlar foundation, in the late 1880s. The bricks on both the Tabb Street and North Sycamore Street facades form Ionic pilasters on the second floor.

**15. Virginia National Bank**  
144 North Sycamore Street

The bank was established on March 22, 1905 and moved into this Neoclassical mid-block vault in 1911. The building of limestone blocks is notable for its colossal fluted Corinthian columns rising to a triangular denticulated pediment.

WALK ACROSS THE STREET AND TURN LEFT, WALKING A FEW STEPS BACK TO EAST TABB STREET.

**16. The National Bank**  
147 North Sycamore and East Tabb streets

The National Bank of Petersburg organized in 1886. This brick vault with limestone facing created in the Neoclassical style was built in 1906 for the National Bank. With its prominent Doric portico, the National is considered architecturally the finest of the three turn-of-the 20th century banks that were located at the corner of Sycamore and Tabb streets.

**17. Petersburg Courthouse**  
Courthouse Square  
150 North Sycamore Street

Sited on a hill overlooking downtown, the courthouse was constructed between 1838 and 1840 in the fashion of the Tower of the Winds, an octagonal marble clocktower on the Roman agora in Athens, Greece. The first story features a bell, Corinthian columns, round-arched arcade, and entablature; the second story of the tower highlights the Ionic order, with an octagonal lantern and entablature; the top of the tower has a large clock with four faces.

It was designed by New York architect Calvin Pollard as the city's Husting's Courthouse. The term "hustings" derives from a British form of court system loosely in place in Virginia today and refers to a public space where political campaign speeches are made.

The Courthouse was the official Confederate headquarters during the Siege of Petersburg. The clock tower was a favorite target of Union cannons - an estimated 20,000 shells rained on the city during the Siege. When Petersburg fell on April 3, 1865 a Union flag was installed on the tower.

WALK UP INTO COURTHOUSE  
SQUARE AND AROUND THE  
COURTHOUSE TO ADAMS STREET.  
TURN LEFT ON ADAMS STREET  
AND RIGHT ON HENRY STREET.  
WALK UP INTO CENTRE HILL.

## **18. Centre Hill**

### **1 Centre Hill Court**

Colonel Robert Bolling was a wealthy early American settler, merchant and planter. He is the ancestor of many prominent individuals including Presidents George H. W. Bush and George W. Bush. Robert Bolling IV built this opulent mansion in 1823 in the late Federal style. The Greek Revival style porch with Ionic columns was added during an extensive remodeling by Robert Buckner Bolling in the 1840s. A tunnel was carved from the house through the hill out to Henry Street. Since the late 19th century, when the ghosts of Civil War soldiers were first heard in the mansion, January 24th has been the night of “ghostly activity” at Centre Hill, now a house museum.

WALK BACK DOWN CENTRE HILL  
TO HENRY STREET AND WALK  
ONTO THIRD STREET THAT LEADS  
BACK DOWN TO OLDE TOWNE.  
FOLLOW THIRD STREET BACK TO  
RIVER STREET AND THE TOUR  
STARTING POINT AT UNION  
STATION.

*Look Up,*

# *Portsmouth*



## A Walking Tour of Portsmouth...

After a series of Indian attacks in the 1670s planters and settlers led by 29-year old Nathaniel Bacon rose up against Virginia Colonial Governor William Berkeley for his refusal to retaliate. Bacon's Rebellion was eventually squashed. Property of the participants was seized by the Crown and 20 conspirators hanged. Among them was Captain William Carver who owned a plantation along the brackish waters of the Elizabeth River. Carver's confiscated land was granted in 1716 to Colonel William Crawford who in 1750 "laid out a parcel of land into one hundred and twenty-two lots, commodious streets, places for a courthouse, market and public landings. He named the place Portsmouth and presented it to Norfolk County.

Portsmouth has a long history as a port town. Scotsman Andrew Sprowle founded the Gosport Shipyard adjacent to Portsmouth in 1767. The British government, recognizing the value of the enterprise, soon took over the yard as a repair station and appointed Sprowle as navy agent. The yard, renamed the Norfolk Naval Shipyard after the Civil War, would grow into one of the world's largest and dominate the economy of the city. During World War II, more than 40,000 workers were employed in the shipyard.

Today Portsmouth boasts the largest concentration of antique houses between Alexandria and Charleston, South Carolina but before we delve into the square mile that has come to be known as the Olde Towne Historic District we will start at that famous shipyard...

**1. *Lightship Portsmouth*  
Water and London streets**

The U.S. Lightship Service was started in 1820 with ships' masts outfitted with lights to serve as portable navigation aids. This lightship was put into service in 1915 and guided ships through the dangerous shoals off the coasts of Virginia, Delaware and Massachusetts for 48 years. In 1964, she was retired to Portsmouth and renamed according to the custom of naming lightships after the site where they are stationed. Now a National Historic Landmark and museum, the ship's quarters are fitted out realistically and filled with fascinating artifacts, uniforms, photographs, models, and more.

**WALK SOUTH ALONG THE  
WATERFRONT (THE WATER  
IS ON YOUR LEFT).**

**2. *Naval Shipyard Museum*  
2 High Street**

Founded in 1767 as the Gosport Shipyard, this became one of America's oldest and largest naval shipyards. During the Revolutionary War, the shipyard was described by the British as "the most considerable one in America" and as a testament to its importance it was burned three times. The Virginia militia took control of the naval yard on April 20, 1861. The fleeing federal force destroyed war material worth five million dollars in their retreat. The Confederates salvaged what they could, including a steam frigate that had burned to the waterline, the *USS Merrimack*. Raised into a drydock - the country's first and still in use - the *Merrimack* was repaired and emerged a year later as the world's first ironclad warship, the *CSS Virginia*. Other historic ships built here include the the nation's first battleship, the *Texas* and the nation's first aircraft carrier, the *Langley*. At its peak during World War II, the yard employed nearly 43,000 workers.

**WALK OUT OF RIVERFRONT PARK  
ONTO HIGH STREET AND BEGIN  
WALKING AWAY FROM THE WATER.**

**3. *Virginia Sports Hall of Fame*  
206 High Street**

The Virginia Sports Hall of Fame was founded in 1966 by J. Herbert Simpson after returning from a trip to Texas where he had seen the Lone Star State's hall of fame. The first members were enshrined in 1972 and five years later the Hall moved into a new home at Court and High Street in space donated by the city of Portsmouth. In 2005, the Hall opened this 35,000 square-foot facility.

**TURN LEFT AT COURT STREET  
AND STAY ON THE EAST SIDE OF  
THE STREET.**

**4. *Bangel Law Building*  
505 Court Street**

A.A. Bangel began his law practice in 1915; this office building with a French Second Empire clock tower poking out of a masonry frame was constructed in 1949.

**5. *First Presbyterian Church*  
515 Court Street**

This is the third church for the congregation that was organized in 1822. Its predecessors were each destroyed by fire. The Presbyterians moved here in 1871 and needed to rebuild this church in 1877 after a January fire. A complete make-over that included a new slate roof and exterior stucco took place in 1994.

**6. *Portsmouth Public Library*  
601 Court Street**

This Colonial Revival brick building was constructed by the federal government in 1909 as a post office. In 1963 it was outfitted to house the public library. The city's first library was organized in 1914 in a small room behind the Courthouse with books donated by the Seaboard Air Line Railroad and the YMCA. Blacks were not allowed to check out books in Portsmouth until 1945 when a separate library was established for their use. The two collections merged when this building opened.

CROSS THE STREET AND TURN  
RIGHT, HEADING BACK TOWARDS  
HIGH STREET.

**7. Trinity Episcopal Church**  
**500 Court Street at High Street**

This church was built on one of the four corner lots that Colonel William Crawford gave for public buildings in 1750. The brick building with tan stucco was completed in 1762 and has had remodelings over the years. The bell, which cracked while pealing the celebratory news of the British surrender in the Revolution, was also recast. The churchyard was the first public burying ground in the town and is the final resting place of several city fathers dating to 1763.

**8. Confederate Monument**  
**Town Square; High and Court streets**

The plain shaft of North Carolina granite stands 56 feet high and is surrounded by four sentinels representing the Confederate Navy, Army, Cavalry and Artillery. The shaft was finished in 1881, the statues were later additions. A single star on the face of the capstone faces south.

TURN LEFT ON HIGH STREET.

**9. Courthouse Galleries Museum**  
**420 High Street at Court Street**

The first courthouse for Norfolk County, erected 1691-93, stood on land later part of Norfolk City, was burned by the British in 1776, and was rebuilt between 1784 and 1788. In 1801-03 a courthouse was built in Portsmouth on this, the third site. This brick building, with broad stone steps leading to a shallow, four-columned portico, was erected between 1844 and 1846. Architects Willoughby G. Butler & William B. Singleton contributed the Greek Revival design. It now houses the Courthouse Galleries featuring contemporary and traditional art from around the world.

