

## 16. Taylor Hotel, 125 N. Loudoun St., c. 1846

Built by Bushrod Taylor after the log tavern on this site burned, the Taylor House operated as Winchester's grandest hotel until 1911 when it was sold to McCrory's. The Loudoun Street façade has been restored to its appearance circa 1920, including the three story Greek Revival-style porch with winder steps and decorative cast iron railing.

## 17. Mesker Building, 146 N. Loudoun St., c. 1880

The intricate detailing on this building's upper story is the only known example of a Mesker Bros. façade design in Winchester. The pressed metal sheets with their floral and decorative patterns could be applied to a building for a quick "facelift." The façade may have been a sales tactic for the tinsmith who occupied this building circa 1890-1908.

## 18. Snow White Grill, 159 N. Loudoun St., c. 1925

The modest Streamline Moderne infill structure is a unique and attractive addition to its older neighbors. The sleek white enameled steel panels with deep blue horizontal banding and the rounded corner entry are typical of the style.

## 19. Lovett Building, 163-165 N. Loudoun St., c. 1881

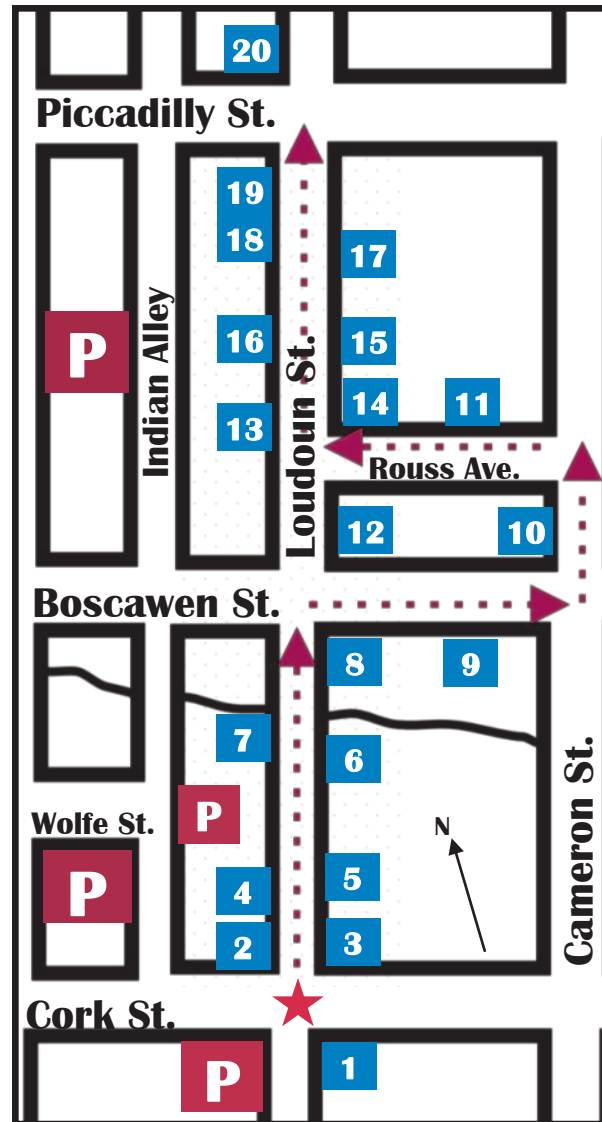
This building is one of Winchester's best examples of Eastlake-style ornamentation, which utilizes geometric designs to produce artistically complex patterns. The striking massive wood cornice is one of the finest to be found in Winchester. The building is named for the Lovett Bros. Shoe Store, which operated here from 1932-1983.

## 20. Wells Fargo Bank, 201 N. Loudoun St., c. 1903

This commercial Beaux Arts-style building originally housed the Shenandoah Valley National Bank. From the roofline embellished with a stone entablature featuring dentils, modillions, and rosette panels to the giant order Corinthian pilasters and dominating Art Deco-inspired lintels, the building reflects the growing prosperity in Winchester at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

**End of tour.** To return to the starting point, you may retrace your steps by heading south, or take time to explore, shop, and dine in the surrounding areas of the Old Town Mall.

