

8 32 W. Cork St. George Washington's Office Museum (c. 1748)



In 1748, sixteen year old George Washington arrived in Winchester as a surveyor. In 1753, he became an officer in the Virginia militia. Based on local tradition, from 1755-1756 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 Braddock 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 (1840 to 1860) and the Victorian era style (1837 to 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 Braddock and Boscawen Streets.

9 3 S. Braddock St. Rouss Fire Hall (1896)



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.



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

This version was produced by:



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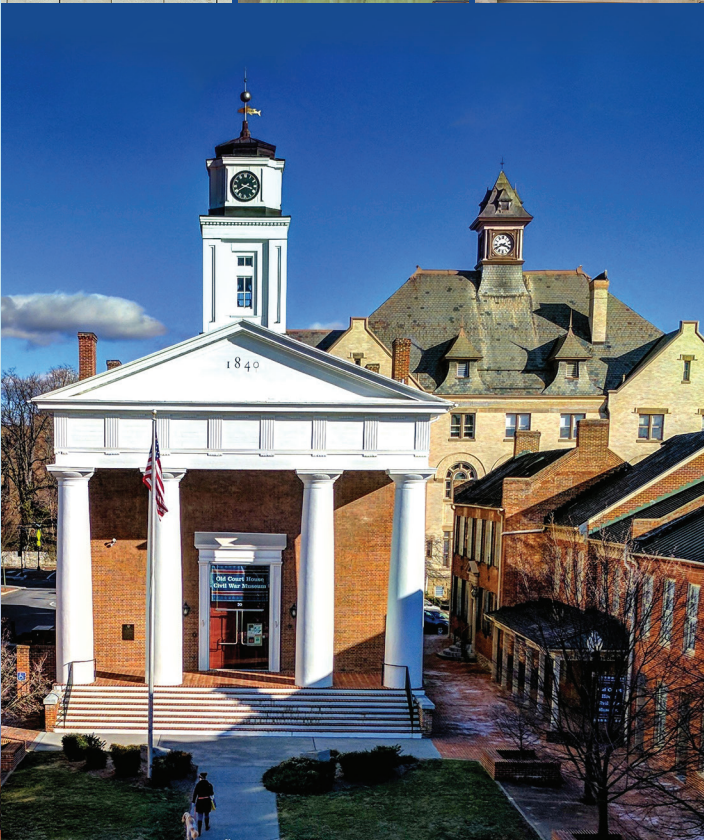
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WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

275 Years of
HISTORY &
Architecture



Self-Guided
WALKING TOUR

WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THIS
WALKING TOUR HIGHLIGHTING

275 Years of Old Town Winchester's
HISTORY & Architecture

Winchester's first European settlers were German and Scots-Irish migrating south from Pennsylvania in the 1730s. Originally known as Opeckon and then as Frederick Town, Winchester was founded in 1744 by Colonel James Wood – the first English-speaking town established west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was re-named Winchester in the early 1750s. Winchester was part of a 5 million-acre tract of land known as the Northern Neck, granted by England's King Charles II to ancestors of Thomas Lord Fairfax in 1647. When Lord Fairfax came to America in 1747, he found his land already being settled. He asserted his rights by requiring those who occupied his domain to pay rent and obtain licenses for their land.

BEGIN
HERE

SEE MAP ON BACK
FOR LOCATIONS

1

20 N. Loudoun St. Old Frederick County Courthouse (1840)

The first courthouse reputedly constructed on this location was built of logs in 1751. At this site on July 24, 1756, 23-year-old George Washington began his political career. He was elected to public office for the very first time and served two terms as the Frederick County representative

to the Virginia House of Burgesses. This existing courthouse was built for \$12k. It is one of the most impressive Greek Revival-style courthouses in Virginia. It is currently occupied by the Shenandoah Valley Civil War Museum.

Proceed south to the intersection of the Loudoun Street Mall and Boscawen St.

The Great Wagon Road, part of which extended along what is Loudoun Street today, was the main roadway leading through the Shenandoah Valley. The original town plan devised by Col. James Wood in 1744 had 30 half-acre lots, 26 for dwellings or shops, and 4 for public use including the courthouse, church and jail. The public lots were located on the northeast block of this intersection, which is the oldest in town. In 1752, Lord Fairfax added 36 in-lots and 80 out-lots to the north.

