

Take yourself on a walking tour of Winchester and enjoy 250 years of history and architecture. This guide will help you on your route.

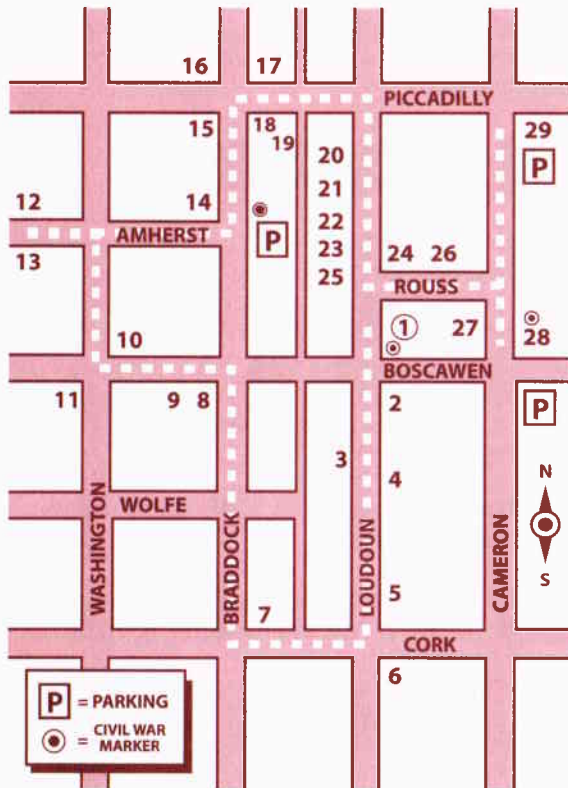
Using this guide

- Each location has a number corresponding to the map below. The tour begins at #1 and continues until #29.



The Walking Tour symbol indicates detailed directions to help keep you on track.

Italicized text is information for your added interest. It does not refer to a specific location.



Time: 1-1/2 Hours

Distance: Approximately 1.1 miles

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This brochure was proposed by:
Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc. is a non-profit preservation organization founded in 1964 to help protect Winchester's rich heritage.



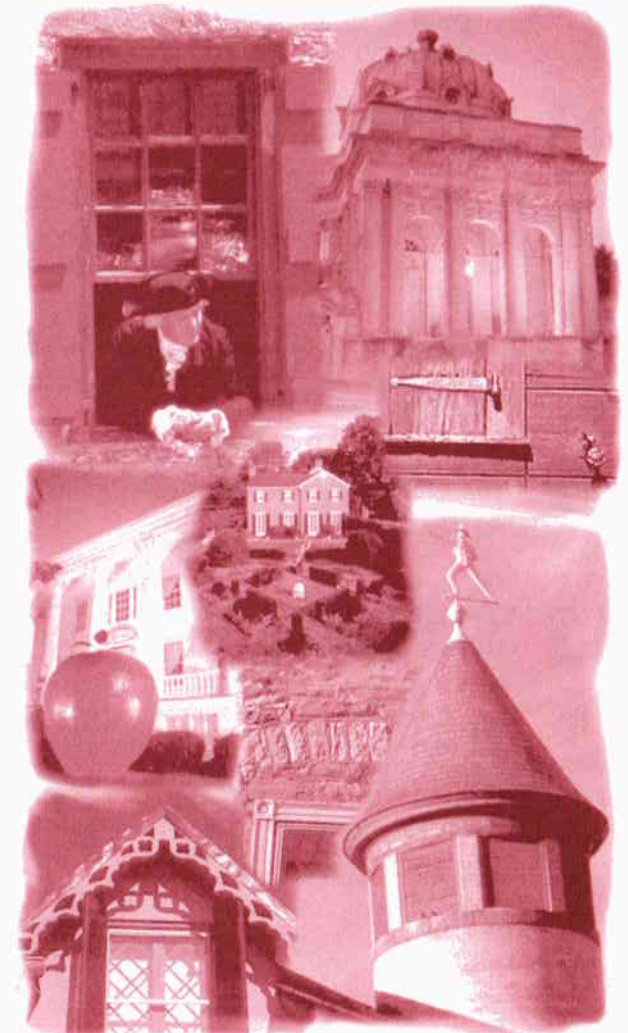
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Winchester, VA 22601
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WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

250 Years of
**HISTORY
& Architecture**

A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR





Begin in front of the Old Frederick County Courthouse.

