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 103 feet deep well, dug through limestone. Return south on Loudoun St, and turn right on Fairfax Ln to the corner of Braddock St.

Washington's Inlet - SE Corner of N. Braddock St. and E. Fairfax Ln.

In May of 1753, 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 iron works needed in the construction of Fort Loudoun. (See the historical marker for more information) 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. Turn left (south) on Braddock St and then turn right on Boscawen St.

Daniel Morgan Statue & Old Stone Presbyterian Church - East side of roundabout at E. Piccadilly St. and East Ln.

Built in 1788, the congregation of this church included Daniel Morgan. Morgan served as a wagoner during Gen. Edward Braddock's 1755 campaign against the French and Indians and later served as a private in Captain Ashby's Frederick County Militia. 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. Follow the roundabout to National Ave and turn right to #9, or turn left on Piccadilly followed by right on Loudoun St, to #10.

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Daniel Morgan’s Home - 226 Amherst St.

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, after 2½ years after Washington's death. The house passed to his wife upon his death. *The final two stops are located outside the downtown area, and are more easily reached by car.

Glen Burnie - 901 Amherst St.*

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. OPEN for TOURS

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. OPEN for TOURS

Welcome to Winchester, the oldest settlement west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. Originally named Fredericktown and founded in 1744, the name was changed in 1752 in honor of the English home of founder Colonel James Wood.

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 town 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 250 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 leader of our nation.
NOTE: This tour in its entirety is five miles. Steps with an asterisk may be reached by car if necessary to shorten the distance.

1. George Washington Statue & Washington’s Office Museum
   Corner of S. Braddock St. and W. Cork St.
   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 South 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 first President of the United States. Local tradition tells us that Washington’s Office Museum served as either George Washington’s surveying office 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. Proceed to the Cork St. sidewalk and turn left (east) to Indian Alley. OPEN for TOURS

2. 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. Most likely the name 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. Continue walking east and turn left onto the Loudoun Street pedestrian mall.

3. Loudoun St.
   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. Loudoun Street Mall
   Open for TOURS
   1400 S. Pleasant Valley Rd, Winchester, VA 22601 • www.VisitWinchesterVA.com

4. Cocke’s Tavern - 21 S. Loudoun St.
   The original log structure on this site was built in 1752 and housed a tavern where George Washington lodged and took his meals. Washington’s Account Book from 1756 notes that he paid 40 pounds to rent the room for one year. The current building on this site was built in 1797, after Cocke’s Tavern was demolished. Continue north on Loudoun St. to Boscawen St.

5. Public Lotts - Northeast Corner of Boscawen and Loudoun Streets, including Frederick County Courthouse
   The four lots that originally made up Public Lotts were dedicated by Winchester founder, Colonel James Wood on land owned by Lord Fairfax. Near the corner of Loudoun and Boscawen 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 outside the jail to punish offenders and perpetrators. See the historical marker for Public Lotts in front of the parking lot. Continue north on Loudoun Street to the Courthouse. The current 1840s brick courthouse is not the original, which was a 40 foot square log building built in 1751. This is where Washington was elected to his first public office in the House of Burgesses. Next to the courthouse stood a log house that served as the clerk’s office. A plaque on the wall gives more information regarding George Washington, and two plaques on the lawn tell of Lord Fairfax and Colonel James Wood. Take Rouss Ave. beside the Courthouse and turn right onto Cameron St. across the Boscawen St.

6. Town Run - South Side of Parking Garage, S. Cameron St.
   Cameron Street is named after Thomas Lord Fairfax, Sixth Baron of Cameron. Town Run originates west of Glen Burnie (#1). It flows east through the town following Boscawen Street and was often prone to flooding. It had served as a water source, but also made the early town extremely wet and muddy. The one piece of legislation Washington sponsored while representing Frederick County for the House of Burgesses was banning pigs from running loose in town in an effort to protect Town Run’s drinking water against harmful contaminants spread by pigs. Follow Boscawen St. east, up the hill to Mount Hebron Cemetery’s gatehouse.

7. Mount Hebron Cemetery, the Lutheran Church Ruins, and Daniel Morgan’s Grave - 305 E. Boscawen St.
   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. Washington had difficulty understanding the German, Scotch, and Irish in town, and was apparently not impressed with Winchester, calling it “this vile post” and complaining of the “obstinancy and dastardliness” of the Scotch-Irish settlers. In the cemetery are the remains of Revolutionary War General Daniel Morgan, moved here from Old Stone Presbyterian Church (#8) in 1868. Exit the cemetery and turn right on East Ln.