**10. Commodore Theatre**  
**421 High Street**

Portsmouth native William Stanley “Bunkie” Wilder caught the movie bug at an early age while working the lobby of the Granby Theater in Norfolk and the Orpheum in his hometown. He opened his first theater in 1928 when he built the Norfolk and went on to develop a chain of movie houses. The Commodore, built in the streamlined Art Deco style by Baltimore architect John J. Zink and named for Commodore James Barron, commander of the *Chesapeake* during the War of 1812, who is buried in the churchyard next door, became his flagship theater when it opened on November 14, 1945. On the bill the first night was *She Wouldn't Say Yes*, a romantic comedy starring Rosalind Russell as a self-assured doctor whose world gets turned upside down when she meets an impulsive comic strip author. The Commodore showed motion pictures and hosted community stage presentations until 1975, when it closed for twelve years.

In 1987, Fred Schoenfeld acquired the theatre and spent two and a half years restoring the nautically-themed movie house. He re-opened the Commodore on December 21, 1989 as a first-run movie theatre with full-service dining—the first such cinema-eatery in the United States.

**11. Governor Dinwiddie Hotel**  
**506 Dinwiddie Street at High Street**

This seven-story guest house opened in 1945 as the Hotel Portsmouth. President Truman is believed to have stayed here during a visit to the shipyard. In the 1950s the name was changed to the Hotel Governor Dinwiddie to honor the Colonial Governor of Virginia; four Dinwiddie descendants were present at the renaming ceremony. After the 1960s it became a low-income apartment facility and suffered through a decade of vacancy until it was renovated in 2005.

**12. St. Paul's Roman Catholic Church**  
**518 High Street**

St. Paul's was the first Catholic congregation in Portsmouth, comprised of French and Irish immigrants. Their first church was raised between 1811 and 1815. After fires and expansions to



accommodate a growing membership this is St. Paul's fifth house of worship, completed in 1905 on designs by John Kevan Peebles.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO  
DINWIDDIE STREET AND  
TURN LEFT.

**13. Monumental United Methodist Church**  
**450 Dinwiddie Street**

This is the third house of worship for the congregation that was founded in 1772, one of the oldest Methodist churches in Virginia. The first building was constructed in 1775 at the corner of South and Effington streets; this core of this brick and stucco church dates to 1831. Richmond architect Albert Lawrence West used the foundation of the building that had burned in 1864 to create this Victorian Gothic church. The two-part central tower soars 186 feet.

**14. Niemeyer/Robertson House**  
**448 Dinwiddie Street**

Looking to cash in on the 1849 California Gold Rush from their homes in Portsmouth, a group of businessmen led by Henry Victor Niemeyer set out to pre-fabricate houses for the exploding West Coast population. The pieces for their four-story kit houses were cut, numbered, crated and shipped around South America's Cape Horn en route to San Francisco. The ready-to-assemble houses sold well until an earthquake caused many to separate at the seams. Three of the houses, including this one owned by Niemeyer's sister and her family, had not yet been shipped to California when the earthquake hit and were sold and erected in Portsmouth.

TURN RIGHT ON QUEEN STREET.

**15. Grice House**  
**450 Court Street at Queen Street**

This building was constructed as two attached identical houses by George W. Grice, first elected mayor of the independent City of Portsmouth in 1856 for his two daughters. When the Civil War came to Portsmouth, the basement and the first

floor of the house were used as a surgical theater - treating wounded Union soldiers. In the 20th century it spent time as the home of the city's Catholic Club.

**16. Court Street Baptist Church**  
**447 Court Street at Queen Street**

Established in 1789, the Portsmouth and Norfolk Baptist Church served as the first Baptist congregation in South Hampton Roads. The name was changed in 1791 to Portsmouth Baptist Church and again in 1855 to its current name, Court Street Baptist Church. This Romanesque Revival-style church is the third building to occupy the site and contains the cornerstone of the previous building.

TURN LEFT ON COURT STREET.

**17. Armistead House**  
**southeast corner of North Street**  
**and Court Street**

This brick house was constructed in 1894 for Bank of Portsmouth president Beverly Arthur Armistead. It is an interpretation of the Romanesque style of legendary architect Henry Hobson Richardson, displaying such trademarks as stout, powerful arches, multiple materials and a rounded corner turret. The home was later used by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Lodge 82 and since 1975 has served as the imaginary manor home of local television horror movie host, Doctor Madblood.

TURN RIGHT ON NORTH STREET.

**18. Hill House**  
**221 North Street**

Sea captain John Thompson built this four-story English basement home in the early 1800s. His nephew John Thompson Hill and his wife, son and five daughters became the primary residents. The Hill family lived here until 1962 altering the house only minimally. Today a house museum, it is furnished entirely with original family belongings.

**19. 218 North Street**

This exuberant Victorian-era house is notable for its gracefully curving porch, plaster wreaths and garlands and stained glass on the upper floor windows.

**20. Grice-Neely House  
202 North Street**

With the wrought-iron balcony and graceful stairs, this 1820s house brings a splash of New Orleans to Portsmouth. In the mid-1960s it was the first house to be historically restored in Olde Towne.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO MIDDLE STREET AND TURN LEFT.

**21. Macon House  
350 Middle Street at North Street**

William H. Wilson opened the Macon Hotel along North Street in 1855 as a resort hotel. Access to the guest rooms came through his 1830s brick house on the corner. During the Civil War the spacious hotel was used as a barracks and a hospital; regimental numbers carved into the woodwork are still visible in some of the rooms today as the Macon Hotel lives on as three apartment buildings.

**22. 355 Middle Street**

This is an excellent example of an English basement-style house, built around 1795 and scarcely altered in its 200+ year life. The house still retains its fire badge in the center of the basement posts indicating a contributor to the local volunteer fire department and the owner's eligibility to have his house saved in case of a fire.

**23. Nash-Gill House  
370 Middle Street**

This splendid Gothic Revival frame house was built by Jack Nash in 1880. In 1894 the property was sold to Franklin Gill for \$6,700.

**24. Ball Nivson House  
417 Middle Street**

This 1780s house displays a sloping dormer roof that typified what was called a "tax dodger" house in the Virginia Colony to get around paying steep English taxes on two-story houses. Built by John Nivison, it originally stood on the corner of Crawford and Glasgow streets before being moved to this site in 1869 when it was acquired by the Ball family.

**25. Odd Fellows Lodge  
414 Middle Street**

This imposing building began life in 1838 as a two-story Greek Revival school and lodge for the Odd Fellows. In 1910 when it was sold to be converted into residential apartments a third floor was added, not to the top but squeezed in the middle so as to retain the original temple-like appearance. The columns are brick swathed in stucco and the window lintels are granite.

TURN LEFT ON LONDON STREET.

**26. Cassell-McRae House  
108 London Street**

This three-bay town home of Dutch origins with a steeply gabled roof was constructed in the 1820s by Captain John W. McRae. It features stone lintels over the windows and a graceful fanlight over the entrance door. McRae is thought to have been lost at sea shortly after the house was completed.

CONTINUE A FEW STEPS MORE ON LONDON STREET TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT ON THE PORTSMOUTH WATERFRONT.

*Look Up,*

# *Richmond*



# A Walking Tour of Richmond...

Advantageously situated at the head of navigation on the James River, Richmond has been a serial capital city through the centuries. When this was the land of the Powhatan tribe it was one of their capitals, often called Shocquohocan, or Shockoe. The English began attempts at a settlement here as early as 1609 but development did not take until 1645 when Fort Charles was erected at the falls of the James. On October 27, 1673 Englishman William Byrd was granted 1,200 acres on the James River and became a prosperous fur trader on the land that would become modern-day Richmond.

In 1779 the capital of Virginia was moved out of Williamsburg to Richmond, following the flow of western-bound settlers to a more centralized location. At the time there were only 684 people living in the town and Governor Thomas Jefferson and the government had to scramble for rented and temporary quarters. Virginians embraced their new capital, however, and by 1790 the population had swelled to 3,761 and by 1800 had reached 5,730.

Richmond soon blossomed as the leading industrial center of the American South. The furnaces of the Tredegar Iron Works and Belle Isle Iron Works were stoked in 1833 and soon became the largest manufacturing site outside of the industrial North. Richmond flour mills also knew no equal and its factories hummed turning out paper and cigars and fertilizer. The city was a major transportation center and was the site of the world's first triple railroad crossing.

