In 1748, sixteen year-old George Washington arrived in Winchester as a surveyor. In 1755, he became an officer in the Virginia militia. Based on local tradition, from 1759-1756 this vernacular log and stone cabin served as Col. Washington's headquarters during the French and Indian War. The building is operated as a museum by the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society. The statue of young George Washington as a surveyor was erected in 2004. At the corner of Cork and Bradstock St. turn right and proceed northward. Winchester continued to grow and prosper during the 19th century. Frederick County was one of Virginia’s largest wheat producing counties and Winchester was a bustling trade and commerce center. Although Federal- style buildings remained popular, other styles emerged such as Greek Revival (1810-1860) and the Victorian era style (1837-1901), including Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire, and Queen Anne. These new styles were used for both public and private buildings and for “updating” existing buildings. Proceed to intersection of Bradstock and Boscawen Streets.

2 S. Boscawen St. 3rd of May House (1756)

This prominent landmark was built with funds from one of Winchester’s benefactors, Charles B. Rouss, a successful local merchant who later relocated to NYC, where his national chain of general merchandise stores made him a multi-millionaire in the late 1800s. The building is a fine example of the Romanesque Revival style (1880 to 1900). The distinctive weathervane on top of the turret is a facsimile of the original. Turn left and proceed westward on Boscawen St.

3 3 S. Braddock St. Rouss Fire Hall (1896)

Begun in 1841, the edifice has evolved into a Gothic Revival style structure with a 5-story steeple flanked by two 2-story towers topped with battlements and corner turrets. See interpretive panel on site for more info.

28 S. Loudoun St. Godfrey Miller Home (c. 1785)

This house was built by Daniel Sowers. It was sold in 1850 to Godfrey Miller, a successful merchant, and in 1938 his heirs willed it to Grace Lutheran Church to be operated as a home for elderly ladies. It now serves as a senior center. The denticulated cornice and stone jack arches with keystones above the windows exemplify fine details popular with the Federal style. The Greek Revival-style porch with paired Tuscan columns was added by the mid-19th century.

This walking tour brochure was originally proposed by Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc. This version was produced by:

VisitOTW.com 301 N. Boscawen St. Winchester

Special thanks to Sandra Bailey, Preservation of Historic Winchester and Tom Warren, City of Winchester for their contributions to this brochure. Photos courtesy of Preservation of Historic Winchester and Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau
Proceed northward along Braddock St. turn left onto Braddock St.

In the century, 138 Amherst, a well-restored Federal style house

as the spirelets topping each corner. Lord Fairfax’s tomb is located

about 1900. Note the fine Gothic features: crenellated bell

This restored vernacular building is an excellent example

 preserving the history of the tinsmith who occupied

The intricate detailing of this Italianate style building’s upper story, including the massive decorative cornice and elaborate columned entry with fluted Corinthian columns. The original building design resembles an open book with the rotunda as the spine and the two wings that house the libraries and pages. Although never a Winchester resident, Judge John Handley of Scranton, Pennsylvania, bequeathed the City $2 million for construction and operation of this public library and two schools. During business hours, the beautiful interior rotunda complete with stained glass ceiling can be viewed.

This restored Georgian Revival-style hotel is an excellent example of contrasting materials to lend character to this façade. Molded concrete is used in the decorative cornice, arches and keystones are above every window, and decorative molded garland panels and ornate overhang at the front entry.

The London Dry Goods Store was opened by Bushrod Taylor, New York architects Stuart Bruce; however, the facades include the characteristic ribs, semi-circular arches and keystones are above every window, and decorative molded garland panels and ornate overhang at the front entry.

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This former post office is a fine example of Gothic Revival style (1890 to 1925)isch, like the broad, flat cornice, used classical motifs, but not the more refined and restrained application. Note the concrete panels with garland sways above the front door and all four adjacent windows.

This building is one of Winchester’s best examples of Italianate-style with Eastlake ornamentation. The striking massive wood cornice is one of the finest to be found in Winchester.

This tall two-story building is an excellent example of the Classical Revival style. The lower level façade includes the characteristic ribs, semi-circular arches and keystones are above every window, and decorative molded garland panels and ornate overhang at the front entry.