

## *Of Historic Interest*

Many of the following may be seen (photo) on the Virtual Downtown Roanoke Walking Tour at the following link:

[www.roanokeva.gov/85256A8D0062C8D5/RepositoryFile/WalkTour/\\$File/WalkTour.s wf](http://www.roanokeva.gov/85256A8D0062C8D5/RepositoryFile/WalkTour/$File/WalkTour.s wf) but when in town try to take a look at those noted as “Interesting Stops.”

The following is listed in the order of a tour of Downtown Roanoke:

### ***Newly Renovated N&W Passenger Station – Interesting Stop***

Corner of Williamson Rd. & Shenandoah Ave., Roanoke

Originally built in 1905, the station had a classic, stately design which was common of most Virginia architecture of the day. In 1947, the Norfolk & Western commissioned industrial designer, Raymond Loewy, to redesign this headquarters' station and have it reflect the economic impact the railroad had on the Roanoke Valley. Loewy essentially gutted the interior of the station. Adding terrazzo floors, marble walls, large aluminum-frame windows and escalators to the boarding platform, it took on an art deco style. Key to the design was that Loewy took minimal space and maximized functionality. After its renovation, the station remained active until 1972, when N & W ended passenger service. The station then became freight offices and storage till 1990 when it was finally abandoned.

Its 2002 renovations provided for it to house the *Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitor Bureau* (**obtain Cam's Maps here**) and the *O. Winston Link Museum*, which opened in 2004.

### ***O. Winston Link Museum***

[www.linkmuseum.org](http://www.linkmuseum.org)

540-982-5465

101 Shenandoah Ave., Roanoke - In the restored N&W Railway Station.

See Museums under Local Indoor Activities for a description.

Exiting the passenger station to the left and across the street is:

### ***Hotel Roanoke***

<http://www.hotelroanoke.com>

540-985-5900

110 Shenandoah Ave., Roanoke

Hotel Roanoke is proudly listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a 1882 constructed and beautifully restored half-timbered Tudor Revival-style grand hotel. Donated to Virginia Tech in 1989, it was restored to reopen in 1995. A member of the International Association of Conference Centers, Hotel Roanoke offers world-class lodging facilities, including renovated guest rooms and some 63,000 square feet of state-of-the-art conference space.

Hotel Roanoke is a favorite of business travelers and vacationers and of local weddings. Dine in the award-winning Regency Dining Room, where we offer delicious hotel breakfasts and luncheon buffets, sophisticated dinners and wine selections, and the finest

Sunday Brunch in the Roanoke Valley. A more casual atmosphere is found in their Pine Room Pub with its cozy fireplace and billiard table. For a taste of Roanoke's night life visit the hotel's popular dance venue, Club aka,. Also, enjoy a well-equipped fitness center, seasonal outdoor swimming pool and year-round outdoor whirlpool.

Exiting the hotel parking lot take Wells or Shenandoah away from Williamson one block to N. Jefferson and turn right. On top of the hill a couple blocks away on the right is:

### ***St. Andrew's Catholic Church***

[www.standrewsroanoke.org](http://www.standrewsroanoke.org)

On N. Jefferson St. via Williamson Rd. and Wells Ave.

The 106-year-old church, a distinctive landmark on the downtown skyline, is a National and State Historical Landmark. Visible from numerous locations in the city, it is one of the state's best examples of High Victorian Gothic architecture.

A photo gallery of its renovation is available at the following link:

[www.roanoke.com/photography/slideshows/galleries/standrews091206/gallery.html](http://www.roanoke.com/photography/slideshows/galleries/standrews091206/gallery.html)

Reverse course to Wells and turn right to a left on First. On your left will be:

### ***The Higher Education Center***

Across N. Jefferson St. from the conference center at Hotel Roanoke (but now fronting the parking area off 1<sup>st</sup> St.)

(1930) General Office Building (GOB) North as it was called when it was N&W Railroad's headquarters for more than 50 years, prior to the merger with Southern Corp, has been renovated for use by 16 area colleges and universities.

Neighboring Renaissance Revival GOB-South (1903) has been remodeled as downtown residences.

And immediately on right is the:

### ***Dumas Hotel (1916)***

110 First St., NW, Roanoke

Formerly the Hotel Hampton which served African-American clientele in the days of segregation, nationally known jazz musicians who played concerts in town held late-night informal jam sessions while staying there. It is now the Dumas Center for Cultural & Artistic Development.