2

2-4 S. Loudoun St. The Holliday House (c. 1797)

Originally this building was a two-story Federal-style Flemish-bond brick building with "glazed headers,"- the shiny narrow ends of the brick. The glazed headers are best seen on the Boscawen St. side. Italianate alterations in the 1860s included a third floor, window hoods, a bracketed cornice and corner entry. It was built by William Holliday, a successful merchant, and remodeled by his heirs. His grandson, Frederick William Holliday, was elected governor of Virginia.

Cross Boscawen St. and continue southward down the mall to 21 S. Loudoun St.

In the days before the American Revolution, Winchester was the center for commerce and culture west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Typical 18th century houses were built of either log or stone. The structures were primarily used for shelter without much regard for fashion. The American Revolution brought a halt to new construction. Following the war, a delicately detailed and gracefully proportioned Federal style emerged and many excellent examples remain in Winchester today.

3

21 S. Loudoun St. James Dowdall Residence (c. 1792)



This limestone house is a beautiful example of Federal style architecture. Of particular note is the arched tracery transom over the doorway and stone jack arches with keystones. The original building on this site was Cocke's Tavern where George Washington lodged and took meals. The current stone building was built by James G. Dowdall, a prominent merchant and city official.

4

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 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 dentil 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.

5

116 S. Loudoun St. First Presbyterian Church (1841 Remodeled in 1883)



Begun in 1841, the edifice has evolved into a Gothic Revival style structure with a 3-story steeple flanked by two 2-story towers topped with battlement and corner capitals. See interpretive panel on site for more info.

6

126 S. Loudoun St. Hill's Keep (1810 Moved 2004)



This small restored one-story vernacular limestone building was relocated from 8 E. Cork to make room for a church fellowship hall and is believed to be where the man-servants of those who stayed at the Red Lion Tavern (tour stop 7) were billeted.

Proceed south to the end of the Pedestrian mall at Cork St. and without crossing the street, view the corner limestone building on the opposite side of Cork St.

7

202-204 S. Loudoun St. Red Lion Tavern (1783)



The Red Lion Tavern was built by Peter Lauck, a member of Daniel Morgan's riflemen. The north section of the building was the tavern and the south part was the inn.

Turn right (west) on Cork St. stopping at the George Washington statue.

TOUR CONTINUES
ON BACK



10 125 W. Boscawen St. Josiah Massie Hatter’s Shop (c. 1810)

This restored vernacular building is an excellent example of Winchester’s early log dwellings. Rather than leave the logs exposed, the buildings were covered with wood weatherboard siding. This structure was built by John Slagle and was used until 1829 as a hatter’s shop.

Continue westward stopping in front of the church courtyard.

11 140 W. Boscawen St. Christ Episcopal Church (1828)



This church is an early example of Gothic Revival architecture. Its design was attributed to local Scottish builder, John Bruce; however, Robert Mills, one of America’s first trained architects, may have developed the original design. The tower and fifth bay were added after 1852. The two vestibules were added about 1900. Note the fine Gothic features: crenellated bell tower, pointed arch tracery at windows and transoms, and spirelets topping each corner. Lord Fairfax’s tomb is located in the church courtyard. Lord Fairfax took an active role in community affairs. Although he lived at Greenway Court many miles east of Winchester, he was buried at the site of the original church (now a parking lot near Stop#2) and, after three reinternments, is buried here.

Proceed to the corner of Boscawen and Washington Streets.

As you look southward (left) down Washington St., you can see the residential pattern that emerged in the 1890s with houses set back from the streets surrounded by large yards. This Washington Street is almost certainly the very first street ever named for young George Washington by his friend, Winchester’s founder, Col. James Wood.

12 1 S. Washington St. The Gables (1899)



“The Gables” is Winchester’s most exuberant Queen Anne-style house. It was the home of W.H. Baker, who was sued for trademark infringement by the nationally renowned W. Baker’s Chocolate

Company. The house displays the variety of materials, textures, colors and shapes characteristic of the Queen Anne style. George Franklin Barber, a prolific late Victorian era architect, designed this house and used the Gables as a template in a pattern book with an estimated construction cost of \$10-\$12k.

