

A Story of Virginia Told in 100 Buildings

HOW THE
OLD DOMINION STATE
HAPPENED



CRUDEN BAY BOOKS

INTRODUCTION

If those walls could talk...this is what they would say. A story about Virginia.

Pre-historic mounds... octagon houses... The Crooked Road... iron horses... Utopian communities... fire towers... windmills... peanuts... geodesic domes... tobacco... moonshine... the CCC... Art Deco stunners... kit houses...the golden age of motoring... canals... show caves... kissing bridges... Presidents... cast iron... Naval Baseball... Dry Docks... Frank Lloyd Wright... drive-in movies... brick kilns... Carnegie libraries... engineering marvels... shot towers... Nascar... fox hunting. This book will have you telling stories like a native in no time.

The photos and stories collected here are a fast and fun way to learn the explanations behind the quirks, the traditions and the secrets that make Virginia uniquely Virginia. Where will you find America's "first air conditioned building? Solved. Where was the "best World Series no one ever saw" played? A mystery no more. Where can you find entire streets built with kit houses? Identified. Where is the world's largest reinforced thin shell concrete dome? Revealed.

Imagine a group of settlers arriving in an undeveloped location. First come shelters in which to live and then structures in which to work and shop. There are buildings for worship and education. As the community grows government buildings are required. With prosperity comes places in which to spend leisure time. And each step along the way builds a story only Virginia can call its own. A story told in 100 buildings. Almost all of the selections within are open to the public, or at least visible from public spaces. So, if you haven't seen these landmarks in person, fire up your GPS and get out and see the story of the Old Dominion standing in plain sight on Virginia streets!

**A STORY OF VIRGINIA TOLD IN 100 BUILDINGS
...HOW THE OLD DOMINION STATE HAPPENED**

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Ely Mound

Rose Hill
prehistoric



Civilizations have been compelled to build mounds since there have been civilizations - for ceremonial purposes, for burials, for defensive positions. Europeans coming the New World found mounds, some massive in scale, almost everywhere they went. The prevailing wisdom, however, was that the American Indians they encountered living on the land were not sophisticated enough to engineer such structures. Instead, it was theorized, the earthen mounds must be the handiwork of an ancient "Lost Race." It was a convenient theory as a justification for forcing indigenous peoples from their homes since they obviously had no ties to the land. In the 1870s Lucien Carr, an archaeologist from Harvard University, began probing a 19-foot high mound on Robert Ely's farm. He found artifacts indicative of human habitation and also decayed cedar posts that suggested the past existence of some sort of building. The findings at Ely Mound marked a sea change in American scholarship. Today it is accepted that the Hopewell culture was a network of early North American peoples who actively traded along the waterways of the eastern part of the continent from roughly 100 BCE to 500 CE. This widespread trade led to an active sharing of ideas and helped fuel a tradition of engineering among the Hopewell. The displacement of American Indians did not end but the rationalization for the practice was over.

Bacon's Castle

Surry County
1665



In 1675 Nathaniel Bacon sent his troublemaking son to America, hoping the experience would instill a dose of maturity in Junior. If not, he would be somebody else's problem. That unfortunate somebody turned out to be Sir William Berkeley, a veteran of England's Great Rebellion

of the 1640s who King Charles II had made governor of the Virginia Colony. Bacon, Jr. arrived in Jamestown to a general malaise. Maryland and the Carolinas were sniping at Virginia's tobacco profits, the Dutch were inflicting heavy losses to British shipping at sea and the weather was miserable. The colonists chose to take their woes out on the local Indian tribes and Bacon inserted himself at the head of the rabble rousing. While Berkeley tried to keep peace the hot-headed Bacon led raids on Indian villages and agitated for their complete removal. He gathered some 200 followers who openly defied the governor's often ambiguous directives. Differences escalated into direct confrontation and on September 19, 1676 Bacon burned Jamestown to the ground. Before retribution could come Nathaniel Bacon, Jr. died a month later from infections. Berkeley reasserted control, hung 23 rebels from the end of a rope and sailed back to England. Already 70 years old when the whole mess started, he died the next year. It is believed that for several months men from "Bacon's Rebellion" holed up in the handsome High Jacobean-style home originally built by Arthur Allen. "Bacon's Castle," the oldest brick house in the United States, was bought at auction by Preservation Virginia in the 1970s, restored and opened to the public.

Bruton Parish Church

Williamsburg
1677



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. At the time there was no such thing as a "preservation" movement or "historical restoration"

but Goodwin wanted to re-store his church in time for the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the Episcopal Church in America that was coming up in 1907. And then Goodwin left to minister to a church in Rochester, New York and nothing was done in Virginia. 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 that didn't look like they belonged in the 1700s, 91 from the Colonial period rebuilt, 67 restored and a new shopping center in the Colonial Revival style was created. Today, Colonial Williamsburg is Virginia's largest tourist attraction.

Wren Building

Williamsburg
1700



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 "Wren Building" burned in 1705, 1859 and 1862 and was rebuilt each time. 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.

St. Peter's Church

Talleysville

1703



On January 6, 1759 a then-26-year-old Colonel George Washington and the widow Martha Custis exchanged vows in St. Peter's Church. In 1960 the Virginia General Assembly grandly anointed the site as "The First Church of the First First-Lady." But a century before that the building was crumbling after doing duty in the Civil War as a stable for Union horses. Soldiers etched their names into the brick exterior. The America of the 1860s

was not a sentimental place with regard to the landmarks of its past. Historical restoration was almost non-existent. But in 1869 Robert E. Lee observed, "St. Peter's is the church where General Washington was married and attended in early life. It would be a shame to America if allowed to go to destruction." So his son began work on saving St. Peter's. In rescuing the Washingtons' marital altar the Lees also helped preserve one of the Commonwealth's best early brick churches, of which Virginia has no peer among its fellow former colonies. The load-bearing walls are the finest of brick courses, utilizing Flemish bond with alternating headers and stretchers. The oldest church in Virginia, and the oldest brick church in British North America, resides 70 miles away in Smithfield. Architectural historians peg the construction of St. Paul's Episcopal to the 1680s but local lore indicates the bricks may have been laid in 1632.