### ***Railside Linear Park – Interesting Stop***

This landscaped 15-foot wide pedestrian way adjacent to the Norfolk-Southern tracks links the city's Historic Market Area to the Transportation Museum. Key design elements include a raised "boardwalk" reminiscent of a railroad station platform and artwork and rail artifacts of the period. Some good photos are at the following link:

[www.hsmm.aecom.com/MarketsAndServices/57/09/index.jsp](http://www.hsmm.aecom.com/MarketsAndServices/57/09/index.jsp)

## ***The Virginia Museum of Transportation***

[www.vmt.org](http://www.vmt.org)

540-342-5670

***Interesting Stop***

303 Norfolk Ave. SW, Roanoke

Formerly N&W's freight station built in 1918, it was the hub of freight operations for the Eastern Seaboard and Midwest regions for much of the 20th century. It was donated to the Museum by the Railroad in 1996. It now houses a nationally important collection of transportation artifacts including the N&W Class J 611 and Class A 1218 which are the sole survivors of their classes in existence. Don't miss the 4-tiered O-gauge model train layout with multiple observation levels. Also the Star Station children's playground. The museum is a good location for birthday parties!

## ***Warehouse Row***

109-133 Norfolk Ave., Roanoke

Constructed from 1889-1902 these warehouses along the railroad recall Roanoke's history as SW Virginia's wholesale center. A northern European influence may be seen in the stepped gable roof line. Representing more than 100,000 SF of newly renovated high-tech office space, Warehouse Row is a new downtown business community anchor space.

## ***Commercial Storefronts***

118-128 W. Campbell Ave., Roanoke

Constructed from 1892 – 1909 these five structures represent early ventures supporting the rail industry. They are examples of Italianate and Neoclassical design. Threatened with demolition in the 1980's, they were purchased by the city and later resold them for rehabilitation.

## ***State & City Building***

At 104 W. Campbell Ave, Roanoke, and built in 1905 this Neoclassical structure is known for its gargoyles.

## ***Asberry Building / Valley Metro***

17 W Campbell Ave., Roanoke

(1888) Postmaster A. S. Asberry laid the building's cornerstone. National Business College started here in 1890.

## ***Liberty Trust Building (1901)***

1001 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke

One of the first bank buildings in Roanoke and one of the state's best preserved Progressive era structures. Note the brass doors in the lobby.

## ***SFW Building / Fret Mill Music***

21 E. Salem Ave., Roanoke

A Renaissance Revival structure built in 1893, it was the site of S. F. Woody's Peerless Hardware for 30 years.

### ***Dogmouth Fountain (1898)***

Across Salem Ave. from the City Market Bldg., Roanoke

Once horses drank from the street side and people drank from the Dog's Mouth. Legend says that whoever drinks from this fountain would always return to Roanoke...or never leave.

### ***The City Market Building – Interesting Stop & Good Food***

At site of a previous 1886 market building, this Georgian Revival structure built in 1922 was adapted from meatcutters' stalls to create our International Food Court and shops. A favorite of visitors, businessmen and families alike!

### ***Marketplace Center (1909)***

At 108 Campbell Ave. SE, Roanoke, this restored neoclassical building, for many years a drug store, now houses restaurants and shops.

### ***Shenandoah Hotel / Twists & Turns***

Facing Campbell Ave. at its intersection with Williamson Rd., Roanoke

Built in 1911 as an alternative to the Hotel Roanoke. Center in the Square purchased and renovated in 2000 so the upper floors could house Mill Mountain Theatre's out-of-town actors and staff.

### ***202 Market St. (1908)***

On the corner of Market Square and Campbell Ave. a bargain store owned by Isadore Fox operated here for 55 years. Note classical elements on the second story including arched tripartite windows and center keystones framed by pilasters.

### ***Hartsook Building***

Market Square – across Market St. from Center in the Square

Now housing several shops and a restaurant, this early 1900's building was owned by the pioneering longtime real estate developer whose name adorns the cornice.

### ***Farmers' Market on Market St. (1874) – Interesting Stop***

One of the oldest city markets in Virginia. Open year round with seasonal crafts, plants, baked goods, and fresh produce.

### ***Market St. Row***

These storefronts backing the Farmers' Market Stalls are of complementary design and scale forming an harmonious architectural scene. Most notable are Agnew Seed (1909) and Martin Bros./Galleria (1901).

