10. Fort Loudoun & Washington's Well - 419 North Loudoun Street

In 1756, during the French and Indian War, Colonel George Washington proposed, designed, and supervised construction of the largest and most formidable fort on Virginia’s colonial frontier. Equipped with 25 pieces of artillery, the fort served as Washington’s command center for the Virginia Regiment and a chain of defenses that extended from the Potomac River to the North Carolina border. Situated on the high ground north of the town, the fort overlooked and protected the developing community. Still on the site is the fort’s well, dug through 103 feet of limestone.

11. Braddock Street

Braddock Street is named after General Edward Braddock II. Braddock was appointed head of the British forces fighting the French in America in 1754, and was mortally wounded on his campaign to take Fort Duquesne in 1755. Although most of Braddock’s army did not pass through Winchester, Braddock, accompanied by a young George Washington, did stay in Winchester several days before rejoining his army. Local legend has it that he was entertained by Thomas Lord Fairfax at a local tavern. The street was named after Braddock post mortem, to honor his efforts to fight the French in North America.

12. Washington’s Inlot - SE Corner of Braddock Street and Fairfax Lane

In May of 1753, George Washington purchased this lot, Lot 77, a plot of land stretching 119 feet along Braddock Street, and 188.6 feet along Fairfax Lane. On this lot was located a blacksmith’s shop which created much of the ironworks needed in the construction of Fort Loudoun.

13. Daniel Morgan’s Home - 226 Amherst Street

Daniel Morgan purchased this home in 1800, and took up residency of the house in the same year. He died two years later on July 6, 1802. The house passed to his wife upon his death and passed to their daughter following her death.

14. Christ Episcopal Church and Lord Thomas Fairfax’s Grave - 114 West Boscawen Street

The original Frederick Parish was established in 1738 by the House of Burgesses. The first Episcopal Church was located at Market Square (# 4). Thomas Lord Fairfax, whose ancestors were granted thousands of acres in the Shenandoah Valley by Charles II of England, died in 1828 and was buried beneath the chancel of the original Stone Church. Once the current church was completed in 1828, Fairfax’s remains were reinterred in the new building. In 1925, Fairfax’s remains were placed in a new tomb and relocated in the side yard of the church.

15. Boscawen Street

Boscawen Street is named for Edward Boscawen, an Admiral in the British Navy made famous by his exploits against the French fleet during the French and Indian War. Boscawen was one of only two streets originally called for in James Wood’s 1744 plot, but was not dubbed Boscawen until probably around 1758. For years it was known as Water Street, due to the constant overflow of Town Run onto the street, but it was renamed Boscawen Street in 1926.

16. Glen Burnie - 901 Amherst Street

The Glen Burnie Estate was home to Colonel James Wood, founder of Winchester. Records of the Glen Burnie Estate first appear in 1735, from a survey done by Wood himself. The first court sessions of the town are reputed to have taken place in Wood’s yard in 1743, and continued so until the Clerk’s office was erected at Market Square. James Wood served as both the first Clerk of the Court in Winchester and as the campaign manager in George Washington’s bid for office in the House of Burgesses in 1758. The Glen Burnie historic house was built by Wood’s youngest son, Robert, several years after his father’s death. The location of Wood’s original stone house is unknown to this day.

17. Abram’s Delight - 1340 S. Pleasant Valley Rd.

The original log house built by Abraham Hollingsworth in 1728 was located just west of the current stone house. The current 1754 house was built by Abraham’s son, Isaac, after Abraham’s death in 1749. Not long after its completion, the Quaker Isaac and his family fled to Waterford in Loudoun County due to the threat of Indian attacks across the Blue Ridge Mountains.

Welcome to Winchester, Virginia, the first city west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Originally named Fredericktown and founded in 1744, the name was changed in 1752 in honor of its sister city in England.

As tension mounted between England and France over who would retain control over the Ohio River Valley, it became evident to the British that Winchester was a vital point to hold if a war began. As a result of Winchester’s strategic vantage point, young George Washington, the head of the Virginia Militia, was ordered by the House of Burgesses in 1756 to plan and construct a timber and earth fort in Winchester, to hold the Virginia Frontier from the French and their Indian allies. For several years, Winchester, a city which he had first visited at 16 years of age as a surveyor’s assistant, became Washington’s base of operations as he planned and oversaw the construction of Fort Loudoun.

Come and explore Winchester as the young Washington saw it over two hundred years ago! View what remains of the fort that Washington worked for years to build and the places that he visited. Experience this and more as you travel around Winchester in the paths that helped to shape the leaders of our nation.
The 16 year old George Washington first stepped foot in Winchester in 1748, in order to help survey land owned by Thomas Lord Fairfax, namely those lands in the Capon Valley area and those on the Southern branch of the Potomac. He came as an assistant to his friend and neighbor, George William Fairfax, cousin and agent of Thomas Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Propriety. Over the next ten years, Washington would come in command of the Virginia Militia, construct Fort Loudoun, and win the seat of Winchester/Frederick County in the House of Burgesses. The lessons learned by Washington on the Virginia frontier proved invaluable to his success as a leader in the American Revolution, and later as the President of the United States.