Richmond became a capital city once again when the Confederate government moved here from Montgomery, Alabama in the early days of the Civil War in 1861, chiefly to be close to the crucial munitions coming out of the Tredegar Iron Works. It immediately became the focus of Abraham Lincoln's Army of the Potomac and the first major campaign against Richmond took place in June of 1862. Union General George McClellan failed during the Seven Days Battles and it would not be for another three years that the capital city and the Confederacy would fall. On April 3, 1865, Richmond was evacuated and burned by its own people. It is estimated that one in every four Richmond buildings was destroyed in the blaze.

Richmond weathered the Reconstruction Era better than most and was soon the most densely populated city in the South. The world's first cigarette-rolling machine was introduced in the city at that time and the world's first successful electric street car system appeared on its streets. But like all American cities, Richmond's manufacturing presence waned through the 20th century and today its economic engine is powered by law, finance, government and as a popular location for corporate headquarters.

Our walking tour will concentrate on the downtown area where Richmond's historic warehouse district is located on the banks of the James River and where the city's "Wall Street" can be found. But we will begin on the top of a hill where Thomas Jefferson once stood and sketched out the future home of the government that defines Richmond...

### 1. Virginia State Capitol Capitol Square

In 1779 the Virginia Assembly removed from Williamsburg for Richmond although there was no building ready for them. Thomas Jefferson and his French architectural collaborator Charles-Louis Cl risseau set about creating the first American public building in the form of a classical temple. The stucco-clad brick building would not be completed until 1800. This was the seat of government for the Confederate States of America and it was here Robert E. Lee assumed command of all Virginia forces. The grounds were formally landscaped by Maxmillian Godefroy in 1816 and given a more naturalistic curving makeover in the middle of the 19th century. New wings for the Virginia House and Senate were completed in 1906. Both grounds and building have received thoughtful renovations through the decades but nothing that would prevent Mr. Jefferson from recognizing the core of his pioneering design.

FACING THE CAPITOL BUILDING,  
WALK AROUND TO ITS WEST SIDE,  
YOUR LEFT.

### 2. Virginia Washington Monument northwest corner of Capitol Square

This bronze group was the first of Richmond's many outdoor monuments, conceived to honor Virginia's native sons and their role in the battle for American independence. There were rumblings about honoring George Washington as early as 1816 and the Commonwealth of Virginia even proposed to relocate the remains of the most famous Virginian of them all in Richmond. The cornerstone for the memorial was not laid until Washington's 118th birthday on February 22, 1850, however, and the statue, designed by Thomas Crawford, was not unveiled until four years later. It is the second equestrian statue of General Washington in the United States. There was still hope that Capitol Square would become Washington's last resting place and Crawford incorporated a tomb with a massive stone door into his design of the monument but he would never leave his beloved Mount Vernon and the tomb remains empty.

Crawford also completed the statues of Thomas Jefferson representing his contribution to Independence and Patrick Henry signifying Revolution. Randolph Rogers sculpted George Mason (Bill of Rights), John Marshall (Justice), Thomas Nelson, Jr. (Finance) and Andrew Lewis (Colonial Times). Also sprinkled around the Capitol Square grounds are bronze statues of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, Confederate governor William "Extra Billy" Smith and surgeon Hunter Holmes McGuire.

WALK DOWN THE HILL OF  
CAPITOL SQUARE TO THE  
SOUTHWEST CORNER.

### 3. Bell Tower southwest corner of Capitol Square at Bank and 10th streets

The Bell Tower began life in 1824 as a guardhouse for the Virginia Capitol Guard and a town signal tower. Builder Levi Swan incorporated classical elements in the square brick tower that replaced an earlier wooden structure. Swan used blind arches on the faces of the tower and put an octagonal belvedere on top. The tower is trimmed out in Acquia sandstone. After ringing out alerts to Union troop advances during the Civil War the Bell Tower slid into neglect. The Bell Tower became an early beneficiary of the historic preservation movement in the early 1900s and received a facelift and new belvedere. Since the 1930s the bell's main duty has been to call the Virginia General Assembly into session.

WALK ACROSS 9TH STREET  
ONTO FRANKLIN STREET.

### 4. Virginia Supreme Court 100 North 9th Street at Franklin Street

The Supreme Court of Virginia traces its origins back to 1623 when the Virginia House of Burgesses created a five-man appellate court. The Neoclassical building that houses the seven justices today was built for the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond in 1919. Howard Sill, a Baltimore architect better known for his Colonial house designs, won the commission and delivered an

imposing building notable for its parade of fluted Ionic columns marching across the facades. In 1981, after forty years of hearing cases in the State Library Building, the Supreme Court set up shop here.

**5. Stewart-Lee House**  
**707 East Franklin Street**

Robert E. Lee came to this house after surrendering his army at Appomattox. It had been the wartime home of his family, first used by his son General George Washington Custis Lee and then by his wife and daughters after their Arlington home was confiscated in 1864. General Lee stayed briefly before moving permanently to Lexington. The house was one of a group of five constructed by tobacco merchant Norman Stewart between 1844 and 1849 and stands as one of the Richmond's finest surviving Greek Revival townhouses.

TURN LEFT ON 7TH STREET.  
TURN LEFT ON EAST MAIN STREET  
AND BEGIN YOUR TOUR OF  
RICHMOND'S "WALL STREET."

**6. First National Bank**  
**825-27 East Main Street**

This is Richmond's first skyscraper, erected in 1913. Rising 19 stories, it reigned as the city's tallest building until 1930. Alfred Charles Bossom designed the limestone and granite tower in the Neoclassical style in the form of an ancient columns with a distinct base (the powerful fluted Corinthian columns), a shaft (the unadorned middle floors) and a decorative capital (an ornate cornice that was removed in the 1970s).

The First National Bank was founded in April 1865 and one of its first customers was Robert E. Lee, who had surrendered his Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox only eight days earlier. The bank emerged from Reconstruction as the city's strongest and in position to raise Richmond's first steel-frame skyscraper. The building dodged conversion into condominiums in the 1980s and remains an office complex as it approaches its centennial.

**7. The Mutual Building**  
**909 East Main Street**

The "Mutual Assurance Society, against Fire on Buildings, of the State of Virginia" was incorporated by the General Assembly on December 22, 1794. Still in operation, it is the third oldest mutual fire insurance company in business in the country and is Virginia's oldest continuously operated corporation. The Society erected one of Richmond's first high-rise office buildings in 1904 when New York architects Clinton & Russell delivered a nine-story U-shaped Neoclassical Revival structure with a central light court. The Mutual Building forms a strong Doric impression with a doorframe surrounded by two-story Doric columns and Doric pilasters separating upper story windows. An additional three stories were tacked onto the building in 1912.

**8. United States Post Office and  
Customs House**  
**1000 East Main Street**

Completed in 1858, this formidable Italianate structure was the site of one-stop shopping for the Federal government in Richmond for the better part of the 19th century - the post office, customs house and courts were all contained within its Petersburg granite walls. Those stout walls enabled it to be the only building in the area to survive the fire that accompanied the evacuation of Richmond at the end of the Civil War. When subsequent expansions came along in the early 20th century the same locally quarried granite was used and the Italianate style mimicked.

**9. American National Bank Building**  
**1001 East Main Street**

The core of this building was constructed in 1904 as a three-bay, nine-story tower designed by Baltimore architects James Wyatt and William Nolting. They outfitted the little skyscraper with Renaissance Revival details. Five years later Virginia architect Charles K. Bryant added another three bays to the east and added two floors up top. At the roofline was a decorative cornice and a parapet. In the 1960s a modernization plan stripped away all the architectural flourishes and the building was covered with a metal skin with

metal windows. In 2003 a rehabilitation crew re-installed the original decorative elements using modern materials so what you see today is much as you would have seen 100 plus years ago.

**10. American Trust Company**  
**1005 East Main Street**

Bank specialists Louis Mowbray and Justin Uffinger designed this Neoclassical vault in 1919 for the American Trust Company. Scarcely an inch of the limestone-faced building lacks ornamentation up to the decorative parapet with turned balusters. The entablature sports acanthus leaves and cartouches and above the capital on each column is a classical head. The building approaches its second century as a restaurant.

**11. Stearns Block**  
**1007-1013 East Main Street**

In the 1850s the cheapness and availability of cast iron led James Bogardus of New York City to advocate and design buildings using cast iron components. Cast iron could be forged into a wide array of shapes and designs, allowing elaborate facades that were far cheaper than traditional stone carved ones. These facades could also be painted a wide array of colors. Many of these buildings had elaborate Neoclassical or Romanesque designs. Mostly used on commercial and industrial buildings, cast-iron provided an attractive alternative for a rebuilding South after the Civil War. Franklin Stearns purchased this choice downtown real estate for \$32,100 in 1865 and constructed this four-story, half-block commercial building in four distinct sections. Details include entrances framed by Corinthian columns and rounded arches with spiraling vines, topped by a garland and rosebud. Vines, garlands, and rosebuds also decorate the windows, and a heavy cornice with large and ornate brackets draws the eyes up from the street level.