### ***Friendship Fountain*** (of interest – non-historical)

Across Church Ave. at the end of Market St. on walkway to Elmwood Park

Constructed in 1987, the fountain honors Roanoke's seven sister cities.

The pool is lined with historic "Star" bricks which were used on Roanoke's early streets.

### ***Restored Fire Station No. 1***

Home of the Nation's first rescue squad.

Historic Station 1 located at 13 Church Avenue in downtown Roanoke remains open for tours, Monday through Saturday from 10am-6pm.

The Volunteer Companies were consolidated in March 1907 when the Roanoke Fire Department was born and all the Firefighters were paid/full time employees. The station has a Georgian Revival façade with belfry roughly patterned after Philadelphia's independence Hall. You can still see where the horses chewed on the brick walls inside the station. Fire Station #1 is one of the oldest operating full paid Fire Stations in the U.S and is the oldest Fire Station in continuous use in Virginia and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Fire Station #1 remains to be a major tourist attraction in Roanoke City. The Fire Station was opened with Engine Company #1 - nine men, and Hook and Ladder Company #1 - nine men. The Station now houses Ladder 1, Battalion Chief 1, and Rescue Supervisor 1.

### ***Virginia Carriage Company (1901)***

Former carriage manufacturer located at 10 Church Ave. SE across from Fire Station No. 1 and adjacent to Century Plaza. Of interest, near the roofline on the Jefferson St. side and Church Ave. end one can still make out the original painted carriage company sign. Also the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors were marked off in a grid pattern by numbers and letters painted high on the walls to track parts and sub-assembly inventories, and the first floor sloped 15 inches in height from Church Ave. to the dock at Kirk Ave. to ease movement between assembly line stations. The building was renovated in 2000 as new headquarters for Spectrum Design, architectural and engineering firm, retaining the street façades.

### ***Restored Commercial Signage***

At Jefferson St. and Church Ave., Roanoke above an Alright Parking Lot are painted advertisements recalling a number of early Roanoke Businesses. Referred to as "Wall Dogs," itinerant painters adorned many brick faces with logos and commercial messages of the day.

### ***Old First National Exchange Bank***

Roanoke's first "modern" bank building, constructed in 1913 at the corner of Campbell Ave. and Jefferson St., is an example of Academic Classicism and reminds of the city's history as a banking center. Note the heads of lions adorning the cornice.

### ***Colonial Arms Building (1926)***

Opposite the FNEB building is the former site of Roanoke's first "skyscraper," the Terry Building. The upper floors of the Colonial Arms Building have recently been converted into condominiums. Following the city's extended effort to revitalize, "downtown living" is gaining popularity; soon to number 360 units.

### ***McGuire Building / Center in the Square (1914)***

Originally built to house W. E. McGuire's Farmers' Supply co., which sold wagons, buggies, fertilizer, seed, etc., it was renovated in 1983 for Center in the Square and its cultural organizations. Note a legendary Roanoke institution, The Roanoke Weiner Stand, on the Campbell Ave. side.

### ***Old Southwest Residential Area – Miller's Hill Residential Restoration***

On Day Ave. SW between 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets some 19 homes are in the process of being restored to their original condition. The majority had photos and some plans available from which to work. Several have been purchased and are now occupied. Previously this area was mostly multifamily apartments and in serious need of care. The project is being accomplished by the Roanoke Housing and Redevelopment Authority.

A large area between Elm Ave., Franklin Rd. and the Roanoke River, known as Old Southwest, has been undergoing privately funded revival for many years. Enjoy a walking or driving tour of the area to see many interesting homes.

[www.oldsouthwestinc.com](http://www.oldsouthwestinc.com)

### ***Old Municipal Building***

200 block of Campbell Ave., Roanoke

A beautiful Neoclassical Revival building constructed in 1915.

### ***The Boxley Building (1921)***

At 416 S. Jefferson St., this building was commissioned by W. W. Boxley, quarry owner, developer and mayor of Roanoke. He emphasized using the finest building materials of his day.

### ***History Museum of Western Virginia***

540-342-5770

One Market Square, Roanoke

[www.history-museum.org](http://www.history-museum.org)

### ***Salem Museum and Historical Society***

540-389-6760

801 E. Main St., Salem, VA 24153

[www.salemmuseum.org](http://www.salemmuseum.org)

### ***Harrison Museum of African American Culture***

540-345-4818

523 Harrison Ave. NW, Roanoke, VA 24016

[www.harrisonmuseum.com](http://www.harrisonmuseum.com)

An educational and cultural institution committed to promoting, showcasing, and celebrating the art and history of African Americans for Roanoke Valley citizens and visitors and whose purpose is to cultivate awareness and appreciation of the significant contributions of people of African descent.