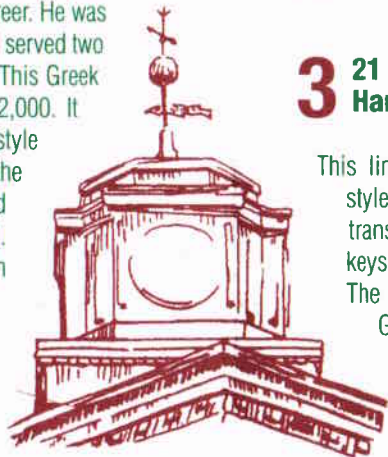
Winchester's first settlers were German and Scots-Irish migrating south from Pennsylvania in the 1730s. Originally known as Frederick Towne, Winchester was founded in 1744 by Colonel James Wood – the first city established west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Frederick Towne was renamed Winchester in the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

1 Old Frederick County Courthouse, b. 1840

The first courthouse reputedly constructed at 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 the Virginia House of Burgesses and served two terms as the Frederick County representative. This Greek Revival courthouse was built in 1840 for \$12,000. It is one of the most impressive Greek Revival-style courthouses in Virginia. During the Civil War, the courthouse was used by both Confederate and Union troops as a holding facility and hospital. The Confederate Monument was unveiled in 1916.



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



The Great Wagon Road, part of which extends along Loudoun Street today, was the main roadway leading through the Shenandoah Valley. The original town plan devised by Colonel James Wood and Lord Fairfax was an orderly system consisting of in-lots and out-lots centered around the main thoroughfare. Each block was divided into 4 or 6 - acre lots. The first town had 26 in-lots, 22 for dwellings or shops, and 4 for public use including the courthouse, market house, church and jail. The public lots were located on the northeast block of this intersection, which is the oldest in town.

2 2-4 South Loudoun Street The Holliday House, c. 1797

The original portion of this building was built in 1797 by William Holliday, a successful merchant. His grandson, Frederick William Holliday, was a colonel in the Confederate Army. He lost an arm in the Battle of Cedar Creek and was called the one-armed hero of the Shenandoah Valley. In 1877 he was elected governor of Virginia. If you look carefully at the building you can see it was originally a two-story brick Flemish-bond building with "glazed headers" (shiny, narrow ends of bricks.) Alterations in the 1860s included a third floor, window hoods, a bracketed cornice and corner entry.



Cross Boscawen Street and continue southward down the mall to 21 South Loudoun Street.

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. As was common in early frontier town buildings, 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 style emerged, the Federal style, and many excellent examples of this style remain in Winchester today.

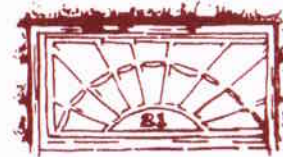
3 21 South Loudoun Street Harrison & Johnston Law Offices, c. 1797

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 an inn where George Washington lodged and took meals. This stone building was built in 1797 by James G. Dowdall, a prominent merchant, mason, and city official.

4 28 South Loudoun Street Godfrey Miller Home, c. 1785

This handsome house was built c. 1785 by Daniel Sowers. It was sold in 1850 to Godfrey Miller, a merchant, and in 1938 his heirs willed the house to the Grace Lutheran Church, to be operated as a home for elderly ladies. Today the house 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 was added by the mid 19th - century.

5 First Presbyterian Church, c. 1841

In 1838, approximately 40 members of the Kent Street Presbyterian Church withdrew their membership and established a church on Loudoun Street. Begun in 1841, the edifice has evolved into a Gothic Revival-style structure. It has been used by local Presbyterians since the two churches merged in 1900. During the Civil War, Reverend Dr. Andrew Hunter Holmes Boyd, a Confederate supporter, often used the pulpit to preach on political subjects. Since Winchester was a Union garrison for much of the War, this led to his imprisonment on numerous occasions.



Proceed south to end of the block. Cross Cork Street and stop in parking lot.

6 202-204 South Loudoun Street The Red Lion Tavern, c. 1783

The Red Lion Tavern was built in 1783 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. The small restored one-story limestone building at 126 South Loudoun (relocated from 8 East Cork) is believed to be where the man-servants of those who stayed at the Red Lion Tavern were billeted.



Proceed westward along Cork Street stopping before the next intersection.

7 George Washington's Office Museum, c. 1748

In 1753, young George Washington became an officer in the Virginia Militia. Based on local tradition, from 1755-1756 this log and stone cabin served as Colonel Washington's headquarters during the French and Indian attacks. The building is operated as a museum by the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society.



At the corner of Cork and Braddock Streets
turn right and proceed northward.

The city continued to grow and prosper during the 19th century. Frederick County was one of the state's largest wheat producing counties and Winchester was a bustling trade and commerce center. Although Federal-style buildings continued to be popular, other styles emerged such as Greek Revival (1840-1860) 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.