Turn right and head northward on Washington St. Turn left on Amherst Street and proceed up the hill. 226 Amherst is the large white house on your right and 223 Amherst is across the street.

13 226 Amherst St., Daniel Morgan House (1786)

The front right timber frame portion of this Georgian style house was built by George Flowerdew Norton. In 1800, a revolutionary war hero, General Daniel Morgan, purchased it and built a large brick addition. Following the war, Morgan served as a U.S. Congressman. He retired to Winchester in 1800 and died here in 1802. The house was covered with stucco by 1850.

14 223 Amherst St. Ambler Hill (1786)

John Hatley Norton, George Norton’s brother, constructed Ambler Hill concurrent with the Daniel Morgan House. Both Georgian style homes feature frame peg construction with brick nogging between the studs in their original sections. The home is also the birthplace of Virginia novelist John Esten Cooke (1830-1886).

Turn back and head eastward along Amherst St. Cross Washington St. and stop.

This block appears today much as it did in the mid-19th century. 138 Amherst, a well-restored Federal style house was built around 1835 by Alexander Tidball, a prominent attorney. Note the old building-mounted street signs on 138 Amherst Street. 132 and 124 Amherst were constructed around 1870 by Dr. Hugh Holmes McGuire, brother-in-law of Alexander Tidball. 123 Amherst, a brick house with pebbledash, was built in 1820 by Eli Beall, a schoolteacher. *Proceed eastward along Amherst St. to the intersection and turn left onto Braddock St.*

15 103 N. Braddock St. McGuire House (c. 1820)



This substantial Georgian style brick house was the home of Dr. Hugh Holmes McGuire, who founded the very first medical college in Virginia in 1826 in a building at the rear of this house.

It was the boyhood home of Hugh’s son, Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire, “Stonewall” Jackson’s personal physician during the Civil War. Just up Braddock St was home of Betsy Taylor Dandridge. She was the daughter of U.S. Pres. Zachary Taylor and served as First Lady to her father. *Proceed northward along Braddock St.*

16 135 N. Braddock St. Logan House (c. 1850)

Lloyd Logan, a wealthy tobacco merchant, built this Greek Revival house. Union General Milroy used this as his headquarters in 1862. It was headquarters for Union General Philip Sheridan in 1864. The massive two-story front porch was added early in the twentieth century along with the large concrete red apple installed by the Elks club which used the building for many years.

17 100 W. Piccadilly St. Handley Library (1908-1913 Rear addition 1979)



The Handley Library was designed by New York architects Stuart Barney and Henry Otis Chapman. It is an excellent example of the Beaux Arts style (1890-1920), which is characterized by extravagant sculptural ornamentation and architectural details drawn from the European Renaissance. The building features a copper dome rising above the colonnaded entry vestibule with fluted Corinthian columns. The original building design resembles an open book with the rotunda as the spine and the two wings the open covers 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.

18 40 W. Piccadilly St. Old Post Office (1910)



This former post office is a fine example of the Classical Revival-style (1890 to 1925) which, like the Beaux-Arts style, used classical motifs, but with a more refined and restrained application. Note the concrete panels with garland sways above the front door and four adjacent windows. *Turn right on Piccadilly St. and proceed eastward.*

19 35 W. Piccadilly St. George Reed House (1797)

This vernacular stone house was constructed by George Reed, a coppersmith who had a shop immediately adjacent to the corner of Piccadilly and Braddock Streets (since demolished). The building is typical of early Winchester stone buildings - two stories with two rooms per floor.

20 25 W. Piccadilly St. Philip Williams House (1845)

This Greek Revival-style house was built by Philip Williams, a local attorney and former member of the VA House of Delegates. The elaborate ironwork porch, decorated with Greek motifs, is of excellent quality and quite unusual for this area. The apple sculpture to the right includes images of Polar Explorer Admiral Byrd, George Washington, Gen. Jubal Early, Col. James Wood, and Stonewall Jackson. *Proceed east and turn right onto the Loudoun Street Mall.* In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Winchester’s economy was largely supported by the apple and wheat industries, woolen mills and a variety of other businesses. All but three of the buildings at this end of the mall were built prior to 1900. Many changes were made to the buildings over the years to adapt them for commercial use. Before becoming President, William McKinley was in Winchester as a Union officer in the Civil War. He became a mason in a building since demolished on the east side. A bronzed plaque is attached to the side of 186 N. Loudoun.