Yorktown Windmill

Yorktown

1711/2011



After Sir George Yardley constructed the first windmill in Virginia in 1621 on his Flowerdew Hundred plantation near Hopewell the contraptions became familiar sights on Commonwealth farms. Often they were used to pump well water to the surface. That trailblazing structure was destroyed in a storm, a common fate for windmills. In 1854 a 28-year old Connecticut machinist named Daniel Halladay changed the clean energy game forever. Halladay attached a horizontal stabilizer to the windmill blades creating the first self-governing windmill. A Halladay windmill could swivel and angle the blades so they would not blow apart in violent storms by themselves - no longer did farmers have to brave the elements to save their structures by hand in gusty winds. William Buckner built his windmill on a bluff overlooking the York River to grind grain, an ideal spot for catching the breeze. It was a familiar landmark, often used for navigation on the river. The tower also likely took its share of friendly fire in the siege of Yorktown in 1781 that ended the Revolutionary War. The windmill was so prominent it often took a star turn in 18th century paintings, most notably *Washington and his Generals at Yorktown* when Charles Peale placed it squarely in the middle of the scene. The fate of the windmill is unknown but the many depictions guided a re-creation dedicated on its 300th birthday.

Nelson House

Yorktown

1711



By 1781, fighting in the Revolutionary War had continued for the better part of six years with no real resolution in sight. The British, frustrated by Nathaneal Greene's continuing efforts to thwart their Southern adventures, contented themselves with raiding parties in the Colonies. In the summer of 1781 Lord Cornwallis set about fortifying Yorktown and Gloucester Point but on September 5 the French Navy and Admiral Fran-

cois de Grasse engaged a British reinforcement fleet and inflicted enough damage to force the British Navy scurrying back to New York. General George Washington followed the French fleet down the coast with more than 17,000 men and laid siege to Yorktown. Without the expected infusion of men and supplies, the 8,300 British soldiers had no choice but to surrender 19 days later, triggering talks that would end the American Revolution. This brick Georgian manor home, one of the finest in the Commonwealth, was the home during the Revolution of Thomas Nelson, Jr. Nelson signed the Declaration of Independence, was wartime Governor of Virginia in 1781 and commanded the Virginia militia during the Siege of Yorktown. Legend has it that when it was learned that his home was being used to shield British soldiers, Nelson ordered his troops to fire upon it. The home, which still bears scars from the siege, was built around 1711 by Nelson's grandfather, "Scotch Tom" Nelson.

Berkeley Plantation

Charles City Council

1726



The first official Thanksgiving is said to have taken place on this site in 1619; a little more than a decade later the first Harrisons arrived. The house on the plantation dates to 1726, about the time that Benjamin Harrison V was born. Benjamin V inherited the plantation in 1745 after his father and two sisters were killed by lightning. That same year Harrison entered the House of Burgesses and remained until it was disbanded thirty years later. He served in both the First and Second Continental Congresses and signed the Declaration of Independence. Harrison continued to serve in politics until his death in 1791, including a stint as governor of Virginia. Benedict Arnold, then a British raider, plundered the estate in 1781 but did little damage. George Washington visited as president - as did every one of the first 15 presidents until the Civil War. Two Harrisons, William Henry and Benjamin, became Chief Executives themselves. Virginia has produced eight United States Presidents - more than any state - and this is the oldest of the ancestral Presidential homes.

Shirley Plantation

Hopewell

1738



It is difficult to have witnessed more Virginia history than Shirley Plantation. Thomas West, 3rd Baron De La Warr, was the largest investor in the London Company that held two charters to colonize the New World. That stake earned West the position of governor-for-life of the Colony of Virginia. The exalted post enabled him to start the

colony's first plantation in 1613, named for his wife's family. The *Mayflower* was still plying the waters of the Baltic Sea when hogsheads of tobacco were being shipped from Shirley Plantation in 1616. West spent little time in Virginia and died at sea trying to return. Two brothers would go on to be royal governors of Virginia and extend the prominence of the West family. The fields at Shirley Plantation were worked by indentured servants who signed contracts to work for several years in return for passage to America from the Virginia Company. Indentured servitude provided most of the labor in the colony through the 17th century. That labor pool was supplanted by enslaved Africans who did not choose to come to Virginia nor carried a contract. Edward Hill took over the James River operation in 1638 and twelve generations later Virginia's oldest active plantation operates as the oldest family-owned business in North America. Work began on the "Great House" in 1723 and wrapped up in 1738 and doesn't look much different three centuries on.