**12. Donnan-Asher Iron-Front Building**  
**1207-1211 East Main Street**

Ignore the ground story and look up to see one of the finest cast iron facades in the city. John Asher and Williams S. Donnan invested their 1866 commercial block with an Italianate style of

tall, slender windows and an abundance of arches. The upper three floors remain unaltered but the first floor suffered an unfortunate remodeling in 1966 to install large plate glass shop windows.

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.

**13. Columbian Block**  
**101 Shockoe Slip at East Cary Street**

Shockoe Slip was laid out prior to Thomas Jefferson's 1782 plan for the City. Hard by the James River, it has long been at the heart of Richmond's commercial and economic life with vast quantities of tobacco and produce passing through "The Slip." The distinguished Columbian Block helps frame a small triangular plaza within the cobblestone-paved Shockoe Slip District. It was erected in 1871 on the site of the large Columbian Hotel that was wiped out in the general burning of the warehouse district during the evacuation of Richmond in 1865. The upper two stories of the Italianate-styled building served as a commodity exchange. It looks out on a 1905 fountain in the center of the plaza where horses hauling freight wagons could stop for a well-deserved drink. The fountain has an urn-type design in the Italian Renaissance style, with an octagonal base in solid stone. Charles S. Morgan donated the fountain whose inscription on one side reads "In memory of one who loved animals."

AFTER EXPLORING THE WAREHOUSE DISTRICT, RETURN TO EAST MAIN STREET AT GOVERNOR STREET. 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 discontinued in 1975. The National Historic Landmark was flooded by Hurricane Agnes and damaged by fire twice but re-opened as an Amtrak station in 2003.

**AFTER VIEWING MAIN STREET STATION, RETURN TO GOVERNOR STREET AND TURN RIGHT TO RESUME THE MAIN TOUR.**

**14. Morson's Row  
219-223 Governor Street**

These are the remnants of what was once one of Richmond's most prestigious residential addresses. James Marion Morson, a lawyer, constructed this trio of bowfront townhouses as high-end rental property in 1853. The brick buildings were dressed in stucco and scored to give the appearance of stone blocks. Alfred Lybrook, who learned his trade in Germany, provided the pioneering Italianate design which was to become commonplace on city streets. The buildings retain their hallmarks of the style - cast iron window hoods and bracketed cornices.

**TURN LEFT ON CAPITOL STREET AND WALK BACK INTO CAPITOL SQUARE. TURN LEFT AND WALK THROUGH THE GATE.**

**15. Virginia Governor's Mansion  
northeast corner of Capitol Square**

Completed in 1813 and approaching its third century of service, the Virginia Governor's Mansion is the oldest building continuously used as an executive residence in the United States. Alexander Parris, a New England architect who began his career as a housewright and lighthouse designer, delivered an elegantly proportioned Federal design for the new Governor's Mansion that is the third state-owned executive residence and the second in Richmond. Governor James Barbour and his family were the first occupants.

**WALK BACK OUT TO CAPITOL STREET AND TURN LEFT, TURN RIGHT ON 11TH STREET AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO THE BROAD STREET.**

**16. Old City Hall  
block bounded by 10th and 11th streets  
and Capitol and East Broad streets**

When it was decided to replace the original City Hall and Courthouse that stood on this site from 1816 to 1875 the estimate for the new building was a meaty \$300,000. But by the time the monumental stone City Hall was finished being outfitted with ornamental stone and iron work, eight years after groundbreaking in 1886, the project was more than a million dollars over budget. It stands as a masterpiece of High Victorian Gothic style, contributed by Elijah Myers of Detroit, and is awash in buttresses and pointed arches. The northwest corner clock tower soars 195 feet high. Occupying a full block, City Hall is the largest granite building in Richmond, constructed of locally quarried Petersburg granite from the banks of the James River. The building closed in 1971 but resisted calls for its demolition and carries on today as office space.

**TURN RIGHT ON BROAD STREET, WALKING EAST.**



**17. Patrick Henry Building**  
**1111 East Broad Street**

This block-filling government building was built between 1938 and 1941 as the Virginia State Library and Supreme Court of Appeals. It was given an Art Deco treatment characterized by its spare rendering of the classical style a style popular for public works in the 1930s and '40s, both in America and Europe. The library departed for its new digs three blocks away in 1997.

**18. Old First Baptist Church**  
**East Broad and 12th streets**

Philadelphia architect Thomas U. Walter, who capped his career with the design of the United States Capitol dome, was busy in Virginia with 10 buildings to his credit. The Greek Revival First Baptist Church was constructed during the years 1839 to 1841. Its powerful proportions are centered around a pair of fluted Doric columns in the portico. It became the "Old" First Baptist Church when the congregation sold the building to the Medical College of Virginia in 1928. Its influential design has spawned several imitators around the city, including its successor on Monument Avenue and the First African Baptist church two blocks to the east.

**19. Monumental Church**  
**1224 East Broad Street**

The greatest tragedy in early Richmond history struck in December 1811 when stage scenery caught on fire in the wooden Richmond Theatre that was located on this site. The blaze swiftly engulfed the building trapping 70 victims, including the governor, in the conflagration. Their remains were enclosed in a brick vault and town leaders decided to memorialize the incident with a combination memorial and church. Robert Mills of Charleston, regarded as the first American-born professional architect, won a design competition with a four-part plan that featured a classical portico that sheltered the marble monument to the victims of the fire and an octagonal sanctuary capped by a circular dome. The building was completed by 1814 and the congregation remained active until 1965. Today Monumental Church is cherished as a National Historic Landmark.

**20. William Beers House**  
**northwest corner of College Street**  
**and East Broad Street**

Were one walking around Richmond in the 1840s one would have seen plenty of townhouses like this antebellum brick Greek Revival building. William Beers, a clothing merchant, built the original two-story house in 1839. It lost its gable roof and picked up a full third floor in an Italianate makeover in 1860. Houses like this are rare enough today that the Beers House is a designated Virginia Historical Landmark.

TURN LEFT ON COLLEGE STREET.

**21. First African Baptist Church**  
**301 College Street at East Broad Street**

The First Baptist Church traces its roots back to the last days of the 18th century where whites, free blacks and slaves worshipped together. The white members departed for their own church two blocks away in 1841 and the blacks remained in the ancestral church building that was torn down in 1876. Its replacement was this building that was modeled on the breakaway group's Greek Revival First Baptist Church. The congregation, one of the oldest African American congregations in Virginia, left in 1955 and sold the church to the Medical College of Virginia which uses it still, although minus its original cupola and stained glass windows.

**22. Egyptian Building**  
**southwest corner of East Marshall**  
**and College streets**

You don't see many early Egyptian-flavored buildings on the streets of American cities but this National Historic Landmark is one. Designed by Philadelphia architect Thomas S. Stewart, it appeared on the Richmond streetscape in 1845 as the first permanent home of the Medical Department of Hampden-Sydney College, which later became the Medical College of Virginia. It remains the oldest medical college building in the South.

The exotic exterior of the fortress-like building was restored in 1939 by legendary Wall Street financier and stock market speculator Bernard

Baruch as a paean to his father Simon, an 1862 graduate of the school and a Confederate surgeon during the Civil War. The Egyptian Building abounds in symbolic ornamentation - wings representing spirit, serpents representing wisdom, and inside hieroglyphics decorate the lobby.

TURN LEFT ON EAST MARSHALL STREET AND CROSS 11TH STREET.

**23. Putney Houses**  
**1010 and 1012 East Marshall Street**

Samuel Putney and his son Stephen were in the shoe manufacturing business and sold enough boots in the second half of the 1800s to move into the then-fashionable Court End section of Richmond here. The father's house at 1010, built in 1859, is the more ornate of the two with a stucco facade scored to look like stone. The splendid ornamental cast iron porch was a product of the local Phoenix Iron Works. Stephen's Italianate townhouse at 1012 is distinguished by a richly carved entablature at the front door and a unique two-story cast iron veranda that takes advantage of its corner location. The Putney Houses are now used by Virginia Commonwealth University.

WALK BACK A FEW STEPS TO NORTH 11TH STREET AND TURN LEFT. TURN RIGHT ON EAST CLAY STREET.

**24. White House of the Confederacy**  
**1201 East Clay Street**

This residence was constructed overlooking the Shockloe Valley in 1818 for John Brockenbrough, a physician. The design of the gray stuccoed-brick house with dominant twinned Doric columns has been attributed to Charleston native Robert Mills, America's most prominent architect of the early 20th century and a friend of Brockenbrough's. Its original lines were disturbed in 1844 with the addition of a third story.