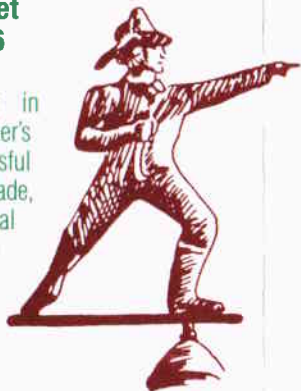


Proceed to intersection of Braddock and Boscawen Streets.

8

**3 South Braddock Street
Rouss Fire Hall, b. 1896**

This prominent landmark was built in 1896 with funds from one of Winchester's benefactors, Charles B. Rouss, a successful local merchant. After the Civil War, he made, and lost, two fortunes before his national chain of general merchandise stores made him a multi-millionaire in the 1890s. The building is a fine example of the Romanesque Revival (1880-1900.) The distinctive weathervane on top of the turret (a facsimile of the original) is a popular local landmark.



Turn left and proceed westward on Boscawen Street.

9

**125 West Boscawen Street
Josiah Massie Hatter's Shop, c. 1806**

This restored 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 between 1806 and 1815 by John Slagle and used until 1829 as a hatter's shop by Josiah Massie.



Continue westward stopping in front of
the church courtyard.

10

**Christ Episcopal Church,
b. 1828**

Built in 1828, this church is an early example of Gothic Revival architecture. Its



13

**223 Amherst Street
"Ambler Hill," b. 1786**

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



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

This is one of the few blocks in Winchester that appears today much as it did in the mid-19th century. Number 138, a well-restored Federal-style house, was built c. 1835 by Alexander Tidball, a prominent attorney. Number 123, a brick house with pebbledash, was built in 1820 by Eli Beall, a schoolteacher. Numbers 132 and 124 were constructed c. 1870 by Dr. Hugh Holmes McGuire, brother-in-law of Alexander Tidball.



Proceed eastward along Amherst Street to the
intersection and turn left onto Braddock Street.

14

**103 North Braddock Street
McGuire House, c. 1790**

This substantial brick house, built c. 1790, was the boyhood home of Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire, "Stonewall" Jackson's personal physician during the Civil War and also medical director of the Army of Northern Virginia. Notice the Flemish-bond brickwork and the corbelled cornice.

Alexander Tidball, the lawyer who built 138 Amherst Street, built the building at 104 North Braddock for his law offices in 1830. Bushrod Taylor, the proprietor of the Taylor Hotel, later owned the building, and although he almost certainly did not live there, the building is sometimes called the Taylor House.

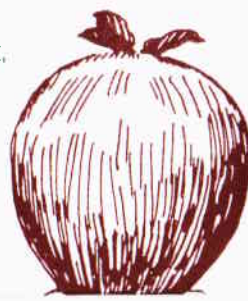


Proceed northward along Braddock Street.

15

**135 North Braddock Street
Logan House, c. 1850**

Lloyd Logan, a wealthy tobacco merchant, built this Greek Revival house c. 1850. Union General Milroy selected this house as his headquarters when he arrived in 1862, "rudely evicting" the Logan family. It was also used as headquarters by Union General Philip Sheridan in 1864. The large red apple is a 20th-century addition by the Elks Club, which used the building



20

**173 North Loudoun Street
Lovett Building, c. 1875**

This building is one of Winchester's best examples of high Victorian Italianate style. The striking massive wood cornice is one of the finest to be found in Winchester.

21

**157 North Loudoun Street
Huntsberry Building, b. 1887**

The façade of this 1887 building was completely covered by an aluminum sheathing in the 1960s. A commercial restoration nearly returned the building to its original appearance. This is an excellent example of adaptive reuse, providing commercial space on the first floor and apartments on upper floors.

22

**125 North Loudoun Street
Taylor Hotel, b. 1836**

The Taylor Hotel, owned by Bushrod Taylor, was once one of the most elegant hotels in Winchester, with a handsome three tiered porch on the front facade. It was popular lodging for Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War, with guests as varied as Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, and Stonewall Jackson.

23

**107 N. Loudoun
Miller's Drug Store, c. 1820**

Godfrey Miller II built this Federal-style building in the early 1800s. The building is known as "the oldest continuing family run drug store in America." The front addition was added to an 18th century Flounder style home. Nephew George Miller, the second owner, expanded the business to apothecary and dry goods store. Original ledger books, medical books, and supplies, dating back to 1806, are currently housed at Shenandoah University's Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy for research and display purposes. The building is well known for being haunted.