21 163-165 N. Loudoun St. Lovett Building (1881)

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.

22 146 N. Loudoun St., Mesker Building (c. 1880)



The intricate detailing on this Italianate-style building’s upper story, including the massive metal entablature at the top is the only known example of a Mesker Bros. metal façade design in Winchester. Pressed metal sheets with floral and decorative patterns could be applied for a quick “facelift.” The circa 1897 metal façade may have been a sales tactic for the tinsmith who occupied this building circa 1890-1908.

23 121-125 N. Loudoun St. Taylor Hotel (1836)



The Federal-style Taylor Hotel, owned by Bushrod Taylor, was once one of the most elegant hotels in Winchester. See adjacent Civil War marker for more info. Guests include Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Turner Ashby, and Stonewall Jackson. The center section of the building which housed a theater collapsed in 2007. That led the City to initiate a public-private effort in 2012 to preserve the theater fly tower (c. 1921) and front hotel building, including a reconstructed three-story porch.

24 107 N. Loudoun St. Miller’s Drug Store (c. 1820)

Godfrey Miller II built this Federal-style building. The building was known as the oldest continually operated family-run drugstore in America until it closed in 1992. The front portion was added to an 18th-century flounder style home. Nephew George Miller, the second owner, expanded the business to an apothecary and dry goods store. Original ledger box, medical books, and supplies, dating back to 1806 were buried under a staircase. They were discovered in 1992 and have been preserved.

25 100 N. Loudoun St. Farmers and Merchants Bank (1902)



This Italian Renaissance Revival structure was built for the Farmers & Merchants Bank. Renovated in the 1990s, it was later owned and operated by BB&T Bank until sold in 2017. Note the beautifully detailed façade including brick quoins, fluted concrete pilasters, cartouches, massive overhang, arched windows, pedimented windows and many other architectural details unique to this building.

26 101 N. Loudoun St. Union Bank Building (1870)



This tall two-story building is a commercial example of the Classical Revival style. The lower level façade includes historically accurate reproductions of details that had been destroyed during a 1960s jewelry store modernization effort. The upper level original façade had been left intact behind a modern aluminum skin that was removed in the 1990s. Can you find the two lion’s heads up near the top? *Turn left in between 100 N. Loudoun St. and the courthouse and proceed east on Rouss Ave. (the brick plaza).*

27 30-38 Rouss Ave. Lawyers Row (1872)

Known as “Lawyers Row”, this building was constructed by Frederick W.M. Holliday just before he became governor of Virginia. Its location near the courthouse made it a popular location for law offices. Two historical nameplates still appear on the single-story addition to the east. Italianate in style, the details are restrained and only the porch brackets, bracketed cornice, and carved frieze could be termed “fancy”.

28 15 N. Cameron St. Rouss City Hall (1901)



This impressive fully renovated public building combines elements from many styles. The arched windows and recessed entries reflect Richard-sonian Romanesque Revival style. The hood mold over the upper level windows reflects English Gothic style and the slate roof, clock tower, and dormers reflect a Victorian style. Finally, the minimalist detail on the walls and window bays reflects the Classical style. It was built for \$62k with \$30k of that amount given by NYC benefactor Charles B. Rouss who grew up in Winchester and operated his first store here.

In the 19th century, Cameron St. (then known as ‘Market St.’) was where the Market House was located. Demolished in 1899, it was where City Hall is today.

29 2 N. Cameron St. Kurtz Building (1836)

Investors built this warehouse to house a grain purchasing business and shipped grain to Harper’s Ferry via the railroad which ran down the center of Cameron St. In 1888, Captain George W. Kurtz added the mansard-roofed tower and Victorian embellishments. He used the building for a furniture and funerary business. In 1989, Preservation of Historic Winchester Inc. rescued the building from demolition and restored the exterior and interior.

Proceed north on Cameron St. and turn right on Piccadilly St.

30 103 E. Piccadilly St. George Washington Hotel (1924)



This restored Georgian Revival-style hotel displays a creative use of contrasting materials to lend interest to its large facade. Molded concrete is used in the bracketed cornice, arches and keystones are above every window, and decorative molded garland panels and ornate overhang at the front entry.

END OF TOUR