The house was deemed an appropriate executive mansion for the new Confederacy when it located to Richmond in 1861 and was used by Jefferson Davis and his family until 1865. After the fall of the Confederacy, the house became

headquarters for occupying Federal troops until 1870 when it was converted into one of Richmond's first public schools. In 1890 the house was slated to be demolished when it was rescued by the Confederate Memorial Literary Society and put to use as the Confederate Museum from 1896 until 1976. The house was restored to its wartime appearance when it was the political and social hub of the Confederate States of America in 1988.

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 AND WALK WEST ON EAST CLAY STREET.

**25. Valentine Richmond History Center/  
Wickham House**  
**1015 East Clay Street at 11th Street**

Mann S. Valentine made his money in the 1800s peddling Valentine's Meat-Juice, an elixir extracted from pure beef that was touted to assist in the treatment of typhoid fever, diarrhea, cholera or just about anything ailing you. It was sold in its distinctive round bottle well into the 20th century. Valentine used his wealth to collect objects that supposedly began with a cigar box full of arrowheads but eventually included rare books and furniture from Europe, Asia, and Africa. After he died in 1893 his will provided for the establishment of the Valentine Museum, the first private museum in the City of Richmond. It opened in 1898 and featured sculpted works by Valentine's brother, Edward, including a plaster cast of his recumbent statue of Robert E. Lee.

The house that was purchased to house the Valentine collection was constructed in 1812 for John Wickham, a lawyer who defended Vice President Aaron Burr when he was prosecuted for

treason in 1807. Arguing before his good friend John Marshall, Wickham secured Burr's freedom. Outside the courtroom Wickham was known for his love of racehorses. His most famous was Boston who he lost in a card game before becoming one of the greatest horses of the 19th century. His house is an early work of prominent architect-engineer Alexander Parris of Massachusetts. When his original plans for the house were reviewed and excoriated by British designer of the United States Capitol Benjamin Latrobe, Parris re-drew his plans and created a benchmark for the Federal period of American architecture. It was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1971.

**26. Grant House**  
**1008 East Clay Street**

William H. Grant, who owned a string of tobacco warehouses, erected this handsome mansion in 1856, notable for its classical entranceway and Romanesque windows framed by ornate cast-iron window hoods. The Civil War seriously crimped Grant's tobacco business and in 1868 his oldest son James was accused of murdering the publisher of the Southern Opinion, H. Rives Poliard. Although acquitted - despite overwhelming evidence as to his guilt - the trial and the tribulations in the tobacco trade accelerated the family's departure from the house. In 1892, after years of mixed use, it was acquired by Sheltering Arms Hospital founded in 1889 as a "haven of mercy" for impoverished Virginians. The Grant House is currently owned by Virginia Commonwealth University.

TURN LEFT ON NORTH 10TH STREET. TURN RIGHT ON EAST MARSHALL STREET.

**27. City Hall**  
**900 East Broad Street/  
East Marshall Street**

Richmond's current City Hall was constructed in 1970. By the late 1990s the structural integrity of the building was rapidly deteriorating. The culprit was its marble skin and in 2003 the facade was removed and the building re-skinned with a metal panel system.

**28. John Marshall House**  
**818 East Marshall House**

The country was one year old and John Marshall was a lawyer in private practice and emerging leader of the Federalist Party in Virginia when he began work on this Federal style brick house in 1788. Marshall owned the entire block comprising four building lots as was a common practice in early Richmond. Marshall's square included the house, his law office, a laundry, kitchen, carriage house and stable, and garden. This was his home after he became the fourth Chief Justice of the United States in 1801 and remained so as he served 34 years under six presidents and participated in more than 1,000 decisions. The property remained in the Marshall family until 1911 and has been open to the public ever since.

TURN LEFT ON NORTH 8TH STREET, ENTERING THE THEATER DISTRICT. TURN RIGHT ON BROAD STREET. TURN LEFT ON NORTH 6TH STREET.

**29. Richmond Center Stage**  
**600 East Grace Street**

The first theatrical production took place in Richmond in 1784. One of the highlights of the city's rich performing arts legacy took place on April 9, 1928 when the doors opened to the Loew's Richmond Theatre for the screening of the M.G.M. silent film *West Point* starring William Haines and Joan Crawford. Noted theater architect John Eberson, known for his enthusiastic use of vibrant colors, created the extravagant Loew's Richmond in the Spanish Mission style with a dark red brick exterior heavily ornamented with sculpted terra cotta and limestone. Like nearly all of America's grand movie palaces the Loew's Richmond went dark in 1979 but re-emerged four years later as a live performance venue, the Carpenter Center for the Performing Arts. The Carpenter Center closed in late December 2004 for a \$73 million renovation and restoration, becoming part of the downtown performing arts complex known as Richmond CenterStage.

TURN LEFT ON GRACE STREET.

**30. St. Peter's Church**  
**800 East Grace Street**

Richmond's first Catholics entered services through the paired Doric columns of this Greek Revival church in 1834. Until 1905 St. Peter's was the city's cathedral until the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart at Cathedral Place and Laurel Street superseded it in 1905. The square cupola and octagonal dome mimic St. Paul's Church at the opposite end of the block.

**31. St. Paul's Church**  
**815 East Grace Street**

This was the church of Jefferson Davis, Robert E. Lee and a slew of Virginia governors. Davis was confirmed here and was attending services when he learned that Lee's defensive line at Petersburg had been broken on April 2, 1865, and that the evacuation of Richmond was imminent. The building was completed in 1845 on plans by Philadelphia architect Thomas S. Stewart, a master of the Greek Revival style. He fashioned a formidable entrance portico of eight columns with ornate Corinthian capitals. It was originally fitted with a 225-foot spire that was later removed over concerns as to its stability and replaced with an octagonal dome. Through several restorations the original pews are still in use.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT  
CAPITOL SQUARE.

*Look Up,*

# *Roanoke*



## A Walking Tour of Roanoke...

German and Scotch-Irish settlers pushed down into the Roanoke Valley from Pennsylvania in the early 1740s and by 1746 this area carried the name “Big Lick.” It came by its name honestly as the marshy conditions of the salt lick and the lack of a dependable supply of fresh water inhibited attempts to establish towns. Only the town of Salem would establish a lasting foothold.

In 1838 enough homesteaders had arrived to warrant the creation of Roanoke County. A few years earlier William Rowland had purchased land in what would one day be downtown Roanoke and laid out building lots. The town was chartered as Gainesborough, taking its name from Rowland’s partner, Kemp Gaines. The development did not, however cause a growth explosion - tax rolls listed four buildings in Gainesborough and six next door in Big Lick.

The railroad arrived in 1852 and the town began to stir, although progress was temporarily impeded by the Civil War. Big Lick was chartered as a town in 1874 as the population reached 600. In 1881, however, the Shenandoah Valley Railroad that ran north-south from Hagerstown, Maryland merged with the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad whose lines ran east-west. After an inducement of \$10,000 and other concessions, Big Lick was chosen as the intersection and headquarters for the newly named Norfolk & Western Railway Company. Big Licksters immediately offered to rename their town after railroad president Frederick J. Kimball but he demurred in favor of “Roanoke,” an Indian term roughly translating to “shell money.”

The town was launched on a decades-long boom that established it as the dominant city in southwest Virginia. The railroad and its great maintenance shops would drive Roanoke for much of the next 75 years. Steam engines continued to roll off its tracks until 1953. Other industries, including enormous cellulose factories followed, pushing the population of the city proper to 100,000 with three times as many people in the surrounding area.

As befits its legacy as a railroad town, we’ll start our walking tour hard by the historic tracks in the plaza at the intersection of Norfolk Avenue and Market Street and begin by looking across to a relic that dates back to the very earliest days of train travel in Roanoke...

**1. Hotel Roanoke**  
(across the Norfolk Southern's railroad tracks visible from Market Street)

The Norfolk and Western Railway constructed the original Hotel Roanoke at its depot in 1882. The luxury hotel has seen many expansions and renovations over the years - the distinctive half-timbered Tudor Revival appearance dates to 1938. A parade of the rich and famous have bunked here, including a half-dozen U.S. Presidents. In the 1990s the historic property was deeded to Virginia Tech and re-opened as a hotel and conference complex. The hotel is well known for its signature dish, peanut soup, invented by Chef Fred Brown in 1940 and still served today. For a close-up look you can use the pedestrian bridge over the tracks.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE RAILROAD, WALK TO THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE PLAZA AND STAND BESIDE THE DOGMOUTH FOUNTAIN THAT REFRESHED HORSES AND PEOPLE BACK IN 1898. ACROSS THE STREET IS...