St. John's Church

Richmond

1741



When Royal Governor John Murray, 4th Earl of Dunmore, dissolved the Virginia Assembly it was no longer possible for the radical body to meet in the capital of Williamsburg. The only building in nearby Richmond large enough to accommodate the 120 members was the St. John's Episcopal Church. On March 23, 1775, some of the greatest figures

of the American Revolution assembled for the Second Virginia Convention at St. John's. In attendance that day were George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Peyton Randolph, Richard Henry Lee, George Wythe and Benjamin Harrison. They listened as Patrick Henry, in a speech that would electrify the colonies, urged his colleagues, a conservative lot by nature, to prepare for armed conflict: "I know not what course others may take, but as for me, Give me liberty or give me death!" The subsequent vote paved the way for Virginia to raise arms. St. John's, still an active congregation, is one of Richmond's oldest wooden buildings. In the surrounding burial yard is the grave of George Wythe, mentor to Thomas Jefferson and the first Virginia signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Mount Vernon

Fairfax County

1758



George Washington moved to Mount Vernon, a family plantation owned by his older half-brother, Lawrence, as a young man of 16 in 1748. When Lawrence died of consumption in 1752 George was made executor of the estate which he was to inherit a few years later. The home to which Washington brought his new wife, the wealthy 26-year old widow, Martha Custis, in 1757 was a one-and-a-half-story building on over 2,000 acres. When he was not elsewhere engaged Washington spent much of the next three decades working on Mount Vernon. He raised the roof to add another story and extended the ends of the house. An innovative colonnaded porch was affixed overlooking the Potomac River. Washington gradually expanded his land holdings to more than 8,000 acres. Although he considered Mount Vernon to be the most ideally situated estate in the country, Washington was never able to make the plantation profitable. Martha's resources, especially in the times of her husband's extensive absences, kept Mount Vernon extant. George Washington died at Mount Vernon on December 14, 1799. Early in 1801, Martha Washington, a year older than her husband, died as well. Both are buried on the grounds. Although Mount Vernon is today one of America's treasures, its value was not immediately recognized after the passing of the childless Washingtons. The estate passed through various family members until it was offered for sale to the state and federal government in the middle of the 19th century. Neither wanted it. Mount Vernon was saved only by the organization of one of America's first private historical preservation groups, the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association.

Appomattox Manor

City Point

1763



Placed in charge of all Union armies on March 9, 1864, General Ulysses S. Grant chose to make his headquarters in the field with the Army of the Potomac rather than in Washington, D.C. as his predecessors had done. After failing to destroy Lee's army north of Richmond and abandoning the drive for Petersburg after four days of bloody fighting, he settled into siege warfare with his base here. Grant selected the estate of the Eppes family, Appomattox Manor, for his camp. He erected tents, and later timber-and-mortar cabins on the front lawn of the plantation, established in 1635. By the Civil War it covered 2,300 acres on the Appomattox and James rivers. President Abraham Lincoln visited Grant twice at City Point. It was during his second visit, aboard the President's ship *River Queen*, on March 28, 1865, while conferring with Grant, William Sherman and Admiral David Porter that Lincoln set the tone for the country's healing when he ordered, "Let them surrender and go home, they will not take up arms again. Let them all go, officers and all, let them have their horses to plow with, and, if you like, their guns to shoot crows with. Treat them liberally...I say, give them the most liberal and honorable terms." Both Petersburg and Richmond fell during his two-week stay and Lincoln visited both cities before returning to Washington on April 8. He would live only six more days. Richard Epps returned home to find his plantation in ruins. He rebuilt the manor house which the family donated to the National Park Service generations later to do duty as a house museum.

Homestead Resort

Hot Springs

1766



There was no costlier undertaking for a country in the 18th century than waging war - the transporting, feeding, clothing, and arming of troops would quickly sap a nation's treasury. One way to save expenses was to offer soldiers a bounty to fight instead of a paycheck and in the British colonies that often meant free land. Captain Thomas Bullitt scored 300 Virginia

mountain acres for his service in the French and Indian War as a surveyor. The land percolated with mineral springs and Bullitt convinced part of his militia to clear land and construct an 18-room wooden hotel and bathhouses. The Homestead - a nod to his wilderness troupe - opened in 1766. Bullitt, now a colonel, died during the American Revolution but his family continued welcoming guests to Hot Springs. In its history 23 American Presidents would "sample the waters" at the resort. A group of high-powered railroad men and bankers pooled one million dollars in the 1880s to create a posh new Homestead for the Gilded Age. Among the amenities was a new game, imported from Scotland. There were only a handful of golf courses in America when a six-hole course was opened in 1892 at The Homestead. Today the first tee is the oldest tee in North America in continuous use. Samuel Jackson Snead, born two miles down the road in Ashwood in 1912, played from that tee many times. He began caddying at The Homestead at the age of seven and was an assistant pro when he was 17. Considered the greatest natural athlete to ever play professional golf, "Slammin' Sammy" won a record 82 PGA Tour events and finished in the Top 10 in 358 of 585 starts.

Eastern State Hospital

Williamsburg

1773/1985



In the summer of 1770 legislators debated an issue raised by Royal Governor Francis Fauquier not just unheard of in American colonies but one that wouldn't arise on the docket anywhere for decades to come - building a separate public facility for the treatment of the mentally ill. At that time the Pennsylvania Hospital, the first in the colonies and then

about 20 years old, took mentally ill patients only rarely and chained them in the basement when they did. In England the mentally ill were often paraded in the streets for the amusement of tourists. Eastern State Hospital, founded in the spirit of the Enlightenment that valued reason over traditions and superstitions, would not just be a place to house the insane but there would be actual attempts to treat their condition as an illness. This humane treatment reached its apogee in the 1840s with the arrival of Dr. John Galt as superintendent. Galt advocated talk therapy and therapeutic activities in place of the accepted drugs used at the time. He fought to admit slaves as patients and never bothered to note race in his treatment records. Galt even agitated to return patients to life in the community, a goal that would not enter mental health treatment for another 100 years. The Civil War disrupted Galt's work and he died of a drug overdose, perhaps accidentally, perhaps not, in 1862. In the wake of the war the hospital grew more crowded and less civil. When Williamsburg was being reborn as a tourist attraction in the 1930s an overcrowded Eastern State was incongruously smack dab in the middle of the sightseers. For the next 30 years patients were gradually shuffled out to the current facility on the outskirts of town. The original 1773 hospital that had burned in 1885 was rebuilt on the centennial of its demise by the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation on the old foundations.