### ***Hanging Rock Civil War Battlefield Park***

[www.culturalresourcegroup.com/projects/hangingrock.htm](http://www.culturalresourcegroup.com/projects/hangingrock.htm)

Eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places for its significance within the context of local history. The skirmish at Hanging Rock was initiated by an advanced element of McCausland's cavalry. Hanging Rock is the lowest of the gaps in the Allegheny mountains in the area, where Mason Creek passes between Fort Lewis Mountain and Brushy Mountain. McCausland's scouts sighted the Union wagon train moving northward on the New Castle Road (present day Route 311), and Confederate troops attacked as the Union troops scattered. The skirmish lasted about 45 minutes and damaged about one-third of Hunter's artillery firepower. The raid, however, did not succeed in slowing the Union advance sufficiently to enable a larger Confederate attack by General Jubal Early.

The Hanging Rock Battlefield site recently opened to the public, and maintains a park and a walking, biking and birding trail.

### ***Historic Fincastle***

Once County Seat to largest county in the Nation stretching to the Mississippi River and Great Lakes

Once held all our government documents

Fincastle was founded in 1772 and named after Lord Fincastle, son of Lord Dunmore, Virginia's last royal governor. As the seat of Botetourt County, Fincastle was something of the last outpost before the Western frontier serving as a supply station for settlers heading West. From its inception until the Revolutionary war, Fincastle oversaw a massive governmental district that stretched to the Mississippi River and included parts of modern day Wisconsin. Town lore says that folks who lived more than 500 miles away were excused from jury duty. Fincastle's courthouse was designed by [Thomas Jefferson](#) and today still houses county government functions for a much smaller county and contains a vast archive of public records relevant to the late colonial Virginia and the Western expansion periods. [George Washington](#), [Patrick Henry](#), [Thomas Jefferson](#) and other prominent Virginians either appeared in Fincastle or sent their agents to lay claim to tracts of wilderness lands. [Meriwether Lewis](#) and [William Clark](#) departed from Fincastle when they were commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson to explore the Louisiana Purchase. Two years after his arrival back in Virginia, Clark married Julia Hancock of Fincastle on January 5, 1808.

See the Day Trips listing for the following:

***Appomattox Court House***

***National D-Day Memorial***

[www.dday.org](http://www.dday.org)

***Mabry Mill – Blue Ridge Parkway***

[www.floydcountyinview.com](http://www.floydcountyinview.com)

***Peaks of Otter Lodge – Blue Ridge Parkway***

[www.peaksofotter.com](http://www.peaksofotter.com)

***Thomas Jefferson’s Poplar Forest***

[www.poplarforest.org](http://www.poplarforest.org)

434-534-8110

434-525-1806

Near Bedford. Open seasonally: ongoing archeology, restoration, exhibits and special events. One of two homes designed and constructed by Thomas Jefferson of octagonal design. April 1 - ~~XXX~~

***Historic Smithfield Plantation***

[www.smithfieldplantation.org](http://www.smithfieldplantation.org)

540-231-3947

Blacksburg. April – December. Tours by costumed interpreters through this colonial frontier home, which was the birthplace of two governors and home of a third.

***Booker T. Washington National Monument***

[www.nps.gov/bowa](http://www.nps.gov/bowa)

540-721-2094

12130 Booker T. Washington Highway, Hardy, VA 24101

Franklin County near Smith Mountain Lake. Films, guided tours, and exhibits of the childhood home of former slave/internationally known educator, writer and orator Booker T. Washington.

*On April 5, 1856, a child who later called himself Booker T. Washington, was born in slavery on this 207-acre tobacco farm. The realities of life as a slave in piedmont Virginia, the quest by African Americans for education and equality, and the post-war struggle over political participation all shaped his options and choices. Washington founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama and later became an important and controversial leader. Visitors are invited to step back in time and experience firsthand the life and landscape of people who lived in an era when slavery was part of the fabric of American life.*

***Stonewall Jackson Home in Lexington***

See Day Trips

***Robert E. Lee Chapel at W&L in Lexington***

See Day Trips

***George C. Marshall Museum at VMI in Lexington***

See Day Trips

***Tour VMI and the VMI Museum in Lexington***

See Day Trips