**2. City Market Building**  
Campbell Avenue and Market Street

From the earliest days of the city this has been a designated market area - in 1882 licenses were issued to 25 vendors known as "Hucksters." In 1884 the City Charter authorized a municipally owned market. The original market building went up in flames and in 1922 the vendor stalls were gathered in this Georgian Revival brick building.

TURN RIGHT ON SALEM AVENUE.

**3. Wachovia Tower**  
10 South Jefferson Street at southeast corner of Salem Avenue

The new king of the Roanoke skyline, with its 50-foot copper-colored pyramid, arrived in 1992 under the auspices of the Dominion Bank. The 320-foot high-rise contains 1,260 windows and is illuminated at night with 135 separate floodlights.

ON THE OPPOSITE CORNER IS...

**4. Liberty Trust Building**  
101 South Jefferson Street at northwest corner of Salem Avenue

The First National Bank, chartered with the founding of the town in 1882, moved from the Terry Building into its own high-rise in 1901. Norfolk architect John Kevan Peebles designed the heavily rusticated, classically-inspired bank on a granite base. With its ornate entrance, cornices and rooftop balustrade the final price tag came in at \$175,000. It stood as the tallest building in Roanoke until the 1920s; in 1926 it was acquired by the Liberty Trust Company.

TURN LEFT ON JEFFERSON STREET.

**5. Colonial Arms Building**  
204 Jefferson Street at southwest corner of Campbell Avenue

Peyton Leftwich Terry, a Confederate Army veteran, developed the most extensive business interests, including a milling enterprise, in the county. In 1892 he erected Roanoke's first skyscraper, the Terry Building, on this site. A nationwide financial panic struck Terry hard and his Roanoke Trust, Loan and Safe Deposit Company failed in 1896, two years before his death at the age of 63. The Terry Building was replaced in the 1920s by a twelve-story Neoclassical high-rise headquarters for the Colonial National Bank. Resting on a three-story base of granite ashlar, the Colonial reigned as the city's tallest building for some fifty years.

**6. First National Exchange Bank of Roanoke**  
201 Jefferson Street at northwest corner of Campbell Street

Architects Wyatt & Nolting of Baltimore used Georgia marble to craft the city's first Neoclassical bank in 1913. To project the necessary strength and stability the building is outfitted with a platoon of engaged fluted Ionic columns and guarded by a parade of lion heads around the cornice.

TURN RIGHT ON  
CAMPBELL AVENUE.

**7. Asberry Building**  
**17 Campbell Avenue West**

This Victorian Gothic-flavored building of red brick and terra cotta was the first home of the National Business College after it was founded in 1886 by J.A. Trimmer to provide business education in the southeastern United States. The building carries the name of A.S. Asberry, who served as town postmaster. In the 1890s the City of Roanoke had to sue Asberry to collect the \$101.75 assessment levied on landowners to pave Campbell Street.

**8. Hancock Building**  
**35 West Campbell Avenue at northeast corner of First Street**

In 1905 Charles G. Bush and W.R. Hancock joined forces to bring the very best class of trade to Roanoke in clothes and gentleman's furnishings. Hancock Dry Goods had been operating in multiple buildings at this location since 1898. The buildings were unified in an Art Deco style by N.W. Pugh Department Store in 1929 with detailed geometric patterns in terra cotta. In 1965 new owners Grand Piano and Furniture Company entombed the original mosaics in yellow brick and the distinctive facade was lost to the Roanoke streetscape for more than 40 years. In 2007 the original Art Deco appearance emerged in a redevelopment to convert the space into residential apartments.

**9. Ferguson/State & City Building**  
**104 Campbell Avenue West at southwest corner of First Street**

This three-story bank building from 1905 was given a Neoclassical make-over with an addition of five stories and a new rusticated ashlar base. Look up to see the gargoyles that have lorded over the city for nearly a century.

**10. Giles Bros. Furniture Company**  
**108 Campbell Avenue West**

This was the home of Giles Bros. & Britts Home Furnishings when the building was re-fitted in 1904 with a heavy metal cornice supported by large brackets. Although Giles is long gone from this location its legacy has been restored to this four-story building as it is converted into multi-use functions.

**11. Montgomery Ward Store**  
**110 Campbell Avenue West**

Look up above the altered street level to see the patterned brick and cast stone geometric patterns of this 1930 Art Deco of this three-story, eight-bay brick building. It once housed a retail arm of the original mail-order firm of Montgomery Ward.

**12. Ponce De Leon Hotel/  
Crystal Tower Building**  
**145 West Campbell Avenue at northeast corner of 2nd Street**

This corner has historically been the site of a hotel, initially the Trout House back in the 1800s. A fire destroyed the Trout House and in its stead rose the grand Ponce de Leon Hotel, a five-story French Empire confection rendered in gleaming white brick. The Ponce De Leon reigned as Roanoke's leading hotel until it too was felled by fire on December 29, 1930. It was rebuilt in the popular Art Deco style of the day, festooned with elaborate stone carvings and highlighted by a stylish parapet at the roofline. Its name was changed by a local developer to the Crystal Tower in the 1960s and the hotel kept an active register until the 1990s. It has since been converted to office space. Incidentally, the building comes by its spring-related names honestly - it was constructed over an active stream that is still fed by an underground spring.



**13. *Roanoke Times***

**201 West Campbell Avenue at northwest corner of 2nd Street**

The *Roanoke Times* traces its history back to 1886 and is still one of the country's most-read local papers in its coverage area. The modern building incorporates parts of an original 1910 newspaper plant and expansions in 1948 and 1986.

TURN LEFT ON SECOND STREET.

**14. City Hall/Municipal Building**

**west side of Second Street, SW between Church Avenue and Campbell Avenue**

Richmond-born architect Aubrey Chesterman teamed with Edward G. Frye in 1900 at the age of 25 to create many of Virginia's finest and most important buildings. Here they contributed a regal Neoclassical home for the Roanoke government in 1915. The splendidly proportioned entranceway is marked by a quartet of fluted Ionic columns. The City Hall once sat stately in the middle of the block, surrounded by a treeless lawn. It gave way to a new municipal building next door in 1971, named for mayor Noel C. Taylor.

**15. Commonwealth of Virginia Building**

**220 Church Avenue at southwest corner of Second Street**

This three-story, 15-bay brick building was a Depression-era project to provide Roanoke with a post office and federal courthouse. It sports a strong stone base with a parade of arched windows and upper stories set off by projecting Ionic pilasters. On the northeast corner of the property the Roanoke Valley War Memorial was created in the 1980s.

**16. Greene Memorial United**

**Methodist Church  
402 Second Street, SW and  
Church Avenue**

This gray stone Gothic Revival church was erected by the St. Mark's Lutheran congregation in 1892. Its stand-out belltower rests on pilings

sunk as deep as the tower is high because the church was constructed atop hollow limestone caverns. But within ten years the Lutherans could no longer afford their showcase building and traded it to the Greene United Methodist Church for their modest brick sanctuary. The Greene congregation, founded in 1859, has been here ever since.

TURN LEFT ON CHURCH AVENUE.

**17. Texas Tavern**

**114 West Church Street**

In the early days of the Great Depression Isaac N. (Nick) Bullington worked as an advance man for the Ringling Brothers circus, scouting locations and booking shows. In his off hours he collected road food recipes with the idea of starting a short order eatery. He whittled down possible locations for his dream restaurant to ten cities and settled on Roanoke as an up-and-coming railroad town. Four generations of Bullingtons and nearly ten million hot dogs later the Texas Tavern remains a 24-hour Roanoke institution.

TURN RIGHT ON FIRST STREET.

TURN LEFT ON BULLITT AVENUE.

TURN LEFT ON JEFFERSON STREET.

**18. Patrick Henry Hotel**

**617 South Jefferson Street**

In the 1920s small city Chamber of Commerce across America came to the conclusion that a first-class high-rise hotel was essential to the future of their cities. New York architect William Stoddard was a beneficiary of this wave of civic boosterism, winning many such commissions, including the Patrick Henry. Stoddard delivered an ornate Georgian Revival ten-story dark brick building wrapped in a stone base that was opened in 1925. The venerable hotel was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 but was on a downhill slide. A recent multi-million dollar refurbishment has converted its 125 guest rooms into 133 apartments and commercial space. Across the street is Elmwood Park, the former estate of Peyton Terry, Roanoke's most ambitious early builder and first millionaire.

**19. Boxley Building**  
**416 South Jefferson Street**

When this eight-story building rose in 1922 it was the city's tallest. William Wise Boxley went to work building railroads at an early age. He established his company's headquarters in Roanoke in 1906, straightening and double-tracking the main lines of the Norfolk & Western, the Chesapeake & Ohio and the Virginian Railway. Two years later the Boxley Company opened its first quarry 58 miles west of town to furnish ballast and concrete for railroads and eventually paved roads. The quarries and crushing mills would ultimately become the main business of the company.