Saratoga

Boyce

1779



Daniel Morgan 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 "Bloody" Banastre Tarleton at Cowpens. He was the most renowned rifleman of the Revolution. In 1779 in 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. Daniel Morgan died in 1802 at the age of 66 and is buried along with five members of his Revolutionary bodyguard near the entrance of the Mount Hebron Cemetery at East Boscawen Street in Winchester.

Patowmack Canal

Great Falls

1786



Early American roads were atrocious and private visionaries realized it would be water routes that unlocked the new country's interior. The key would be bypassing waterfalls and rapids by building navigable canals. George Washington was an early player, devoting much of the final 14 years of his life to the Patowmack Canal that would take the Potomac River into the Ohio Valley. Such a project would "bind the

Western people to us by a chain which never can be broken," promised the First President. What often went unmentioned in the argument was the vast land holdings Washington had accumulated out beyond the reach of current roads. The Patowmack Company was chartered in 1784 to construct a laborious series of five canals. Three required no locks but the Great Falls Canal would need five locks to skirt past the angry river that dropped 80 feet in less than one mile. Part of the canal opened in 1795 while Washington was still in office but Great Falls would not be completely tamed until 1802. The construction of the pioneering locks was considered the greatest engineering feat in early America. The canal, however, prospered for only a quarter-century. After the Erie Canal from Lake Erie to the Hudson River was completed in 1825 and New York City almost instantly became the nation's trade center other states caught canal fever and Potomack couldn't keep up. Washington had indeed seen the future of a vibrant country linked by artificial waterways - just not including his own. Since the 1930s the canal remnants have been a park.

Debtors' Prison

Worsham

1787



Jails were some of the first public structures erected in Colonial America; by the 18th century every county had at least one. But justice was mostly administered with whips and branding irons rather than incarceration. One common use for jails was to settle debts. If possible, separate buildings were constructed for prisoners whose only crime was financial hardship. Such was the case in Prince Edward County where 52 pounds was expended for this debtors' prison. The county got its money's worth as the sturdy log structure is one of the few public wood buildings to have seen life in the 18th century Virginia; it is the only one of three prisons in the commonwealth on the National Register of Historic Places to be constructed of wood. In 1839 Congress passed a federal law "that no person shall be imprisoned for debt in any State." By that time the Worsham debtors' prison was a private home. In 1950 the modest structure was plucked from obscurity by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and restored as a window into 18th century jurisprudence.

Confederate Capitol

Richmond

1788



In 1779 the capital of Virginia was moved out of Williamsburg to Richmond, advantageously situated at the head of navigation on the James River, following the flow of western-bound settlers to a more centralized location. 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. 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. Thomas Jefferson and his French architectural collaborator Charles-Louis Clérisseau set about creating the first American public building in the form of a classical temple. Virginians embraced their new capital, however, and by 1790 the population had swelled to 3,761 and by 1800 had reached 5,730. 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.

Cape Henry Lighthouse

Virginia Beach

1792



After the Constitution was ratified and the first United States Congress sworn in Job One was to build lighthouses to protect the new nation's shipping. Actually it was Job Nine, as the Lighthouse Service was created by the 9th Act of the first Congress. The lighthouse at the southern entrance to the Chesapeake Bay was the first federal construction project undertaken by the new nation. And also the first cost overrun. The lighthouse was bid out at \$15,200 and needed \$2,500 more to go into operation. John McComb, Jr., not yet 30 years old, was put in charge of building the 90-foot sandstone tower. This was the first commission for McComb who learned his trade in New York City under his father and would become the go-to architect for many early Big Apple landmarks. Secretary of the Treasury Alexander Hamilton recruited McComb who was working on plans for a new Presidential residence. The government was so small at the time that George Washington reviewed the applications for the job of lighthouse keeper and picked Laban Goffigan to tend the fish oil lamps. The tower took incoming fire from Confederate forces during the Civil War but was quickly repaired. By 1881, however, it was deemed necessary to build a taller lighthouse on Cape Henry. The original was left standing in its shadow, ostensibly as an aid for daytime navigation and triangulation but the federal government just may not have wanted to tear down the first thing it ever built. Another three dozen lights would be constructed in the Old Dominion after Cape Henry. Most have been destroyed, nine remain active.

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary

Alexandria

1793

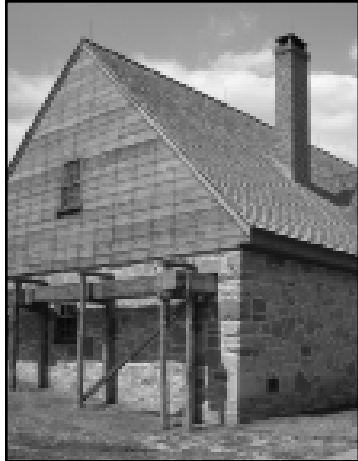


Edward Stabler, a Quaker pharmacist, moved to Alexandria in 1792 and opened an apothecary shop at King and Fairfax streets; he rented this property four years later. A pantheon of America's greatest statesmen came to sample Stabler's homemade remedies, browsing for everything from dental equipment to mineral water and cigars. Among the famous names in the account books is that of Robert E. Lee, who stopped in to buy paint for the Arlington House 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 ending a run as one of America's oldest drugstores. It was a simple matter to convert the apothecary into a museum of early American medicine - most of the artifacts were still on the shelves.