24

**106 North Loudoun Street
Farmers & Merchants Bank, b. 1902**

This Italian Renaissance Revival structure was built in 1902 for use as the Farmers & Merchants Bank. Renovated in the 1990s, it is owned and operated by the BB&T bank today. Note the beautifully detailed façade including brick quoins and arched windows.

25

**101 North Loudoun Street
Union Bank Building, b. 1878**

The Union Bank was chartered in 1870 at this location and built in 1878. It is Winchester's only example of a Victorian Italianate building with a cast-iron façade. Note the ornate architectural

design was attributed to Scottish builder, John Bruce; however, research indicates 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-arched tracery at windows and entries, and spirelets topping each corner. Lord Fairfax's tomb is located in the church courtyard. In addition to being the local proprietor, Lord Fairfax took an active role in community affairs. He died in 1781 at age 89 and is buried here.




 Proceed to corner of Boscawen and Washington Streets.

As you look southward down this street, you can see the residential pattern that emerged in the 1890s with houses set back from the streets, surrounded by large yards.

11 5 South Washington Street The Gables, b. 1899

"The Gables" is Winchester's most exuberant Queen Anne-style house. It was one of the homes of the W. H. Baker family, made famous for chocolate manufacturing. Built in 1899, 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 \$10-12,000.

 Turn right and head northward on Washington Street. Turn left on Amherst Street and proceed up the hill to the large white house on your right.

12 226 Amherst Street Daniel Morgan House, b. 1786

The southeast timber frame portion of this house was built by George Flowerdew Norton in 1786. In 1800 a Revolutionary War hero, General Daniel Morgan, purchased it and built a large brick addition. The house was covered with stucco by 1850. Following the war, Morgan served as a United States congressman and ran a mill in Clarke County with Nathaniel Burwell. He retired to Winchester in 1800 and died here in 1802.



as its headquarters from 1913 until 1989.



16 100 West Piccadilly St. Handley Library, b. 1913

The Handley Library, completed in 1913, was designed by New York architects Stewart Barney and Henry Otis Chapman. It is an excellent example of the Beaux-Arts style (1890-1920) characterized by extravagant use of materials and classical details. Although never a Winchester resident, Judge John Handley of Scranton, PA, bequeathed the city \$2 million for construction and operation of a public library and school.

17 40 West Piccadilly Street Old Post Office, b. 1908

The Post Office, built in 1908, is a fine example of the Neo-classical style (1890-1925) which, like the Beaux-Arts style, used classical motifs, but with a more refined and restrained application.



Turn right on Piccadilly Street and proceed eastward.

18 35 West Piccadilly Street George Reed House, b. 1797

This simple stone house was constructed in 1797 by George Reed, a coppersmith who had his 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.

19 25 West Piccadilly Street Philip Williams House, b. 1845

This house was built by Philip Williams, a local attorney, in 1845. The elaborate ironwork porch, decorated with Greek motifs, is of excellent quality and quite unusual for this area. During the Civil War, the ironwork was reputedly removed and buried so it would not be melted down for ammunition.



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. As you walk along, note the changes made to the buildings over the years to adapt them for commercial use along the main street.

details including high arched windows and Roman Corinthian capitals.



Turn left at the Courthouse and proceed east on Rouss Avenue.

26 30-38 Rouss Avenue Lawyers Row, b. 1872

Known as "Lawyers Row", this 1872 building was constructed by Frederick W.M. Holliday. Its location near the Courthouse made it a popular location for lawyers' offices. Italianate in style, the details are restrained and only the porch brackets, bracketed cornice, and carved frieze could be termed "fancy."

27 15 North Cameron Street Rouss City Hall, b. 1900

This impressive Romanesque Revival public building was built in 1900 from funds given to the city by Charles B. Rouss. The Romanesque Revival minimized historical detail and instead emphasized large and simple forms.

In the 19th century, Cameron Street was the bustling commercial center of town. The marketplace was located on the corner where City Hall is today.

28 2 North Cameron Street Kurtz Building, c. 1836

Investors built this building in 1836 to purchase and ship grain to Harper's Ferry via the railroad which ran down the center of Cameron Street. In 1888 Captain George W. Kurtz added the north addition with 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 both the exterior and interior. Today the building has an active commercial use.



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

29 103 E. Piccadilly Street George Washington Hotel, b. 1924

This recently restored Georgian Revival-style hotel displays a creative use of contrasting materials to lend interest to its large façade. Molded concrete is used in the bracketed cornice, arches and keystones are above every window, and decorative molded garland panels and a large decorative cartouche above the center bay highlight the façade.

END OF TOUR