William Boxley was elected mayor of Roanoke in 1918 despite being aligned with no political party. He was an advocate for transforming Roanoke into a modern city and commissioned Edward G. Frye and Edward Stone to design a new headquarters for his company to do just that. The Boxley Building was constructed in the popular fashion to resemble a classical column with a prominent base of granite, the unadorned shaft of light brick on the middle floors and an ornate capital in the form of a decorative copper cornice. The building opened in 1921.

**20. Painted Wall Signs**  
**Church Avenue parking lot,**  
**northwest corner of Jefferson Street**

Advertisements painted on Roanoke brick walls were a common early 20th century site, created by itinerant painters called "wall dogs." Faded signs are referred to as "ghost signs" and many have been restored across the city streets.

TURN RIGHT ON  
CHURCH AVENUE.

**21. Fire Station Number 1**  
**13 Church Avenue**

Roanoke began paying its firefighters in 1906 and broke ground on this fire station. The Lynchburg architectural firm of Huggins and Bates drew inspiration for its design from Philadelphia's Independence Hall with an open belltower above a red brick and terra cotta facade. Five years later

the city's first engine-powered fire truck arrived at Station Number 1. The building served the fire department for 100 years, one of the longest tenures in Virginia history, and landed Station Number 1 on the National Register of Historic Places.

**22. Friendship Fountain**  
**Church Avenue at Market Street**

Erected in 1987, the fountain pays tribute to Roanoke's seven Sister Cities around the world, whose flags fly around its perimeter. Those cities: Florianópolis, Brazil; Kisumu, Kenya; Lijiang, Yunnan, China; Pskov, Russia; Saint-Lô, France; Wonju, South Korea; Opole, Poland.

**23. Norfolk Southern Building**  
**110 Franklin Road SE (fronting on**  
**Church Avenue)**

The Norfolk and Western Railway, now Norfolk Southern, grew through over 200 railroad mergers from a nine-mile line in Petersburg, Virginia in 1838 into a system serving 14 states on more than 7,000 miles of road. It became the Norfolk and Western in 1881 and the following year consolidated with the Shenandoah Valley Railroad. A small Virginia village called Big Lick was chosen as the junction for the two lines, cementing the future of the newly named Roanoke as a railroad town. The Roanoke Shops, where legendary locomotives would be designed, built and maintained, made Norfolk and Western known industrywide for its excellence in steam power. In 1883 the railway carried the second shipment of coal from the Pocahontas coalfields to the mayor of Norfolk, launching what would become its signature product. The ten-story Norfolk Southern Building was erected in 1992.

TURN LEFT ON MARKET STREET.

**24. Hartsook Building**  
**101 Market Square**

Thomas Everhart Benton Hartsook migrated from Maryland in 1891 and set up shop. He replaced his store in 1896 with this two-story brick building from which he orchestrated a wide-ranging real estate empire.

**25. The McGuire Building/  
Center in the Square  
One Market Square**

In 1914 W.E. McGuire constructed a five-story building here to sell buggies, wagons, farm implements and canvas bags of seed and fertilizer. In the 1980s, after a \$7.5 million makeover, the building became the home of five arts and science organizations.

**26. Fox Bargain Store  
Campbell Avenue and Market Street**

This low-rise red-brick Neoclassical building came courtesy of the Commercial Development Company in 1908. Some of the classical elements you can spot include large tripartite windows accentuated with stone keystones, brick pilasters, and a decorative cornice propped up by beefy brackets and sporting modillion blocks. The most famous tenant here was Isadore Fox who helmed a bargain store for 55 years.

CONTINUE ON MARKET STREET  
BACK TO THE TOUR STARTING  
POINT.



*Look Up,*

# *Staunton*



## A Walking Tour of Staunton...

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 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 her 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, an 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 Eagon 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 facelift 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 building 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 a glorious 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.



*Look Up,*

# *Williamsburg*



## A Walking Tour of Williamsburg...

Today nearly all schoolchildren know the town of Williamsburg. That that is the case is due not so much to the great history that happened here but to the vision of one man - William Archer Rutherford Goodwin.

To be sure, Williamsburg, which served as capital of Virginia from 1699 to 1780, saw its share of notable events, most significantly the fiery rhetoric in the Virginia Capitol by Patrick Henry and brush-ups during the Revolutionary War and Civil War. But after the capital shuffled off to Richmond in 1780 the town led a mostly somnambulant existence for a century and a half.

William Goodwin, then 33 years of age, arrived in Williamsburg in 1903 to become pastor of the Bruton Parish Church. Goodwin was struck by the number of still-standing 18th century buildings in his new community and was inspired to restore his church in time for the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the Episcopal Church in America at Jamestown in 1907. And then Goodwin left to minister to a church in Rochester, New York.

He returned to Bruton Parish in 1923 and was dismayed at the changes that had occurred to Williamsburg in his absence - the deterioration and loss of the antique buildings was rampant. In his mind Goodwin hatched a scheme not just to save and restore a building here and there but to bring its 18th century appearance back to Williamsburg. He found perhaps the best ally in the country to pull off such an audacious plan - John D. Rockefeller, Jr., son of the founder of Standard Oil. With the Rockefeller money they founded Colonial Williamsburg and created a 301-acre Historic Area. Some 459 buildings were torn down, 91 of the Colonial period rebuilt, 67 restored and a new shopping center in Colonial style was provided.

Today, Colonial Williamsburg is Virginia's largest tourist attraction and we will begin right at its center, on a green space that was framed by catalpa trees where Americans first enjoyed stage plays, an area whose restoration was targeted as one of Colonial Williamsburg's first restorations...

START ON THE PALACE GREEN  
ON THE NORTH SIDE OF DUKE OF  
GLOUCESTER STREET, THE WIDE  
TREE-LINED MAIN STREET OF  
WILLIAMSBURG. STANDING ON  
THE PALACE GREEN WALK TO THE  
NORTH (CLOSED) END.

**1. Governor's Palace**  
**north end of Palace Green**

This is another reconstruction; the original 1722 building was consumed by fire while being used as a military hospital for soldiers wounded at Yorktown. Lord Dunmore was the last of seven Royal governors to occupy the official executive residence before fleeing in 1775. It also served as the executive mansion for the Commonwealth's first two governors: Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson, until the state capital was moved inland to Richmond in 1780. The Georgian-style palace rises two full stories to a denticulated cornice beneath a steep and many-dormered hip roof, surmounted by a balustraded platform and a tall lantern cupola rising in two stages between multiple chimneys. The palace gardens and dependencies have also been faithfully reproduced.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE  
PALACE, WALK DOWN THE  
COBBLE PATH TO YOUR LEFT.  
AT NICHOLSON STREET TURN  
LEFT.

**2. St. George Tucker House**  
**Nicholson Street at Palace Green**

Bermuda-born St. George Tucker, a Revolutionary War officer and later a judge, acquired three lots on the Palace Green in 1788 from Edmund Randolph for the sum of £100. His new property included William Levingston's home and the theater he operated, the first in America. Tucker moved the wooden Levingston house to its current location where it grew to handle the growing brood of Tucker children - nine by his two wives and five stepchildren. With such a family it is appropriate that the first Christmas tree in Williamsburg was displayed at the house in 1842. Tucker descendants lived here until 1993.

**3. Peyton Randolph House**  
**Nicholson Street at North England Street**

One of the oldest original houses in Williamsburg, the original part of the building was the west wing, constructed about 1715 by William Robertson. Sir John Randolph purchased Robertson's house in 1721 and three years later built what was to become the east wing of the house when it was reconstructed by Colonial Williamsburg in 1938. Sir John's son, Peyton, who would be Speaker of Virginia's House of Burgesses in the inflammatory years prior to the Revolution and president of the First Continental Congress, built the central core of the house in 1751.

**4. Booker Tenement**  
**north side of Nicholson Street**

Here is an antique house that has not received the Colonial Williamsburg treatment. The frame house was built about 1825 and is credited to Richard Booker, a carpenter and town constable. It has been stabilized and preserved but not restored.

**5. Public Gaol**  
**north side of Nicholson Street**

The Virginia General Assembly dictated that a "substantial brick prison" be constructed shortly after it decreed that Williamsburg would be the Colonial capital. Part of the jail was ready for use by 1704, debtors' cells were added in 1711. The most celebrated guests of the colony were 15 henchmen of the pirate Blackbeard, captured in 1718. They were confined here until their hanging. The Gaol became a county facility in 1780 and, much modified over the years, served until 1910. The restored building, with part of its thick walls still original, was dedicated in 1936.

TURN RIGHT AND MAKE YOUR  
WAY UP THE SLOPE TO THE  
MAIN THOROUGHFARE OF  
COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG,  
DUKE OF GLOUCESTER STREET.