Washington's Distillery

Mount Vernon

1797/2007



George Washington knew his way around a whiskey dollar. Crops were heavy and transporting them long distances was expensive so the cost-effective solution was to distill grain into rye whiskey. On his estate at Mount Vernon the President was producing 11,000 gallons of whiskey a year and his distillery was said to be the largest in America so when his federal government imposed an excise tax on whiskey in 1794 he was presumably feeling the bite the most. When federal tax collectors appeared in Western Pennsylvania local mobs drove them off.

After all, the federal government was only six years old and isolated settlers on the frontier scarcely recognized its existence. If this experiment in democracy was ever going to work, Washington decided, it was critical to enforce its laws. A militia of more than 12,000 men assembled in Harrisburg and Washington took command of the march. It's the only time a sitting President personally commanded the military in the field. The "Whiskey Rebellion" was squashed without opposition and signaled to the new American people that changes to any law would have to take place through Constitutional means. That is exactly what happened with the 18th Amendment in 1920 that outlawed the sale of alcohol. Virginia actually beat America to Prohibition when its citizens passed it into law in 1914. By that time distilling had become a tradition in the Blue Ridge of Virginia where the stills were shifted to night time operation to hide the smoke from revenuers. Franklin County became the self-proclaimed Moonshine Capital of the World. After defying federal agents for a dozen years Prohibition ended not by government force but by a vote to repeal the 18th in 1933. This time 60% of Virginians voted to bring back whiskey. With a grant from national distillery trade unions George Washington's distillery was rebuilt in 2007 and spirits are once again flowing from Mount Vernon.

Dismal Swamp Canal

Chesapeake

1805



William Drummond tacked his name onto one of Virginia's two natural lakes in 1665. Colonel William Byrd II led a band of surveyors into the surrounding swamp in 1728 and the yellow flies, chiggers and ticks he encountered so discouraged him that he described the place as "a vast body of dirt and nastiness." He called it "Dismal" and the name stuck. How dismal is the Great Dismal Swamp? Unlike elsewhere in the Tidewater there was no need for English settlers to force the Indian tribes off the land - they had left already. George Washington led investors here in 1764 to investigate the building of a canal to extricate timber from the swamp and he owned a chunk of the Dismal Swamp Canal Company until his death. It wasn't until 1793, however, that slave labor began digging out the waterway between the Elizabeth River in Virginia and the Pasquotank River in North Carolina. The first flat-bottomed barges went down the 22-mile canal in 1805 and today it is the oldest continually operating canal in the United States, recognized as a National Civil Engineering Landmark and a linchpin of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway for recreational boaters.

Poplar Forest

Lynchburg

1806

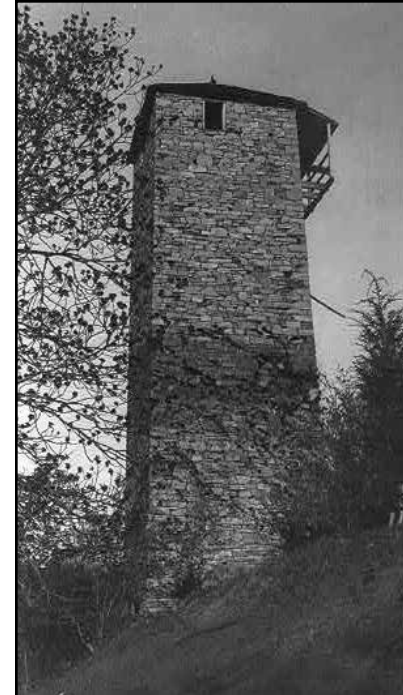


Thomas Jefferson began planning a house on the site of Monticello as a young boy and started construction in 1769. He continued work on his beloved estate for more than a half-century and yet he called Poplar Forest "the best dwelling house in the state, except that of Monticello; perhaps preferable to that, as more proportioned to the faculties of a private citizen." Jefferson inherited the nearly 5,000-acre property in the 1770s but did not turn his attention to its development until the latter days of his second term as third President of the United States. Jefferson loaded his retreat at Poplar Forest with idiosyncratic touches, beginning with its octagonal form. Scholars hail the brick structure as the most sophisticated of the self-taught Jefferson's architectural achievements. He infused Poplar Forest with European designs gleaned from his library, the most thorough book collection in America. The villa was so well tailored to its creator that subsequent owners didn't know quite what to do with Poplar Forest after Jefferson's death. While Monticello became one of America's most visited homes in the 20th century the much-renovated Poplar Forest was not restored to its position as influential presidential retreat until the 1990s.

Jackson Ferry Shot Tower

Austinville

1807



William Watts, an English plumber, and Isaac Newton had a lot in common. Newton observed an apple falling and came up with a theory of gravity. Watts observed that he could pour molten lead into a perforated metal pan and after the droplets fell through space he could collect them from water troughs below as perfectly round bits of shot. Watts patented his idea and built the first shot tower in 1782, about 90 feet tall. Englishman Thomas Jackson erected a limestone tower 75 feet high on a bluff above the New River and sunk a shaft another 75 feet deep into the cliff to manufacture shot for settlers in the backcountry. Lead came from nearby Austinville mines and finished shot pellets fell through a tunnel to the riverside

to be loaded on boats for shipment. At the time most shot was manufactured in brick towers in Baltimore and Philadelphia and such ingenious industry on the frontier was a novelty indeed. After sailing to America in his early 20s in 1785 Jackson applied his mechanical wizardry to a number of wilderness ventures. He farmed successfully, operated the commercial ferry across the New River, and eventually co-owned the Austinville lead mine. The mines began producing in 1756 with the application of surface mining and shallow underground techniques. The deposit would be tapped for the next 230 years - the longest continually mined metal deposit in North America. Over a million tons on zinc and 200,000 pounds of lead were extracted from 30 million tons of Austinville ore. Shot production ceased with Jackson's death in 1824 and the relic tower, designated a National Historic Mechanical Engineering Landmark, resides in a state park today.