Local tradition tells us that Washington’s Office Museum served as either George Washington’s surveying office when he helped to survey lands in the Capon Valley area and those on the Southern branch of Potomac, or as the site where he planned and oversaw the construction of Fort Loudoun from 1756 to 1758. The museum is the oldest surviving building in downtown Winchester. On the grounds of the museum lie two French and Indian War era cannons. The cannon facing Braddock Street (#11) points to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, site of Fort Duquesne, the objective of Edward Braddock’s ill-fated campaign in 1755. It was during this campaign that Braddock was shot and mortally wounded.

Indian Alley - Bounds the West Side of Loudoun Street Mall

Despite deeds mentioning its presence, the origin of Indian Alley’s name is lost in time. Over the years, Indian Alley has been known by many names, such as Stable Alley, Taylor Alley, and Church Alley. Most likely the name of Indian Alley came from either an ancient Indian Trail that passed through Winchester, or by the likelihood that Indians camped outside the taverns along the alley when coming to Winchester.

Town Run - South Side of Parking Garage, Cameron St.

Town Run originates at Old Town Spring in the vicinity of Glen Burnie (#16). It flows east through the town following Boscawen Street (#3) and was often prone to flooding. It often served as a water source, but also managed to make the early town extremely wet and muddy.

Loudoun Street

Loudoun Street is named for John Campbell, Fourth Earl of Loudoun. Loudoun served as Governor-in-Chief of Virginia in 1756, and later became Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in North America. After an unsuccessful campaign against the French city of Louisburg, he was recalled back to England in 1757. He died in 1782.

The four lots that originally made up Market Square were bought by Colonel James Wood from land owned by Thomas, Lord Fairfax. The current 1840s brick courthouse is not the original, which was a 40 square foot log building built in 1751. Next to the courthouse stood a log house that served as the clerk’s office. Not far from the courthouse, on the corners of Loudoun (#3) and Boscawen (#15), stood the first Anglican Church. Next to the church stood the jail. A whipping post, two sets of stocks, and a ducking stool were positioned just outside the jail to punish offenders and perpetrators.

Cameron Street

Cameron Street is named after Thomas Lord Fairfax, Sixth Baron of Cameron. It has had several names such as New Street and Market Street, but the name was restored to Cameron Street in 1926.

Mount Hebron Cemetery, the Lutheran Church Ruins, and Daniel Morgan’s Grave - 305 East Boscawen Street

Located here in Mount Hebron Cemetery are the ruins of the first stone Lutheran Church built by Winchester’s German population. Its cornerstone was laid in 1764. The church burned down in 1854, but the surrounding cemetery continued to expand into what it is today. In the cemetery are the remains of General Daniel Morgan, moved here from the Old Stone Presbyterian Church (#8) in 1868.

Daniel Morgan Statue & the Old Stone Presbyterian Church - Corner of East Piccadilly Street and East Lane

Built in 1788, the Old Stone Church lies on the corner of East Piccadilly Street and East Lane. Among the congregation here was Daniel Morgan. Morgan served as a wagoneer during Edward Braddock’s 1755 campaign against the French and Indians and later served as a private in Captain Ashby’s Frederick County Militia. One of his defining physical features was a scar across his face received at the battle of Hanging Rock in present day West Virginia. Morgan, like Washington, would continue his military career in the American Revolution, such as his distinction in the battle of Saratoga, New York in 1777, and his brilliant tactical victory over Banister Tarleton at the battle of Cowpens, South Carolina in 1781. Morgan was buried here upon his death in 1802, and was later moved to Mount Hebron Cemetery (#7) following the Civil War.

Washington’s Outlot - 428/430 National Ave.

On this site was one of two lots granted by Thomas Lord Fairfax to George Washington in 1753. Lot 16 of 80 was to be used as a “Common for the Use and Benefit of the Inhabitants of the Town.” Following Washington’s death in 1799, the inlot (#12) and outlot were sold on June 17th, 1805 by those representing Washington’s affairs to Dr. Robert Mackey, who served as a surgeon during the American Revolution.

Washington Planning Fort Loudoun

Local tradition tells us that Washington’s Office Museum served as either George Washington’s surveying office when he helped to survey lands in the Capon Valley area and those on the Southern branch of Potomac, or as the site where he planned and oversaw the construction of Fort Loudoun from 1756 to 1758. The museum is the oldest surviving building in downtown Winchester. On the grounds of the museum lie two French and Indian War era cannons. The cannon facing Braddock Street (#11) points to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, site of Fort Duquesne, the objective of Edward Braddock’s ill-fated campaign in 1755. It was during this campaign that Braddock was shot and mortally wounded.

Indian Alley - Bounds the West Side of Loudoun Street Mall

Despite deeds mentioning its presence, the origin of Indian Alley’s name is lost in time. Over the years, Indian Alley has been known by many names, such as Stable Alley, Taylor Alley, and Church Alley. Most likely the name of Indian Alley came from either an ancient Indian Trail that passed through Winchester, or by the likelihood that Indians camped outside the taverns along the alley when coming to Winchester.

Town Run - South Side of Parking Garage, Cameron St.

Town Run originates at Old Town Spring in the vicinity of Glen Burnie (#16). It flows east through the town following Boscawen Street (#3) and was often prone to flooding. It often served as a water source, but also managed to make the early town extremely wet and muddy.

Loudoun Street

Loudoun Street is named for John Campbell, Fourth Earl of Loudoun. Loudoun served as Governor-in-Chief of Virginia in 1756, and later became Commander-in-Chief of British Forces in North America. After an unsuccessful campaign against the French city of Louisburg, he was recalled back to England in 1757. He died in 1782.