**6. Secretary's Office**  
**Blair Street and Duke of Gloucester Street**  
**on north side of Capitol**

This single story Georgian brick building stands as the oldest archival structure in America, thrust into use after the Capitol went up in flames in 1747. The Public Records Office was ready the next year, constructed at a cost of £367. Its records were removed to Richmond with the capital in 1780. The building did duty afterwards as a school and was modified into a residence.

**7. Colonial Capitol**  
**east end of Duke of Gloucester Street**

This checkerboard brick building of light-colored stretchers and glazed headers is a reconstruction of the first capitol, built on the original foundations of the "best and most commodious pile" in Colonial America. This was the original meeting place for the House of Burgesses, Virginia's Colonial legislature, and constructed between 1701 and 1705. It burned on January 30, 1747. By 1753 a second building was on the site, which lasted until it too perished in a fire in 1832. It was in that building that Patrick Henry introduced the Stamp Act Resolutions of May 29, 1765, declaring that, "if this be treason, make the most of it." The course toward Revolution had been set. Restoration began in 1929.

**TURN RIGHT AND WALK DOWN**  
**DUKE OF GLOUCESTER STREET.**

**8. Raleigh Tavern**  
**north side of Duke of Gloucester Street,**  
**east of Botetourt Street**

Less than a block from the Capitol the Raleigh Tavern, established in 1717 and named for Sir Walter Raleigh, became a natural meeting place for burgesses and politically inclined Virginians to debate the merits of independence. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Patrick Henry were all known to express opinions in this public house. The building was reconstructed after a fire destroyed it in 1859. A bust of namesake Raleigh greets patrons from a perch in the broken pediment over the doorway.

**9. Wetherburn's Tavern**  
**south side of Duke of Gloucester Street,**  
**east of Botetourt Street**

This is an original clapboard building, expanded to its present size after 1751 and restored to that appearance. Henry Wetherburn had operated the Raleigh Tavern across the street before taking over this establishment, which appealed to a distinguished clientele, in 1738.

**10. Magazine & Guardhouse**  
**south side of Duke of Gloucester Street at**  
**England Street**

This octagonal powder magazine in Market Square was constructed in 1715 with brick walls nearly two feet thick. On the morning of April 21, 1775, the citizens of Williamsburg awoke to discover that during the night Lord Dunmore had secretly removed all the gunpowder from the public magazine. Patrick Henry organized a march by the Hanover County militia to confront Dunmore and have the powder replaced. An outraged Dunmore finally agreed to reimburse the Virginia treasury, but he kept the powder. The brick wall, a restoration, was added in 1755 during alarms in the French and Indian War and was disassembled in 1855.

**11. Courthouse**  
**Market Square on Duke of**  
**Gloucester Street**

This one-story brick courthouse is the town's third, with the first case tried here in 1771. Benjamin Waller read the Declaration of Independence from the steps of the courthouse - steps that had been imported from England in 1772. The building was used by the local government for more than 160 years.

It looks as if the court's cantilevered portico is lacking columns. For whatever reason, the original building did not include them. After a fire in 1911 gutted the building columns were indeed added when the court was rebuilt. But when it was appropriated by Colonial Williamsburg and restored to its 18th century appearance the columns were again dispatched.



**12. Geddy House**  
**southeast corner of Palace Green and**  
**Duke of Gloucester Street**

James Geddy, a silversmith, constructed this frame building around 1762 to serve as his home and his workshop - a typical arrangement found on 18th century Williamsburg streets. Much of the original L-shaped structure remains, although it picked up a few fashionable 19th century alterations on its exterior.

**13. Bruton Parish Episcopal Church**  
**331 West Duke of Gloucester Street at**  
**Palace Green**

The church and state were one under the Church of England in the colony of Virginia when the mellow red brick Bruton Parish Church was raised in 1712-1715 to replace an earlier church on this spot. Bruton Parish was created in 1674 through the union of two earlier parishes. Above the cornice of the square tower rises a two-tiered octagonal steeple. This is the oldest Episcopal church of uninterrupted use in America.

The churchyard has been the Bruton Parish ground since the 17th century. In addition to the gravestones, there are hundreds of unmarked burials since only the wealthy could afford the remembrance of a stone marker imported from England. Bruton Parish boasts one of the finest collections of table tombs - the large, raised stones that are symbols of family power - in the United States.

**14. Kimball Theatre**  
**428 West Duke of Gloucester Street,**  
**Merchant Square**

Thanks to an open-air stage for performances by the Williamsburg Company of Comedians in 1716 on the Palace Green called the Play Booth Theater, Williamsburg lays claim to being the birthplace of the American theater. When Colonial Williamsburg was being developed in the 1930s this 600-seat theater was built to be the "center stage" for the new Merchants Square. John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s film distribution company, RKO, picked up the construction tab for the Williamsburg Theatre. It was one of the first movie houses in the country to be air-condi-

tioned when it opened in 1933. Rockefeller was a regular patron and the back row was reserved for him. With a \$3.5 million donation by Bill and Gretchen Kimball the stage was renovated in 2001 and today hosts films, live shows and musical concerts.

**CONTINUE STRAIGHT ACROSS**  
**BOUNDARY STREET ONTO THE**  
**CAMPUS OF WILLIAM & MARY.**  
**THE BUILDING DIRECTLY IN**  
**FRONT OF YOU IS...**

**15. Wren Building**  
**College of William and Mary**

William and Mary is the second oldest college in the United States, behind only Harvard, and this is the oldest academic structure still in use in the country. The building was erected beginning in 1695, perhaps based on plans by Sir Christopher Wren, the Royal architect who rebuilt London after the Great Fire of 1666. Although his involvement is disputed 300 years later, if Wren did design the College Building, as it is formally known, it is his only building in America.

The building burned in 1705, 1859 and 1862 and was rebuilt each time and when a restoration was undertaken in 1928 the original walls were still intact. The sandy pink brick of the long rectangular mass is set in courses of Flemish and English bond. A steep hip roof above two full stories is pierced by 12 dormers and surmounted by a plain cupola between two huge chimneys near the ends.

**TO YOUR RIGHT IS...**

**16. President's House**  
**College of William Mary**

This five-bay Georgian house with a steeply hipped roof pierced by dormers brought a symmetrical completion to the original campus of the College of William and Mary when it was completed in 1733. Every college president, save one, has resided in this house. During the American Revolution, British General Cornwallis occupied the house briefly in 1781, and later that year French soldiers camping in the area burned the

President's house by accident; King Louis XVI picked up the bill for the repairs.

mid-1750s by Wythe's father-in-law, the surveyor, builder, and planter Richard Taliaferro.

TO YOUR LEFT IS...

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO  
THE TOUR STARTING POINT ON  
PALACE GREEN.

**17. Brafferton Building**  
**College of William and Mary**

William and Mary's 1693 charter included a commitment to train young Native Americans as Christian clergymen and missionaries to their people. Investment income from a £4,000 fund from the estate of English natural philosopher Robert Boyle (the Yorkshire manor of Brafferton) was earmarked for an endowment in 1697 and this squarish Georgian brick building was constructed in 1723 to house the Indian School. There were seldom more than a handful of students, however, and the school was shuttered in 1779. Of the three original college buildings, it is the only one never to have been burned.

TURN AND LEAVE WILLIAM  
& MARY AND RETRACE YOUR  
STEPS ON DUKE OF GLOUCESTER  
STREET. AT PALACE GREEN TURN  
LEFT.

**18. Wythe House**  
**west side of Palace Green, south of**  
**Prince George Street**

This two-story Georgian brick house laid in Flemish bond, was built around 1750 and occupied by George Wythe, a former clerk of the House of Burgesses and ardent patriot. Wythe is known as a brilliant thinker and signer of the Declaration of Independence, but his greatest fame came after the Revolution, when he gained acclaim as the first professor of law at an American college. A roster of his students who rose to national prominence include Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe, John Marshall and Henry Clay. Wythe lived into his 80th year when he was poisoned by a grandnephew in 1806. The murderer escaped conviction, however, when the testimony of the only witness was considered invalid in the courts. The witness was black, to whom the rights fought for in the Revolution did not extend. The house is believed to have been designed in the

*Look Up,*

# *Winchester*



## A Walking Tour of Winchester...

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, stocks, 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 emporium 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 gateway 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 18th 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 typifies 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 ON  
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 dismounted 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 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. A carillon of ten bells placed in the belfry was installed in 1917 in the memory of David Brevitt Glaise.

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 of 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 a 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.

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 (1600-1840):*

### **POST-MEDIEVAL 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-gambrel 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 (four-sided) or side-gabled (two-sided)
- \* 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 (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 (EASTLAKE) 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 CHATEAUESQUE (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, often 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