Walnut Grove Farm

Steele's Tavern

1809



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 with his brother Leander to lay the seeds for what would become the International Harvester Company in 1902. The McCormick Reaper would kickstart agricultural production on farms everywhere and yield one of America's great fortunes of the 19th century. The ancestral farm remained in the McCormick family until the 1950s when it was donated to Virginia Tech. The gristmill, manor house, blacksmith shop and other structures were preserved as a National Historic Landmark.

Colvin Run Mill

Great Falls

1810



Milling was the first important industry in most Virginia towns, and during the 1800s most counties could be expected to support a hundred or more mills of all stripes: sawmills, carding mills for weaving, fulling mills for cleaning cloth, sorghum mills for molasses, flax mills, oat mills, and others. Today only Colvin Run Mill remains to tell

the story of water power in the Washington metropolitan area. George Washington once owned this land and after spying it as a spot for a gristmill. As is all his ventures Washington was looking to maximize his profits and went directly to the man who had revolutionized milling in America with automation - Oliver Evans. The Delaware inventor extraordinaire employed the use of ancient wooden Egyptian Archimedes' screws to power a multi-story mill that worked "without the aid of manual labor, excepting to set the different machines in motion." The only labor involved was starting and stopping the machinery. Evans received the third ever U.S. Patent in 1791 for his mill design and so the President of the United States came knocking on his door and obtained a license. Washington ultimately never built his mill but Philip Carter did twenty years later using the same design. The mill on Difficult Run ground grain until the 1930s when it was finally abandoned. The Fairfax County Park Authority purchased the property, restored the mill to the Evans design, rebuilt the overshot oak waterwheel and offers tours on grind day.

Price, Birch and Co.

Alexandria

1810



In 1778 Virginia became the first state to outlaw the importation of African slaves. By that time 20% of the population of the former British colonies was Black and Alexandria had established itself as a major slave center, battling New Orleans for the “honor” of top spot. Ad hoc slave auctions were often started by sellers right in the street if enough buyers were around. Isaac Franklin was a slave trader from his teenage

years in Tennessee. John Armfield was not as dedicated, ramping up his efforts only when he needed cash. In 1828 the two joined forces to rent an elegant three-story townhouse on Duke Street where, as one observer noted, “enslaved captives were penned like cattle, and brought and sold.” From this headquarters the partners built what is considered the most powerful slave trading company American had yet seen. Before their last captives were loaded on a boat for New Orleans in 1836 Franklin and Armfield bought and sold more than 8,500 men, women, and children. The blueprint they created of a fixed headquarters and a network of agents would be copied by many others in the following years. The townhouse was acquired by Charles Price and John Cook in 1858 who operated under the banner “Dealers in Slaves.” Their business life would be a short one. They fled ahead of Union troops entering Alexandria on May 24, 1861.

Arlington House

Arlington

1818



In 1824 the Marquis de Lafayette sailed from France for a celebratory tour of the 24 American states as the last living major general from the Revolutionary War. He came to Arlington House, the 1,000-acre estate of George Washington Parke Custis, the step-grandson of George Washington. Standing on the portico amidst an octet of impressive

Doric columns Lafayette declared the view across the Potomac River the finest in the world. Beginning in 1831 that view belonged to Robert E. Lee, who married the only Custis daughter on that portico. Lee had the view but his wife owned the house. Although Lee spent much of his married life traveling to various military posts, six of his seven children were born here. After deciding to spurn the offer of command of the United States in 1861 the family left, never to return. The estate was then used as a training camp and the title passed to the Federal government in 1864 when the land was seized for non-payment of taxes. The house, staring down on Washington, D.C., became headquarters for Union officers overseeing the defense of the capital. The six-acre Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Cemetery was the nation’s main military burial ground but when it became overwhelmed with casualties Major General Montgomery Meigs, quartermaster of the Union army, suggested burying Civil War dead at the Arlington House. By war’s end there were more than 16,000 graves here. In 1882 Custis Lee, the general’s oldest son, successfully sued the United States for return of the property but by then much of the hillside was covered with headstones. He accepted \$150,000 for the property. Today Arlington Cemetery is the largest of the more than 100-plus national burial grounds, with more than 400 landscaped acres and the graves of 400,000 war veterans, soldiers. Thirty-five years after the war ended, as a gesture of goodwill, Congress permitted a Confederate section that grew to 250 graves.

Drydock Number One

Portsmouth

1827



Before dry docks for ship repair began being used around the time of Christopher Columbus the only way to fix a hull was to haul boats into the mud at low tide and "careen" them onto their sides. Still, by the 19th century dry docks were rare in Europe and unheard of in America. The War of 1812, a conflict

fought generally on the water, showed Congress how woefully unprepared our naval fleet was for the international stage. In 1824 the U.S. Senate authorized the construction of two massive dry docks, one in Boston Harbor and one at the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Celebrated Boston engineer Loammi Baldwin Jr. was handed the job of designing and building the repair facilities. Both used the same plans and both utilized the same granite quarried in Quincy, Massachusetts when work began in 1827. A Scottish expert inspecting the facilities was moved to gush that the dry docks were, "The finest specimens of masonry which I met with in America." In June 1833 the USS *Delaware* arrived for repairs in Norfolk; one week later the USS *Constitution* entered the dry dock in Boston so Virginia seized the honor of "Oldest Operational Dry Dock in America." History was made again in the Civil War when the steam frigate USS *Merrimack* was raised from the Norfolk harbor floor after being sunk to prevent its capture by Confederate forces and outfitted with iron-plating. A year later, on March 9, 1862 the re-christened CSS *Virginia* fought the USS *Monitor* to a draw in an unsuccessful attempt to break a Union blockade. The Battle of Hampton Roads was the first ever clash of ironclad warships, signaling an end of the age of wood in naval warfare around the world.

Fort Monroe

Hampton

1834



The fort, begun in 1819 and named for then-President James Monroe, took 15 years to build. Robert E. Lee assisted with the construction. Known as "The Gibraltar of Chesapeake Bay," the seven-point Fort Monroe was the largest stone fort ever built in the United States, surrounded by a water moat. It was one of the few United States forts not to fall into Confederate hands at the start of the Civil War. Wrongly accused in the assassination plot against Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis was imprisoned here after his capture, first in a casement and then in Carroll Hall when his health failed. Davis stayed until his parole in 1867. The fort remained active until 2011 when President Barack Obama designated the property a national monument as the site of the first African landing in English North America. The Africans were headed for Spanish territory on the slave ship *San Juan Bautista* in 1619 when the sloop was overtaken by an English privateering ship, the *White Lion*. Part of the prize won by the English was "20. and odd" enslaved Africans." The men were traded for goods upon arrival in the Virginia Colony but there was no established tradition of slavery in British North America at the time. It is believed the Africans were treated as indentured servants, a common form of servitude at the time, - able to earn their freedom after a period of labor.

Gunnell House

Fairfax
1835



Fairfax was still little more than a collection of houses scattered around a 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. 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 Robert Johnstone; he escaped capture by hiding beneath an outhouse, wearing only his nightshirt. William Gunnell's house 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 became first a home for single mothers and their babies (NOEL House) and then as offices for Truro Church.

Tredegar Ironworks

Richmond
1837



Little could the organizers of a modest foundry, named for a similar ironworks in their homeland of Wales and dedicated to the manufacture of railroad spikes, imagine that within 25 years the operation would be a major fulcrum of the Confederate States of America. The man who transformed the Tredegar Ironworks into the most important arsenal of the South was West Point graduate Joseph Anderson. Anderson pursued government contracts, diversified operations and became Richmond's largest employer. When the Civil War broke out Anderson was the only man capable of producing artillery ordnance in the Southern states and the protection of the ironworks was so critical that the Confederate capital was moved from Montgomery, Alabama to Richmond. The Tredegar Ironworks remained open throughout the four years of conflict, churning out 1,100 cannon and the iron armor for the CSS *Virginia*, the world's first ironclad warship, was rolled here. As Union troops gained control of Richmond in April 1865 guards made sure the foundry did not go up in flames with the rest of the city. The Tredegar Ironworks was back in business by the end of the year, turning out railroad spikes but financial difficulties never allowed for a transition to the steel age. These days several of the foundry buildings have been adapted as museums to interpret the Civil War.

McLean House

Appomattox Courthouse

1848



On Sunday morning April 9, Robert E. Lee, somberly attired in a new uniform, waited for Ulysses Grant in the parlor of the Wilmer McLean House. Ironically, McLean had moved to this remote spot after having his farm overrun earlier in the war during the Second Battle of Manassas.

The generals had known each other slightly over the years; Lee had once reprimanded Grant for his unkempt appearance in Mexico. Now Grant arrived in dusty, fatigue dress, without side arms. He apologized for his dress, saying he was some miles from his headquarters and believed Lee would rather receive him as he was than be detained. After some casual conversation Lee requested terms for surrender. Grant wrote out his terms, discussed weeks earlier at City Point with President Lincoln, and handed Lee a piece of paper: officers and men would be paroled, only public property was to be surrendered and officers were allowed to retain their arms and horses. Lee was pleased and asked if men could keep their horses to retill their farms. Grant agreed and ordered three days of rations sent to Lee's ragged troops. After the negotiations Union batteries began to fire salutes but Grant ordered them stopped in deference to their countrymen. It was to be a surrender of honor. The entire country now knew the name "Appomattox," but the town was far from prospering. The railroad passed to the south and in 1892 the courthouse burned and the county seat moved. Appomattox Court House no longer even had that. The next spring the McLean House was dismantled with the intention of taking it to Washington as a war museum. But the pile of bricks and lumber was never moved. In 1930 the Congress passed a bill to build a monument on the site of the historic surrender 65 years earlier. The monument was never built but work began on restoring the dilapidating village. On April 6, 1954 it was designated a National Historical Park and much of the village now looks as it did in April 1865.

Barracks

Lexington

1848



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, 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. Thomas Jackson - no relation - taught natural philosophy and artillery tactics here for ten years, known to his students as "Old Tom Fool." In action during the Civil War at Chancellorsville he would earn another nickname - "Stonewall." On May 15, 1864 one of the most dramatic - and telling - episodes of that conflict occurred at New Market. Only a threadbare rebel force was left to defend Staunton from a marauding Union army commanded by General Franz Sigel. Confederate General John Breckinridge, a former United States vice-president under James Buchanan, despairingly called upon 257 teenage cadets from VMI. Breckinridge did so with the utmost reluctance, saying, "Major, order them up, and God forgive me for the order." The cadets, as young as 14, entered the fray fearlessly, captured a battery and took nearly 100 prisoners. Ten cadets were killed and 47 wounded. It would be the final Southern victory in the Shenandoah Valley. 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.

John Brown's Fort

Harper's Ferry

1848



There were few more strategic towns in the America of the 1800s than Harpers Ferry. It was located not only at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac rivers but was a converging point for the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, the Winchester and Potomac Railroad and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. George Washington had picked

Harpers Ferry to be the site of the nation's second national armory in 1794. By 1802 production of muskets and pistols began. Work orders amped up in the 1850s with seven new workshops constructed. At the same time John Brown and his sons were hauling a wagon from his New York State farm to Kansas Territory in 1856 to confront pro-slavery rabble-rousers. Twenty-nine men would die in "Bleeding Kansas," including Brown's son Frederick, but he emerged a national abolitionist hero for his bravery in the confrontations. Brown next set his sights on Harpers Ferry where he planned to seize 100,000 weapons to arm a Southern slave revolt. Brown's 21-man "army of liberation" raided the arsenal and other strategic points on Sunday evening October 16, 1859. Thirty-six hours later most of his men, including two more sons, were killed or wounded, and U.S. Marines under Colonel Robert E. Lee had captured Brown from the fire engine house where he made a last stand. Brown was swiftly executed and his widow brought his body back to the farm. Eight times during the Civil War the town changed times and by the end only "John Brown's Fort" was still standing in the armory.

High Bridge

Farmville

1854



After the first South Side Railroad rumbled across the Appomattox River on the High Bridge Chief Engineer C.O. Sanford reported to investors, "There have been higher bridges not so long, and longer bridges not so high, but taking the length and height together, this is, perhaps the largest bridge in the world." The bridge traveled nearly half-a-mile on 21 connected wood spans 160 feet above the water. Support was provided by 21 pillars that required four million bricks. High Bridge was the main link in the 132 miles of South Side track between Petersburg and Lynchburg. The South Side was one of 17 rail lines operating in Virginia at the start of the Civil War, comprising the most extensive transportation system in the Confederacy. The tracks remained a target throughout the conflict and High Bridge became a focal point during Lee's retreat from a Richmond in tatters. Both sides tried to destroy the bridge and the rebels succeeded in burning one end before Union troops extinguished the flames. Repairs were made and service continued until 1914 when a modern steel replacement was installed. The Norfolk & Western Railroad eventually donated 31 miles of right-of-way for a state park hike/bike trail. High Bridge is the longest recreational bridge in the Old Dominion.

Humpback Bridge

Covington

1857

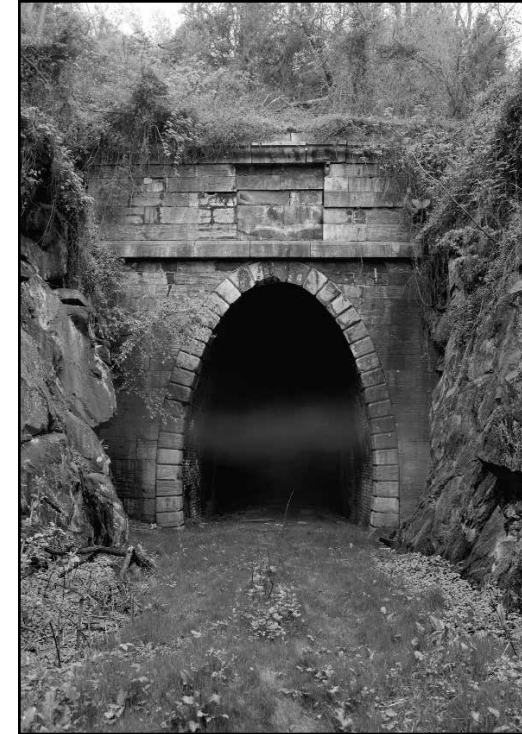


Covered bridges are the favorites of romantics everywhere. Wooden bridges were, however, the apogee of practicality - the roof protected the structural elements from the weather. Covered bridges are a uniquely American phenomenon - nowhere else in the world were such magnificent timber structures attempted. It is estimated that over 14,000 covered transportation bridges have been constructed in the United States and fewer than 1,000 remain. Virginia once counted at least 100 covered bridges and only seven still stand, four on public property that have been preserved as landmarks. The Humpback Covered Bridge is the granddaddy of them all and even rarer as a cambered wood covered bridge. It's the fourth structure to span Dunlap Creek for the James River and Kanawha Turnpike at this point; after flooding wreaked havoc with the predecessors this one was constructed with multiple king post trusses of hand-hewn timber that have stood the test of time. A modern steel bridge relieved the Humpback Bridge of its traffic responsibilities in the 1920s. A local farmer then used it to store hay. Restoration arrived several decades later and the 100-foot span four feet higher in the middle than at the ends reopened to pedestrian traffic as a tourist attraction in 1954.

Crozet Tunnel

Rockfish

1858



The Virginia General Assembly began chartering railroads in 1831. All were some combination of a private-public partnership which worked well enough to build a rail network across the state until 1849 when the Virginia Central was staring at the Blue Ridge Mountains with no way across. The Assembly ponied up the money to build tunnels to reach the Shenandoah Valley and fortunately had the man on staff to get the job done. Claudius Crozet had served in the French Army under Napoleon Bonaparte before sailing for America at the age of 27 to teach engineering at West Point. In 1823 he resigned to

head up the Virginia Board of Public Works, overseeing roads and canals. Crozet planned the 13-mile Chesterfield Railroad, the Commonwealth's first, in 1831. To conquer the Blue Ridge he identified sites for four tunnels with construction beginning in 1850, the longest of which would be more than 3/4 of a mile long - all dug by hand and charges of black powder. Crozet allotted three years for construction but the first trains did not roll through until 1858, eight years after the first blasting. The delays were not due to Crozet's calculations. When the Blue Ridge Tunnel, the longest in America, was holed through after working from both sides it was less than six inches from perfect alignment. When the tunnel was replaced in 1944 modern engineers couldn't get within four feet of perfection. Now named for Cladius Crozet, the tunnel is part of a rails-to-trails project.