## Map



**Tour Start**

**Old Town Mall**



**Tour Stops**



**Parking**



This walking tour written and prepared by:  
**Preservation of  
Historic Winchester**

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# Explore the Old Town Mall





*Begin at the south end of the Old Town Mall, the intersection of Loudoun and Cork Streets.*

**1. Red Lion Tavern, 204-208 S. Loudoun St., c. 1783**

Just off the mall, this early Federal-style limestone tavern was built by Peter Lauck. The Lauck family operated the southern half as lodging space and the northern half as the tavern. In 1867, John Fagan acquired the property and established Winchester's first marble yard here. The window openings were enlarged circa 1900, but an original 6/6 pane window can be seen on the northern face.

**2. The Sperry House, 141 S. Loudoun St., c. 1827**

Jacob Sperry erected this building in 1827, as recorded in the lunette on the southern face. It was the tallest building in Winchester at the time of its construction. According to one account, Mr. Sperry placed a board across the top of the parapet chimneys and stood on his head to celebrate the building's completion. Notice the sawtooth brick cornice, accomplished by setting the bricks at an angle.

*Enter the Old Town Mall and proceed north.*

**3. Hill's Keep, 126 S. Loudoun St., c. 1785**

It is believed that the servants of guests at the Red Lion Tavern were housed in this one-story limestone building, originally located at 8 E. Cork St. Over the years, it has been used as a print shop, Friendship Market, and the office of Preservation of Historic Winchester. Note the chevron batten door and paneled shutters with original hardware.

**4. Sherrard House, 117-121 S. Loudoun St., c. 1790**

Robert Sherrard, Sr. built this structure as a home (north end) and a store (south end), hence its unusually long façade. The building remained in the family until 1851. Though the 20<sup>th</sup> century storefront has altered the façade, original paneled reveals in the doorway, small pane transom lights and the dentil cornice along the eaves remain.

**5. First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Loudoun St., c. 1841**

This church was built in 1841 as a lecture hall and remodeled in 1883 to the Gothic Revival-style church we see today. Note the ornate spires, molded brick belt courses, crenellated towers, decorative slate roof, and pointed arch stained glass tracery windows.

**6. Godfrey Miller House, 28 S. Loudoun St., c. 1785**

This handsome house was built by Daniel Sowers. The denticulated cornice and stone splayed lintels with keystones above the 6/6 sash windows exemplify the architectural details popular with the Federal style. The Greek Revival-style porch was probably added by John Miller, the fourth owner (1812-1845).

**7. Dowdall House, 21 S. Loudoun St., c. 1792**

James Gamul Dowdall, a prominent merchant, mason and city official, built this house on the site of a Colonial-era inn. After Dowdall's death in 1824, this fine eight-room Federal-style home became a tavern run by Elizabeth Pendleton. Behind the house was a barn, stable, carriage shed and privy. Notice the elliptical fanlight over the front door and Wall of Troy cornice pattern.

**8. The Holliday House, 2-4 S. Loudoun St., c. 1800**

William Holliday occupied this building as his store for over 50 years. His sons, being doctors, may have influenced its conversion to a drug store c. 1860 with the addition of a third story and fashionable Italianate window hoods and bracketed cornice. About this time, the entry was moved to its present corner location. The marvelous late 19<sup>th</sup> century interior remains intact today.

*Turn right on East Boscawen Street and proceed east.*

**9. Old Star Building, 29-33 E. Boscawen St., c. 1840-1870**

These two buildings have seen many uses over the years, but their name derives from the Winchester Star. The newspaper published here from 1910-1947. The buildings have since been rehabilitated to the Old Town Welcome Center, commercial space, and upper-story apartments.

*Turn left at the intersection of East Boscawen and North Cameron Streets and proceed north.*

**10. Rouss City Hall, 15 North Cameron St., c. 1900**

Named for Charles Broadway Rouss, a generous benefactor to the city, the building was designed by F.H. Johnson of Washington, D.C. in a conservative Romanesque style. It features a hip roof topped by a square cupola, window moldings based on 15<sup>th</sup> century English Gothic architecture, and a two-story arcade, a popular turn-of-the-century device to control a tall façade.

*Turn left onto Rouss Avenue and proceed west toward the Old Town Mall.*

**11. Lawyers Row, 30-38 Rouss Ave., c. 1872**

Built by Frederick Holliday as lawyer's offices, the seven bay Italianate structure was restored as offices for BB&T. The style is conservative, with ornamentation consisting of simple chamfered posts, decorative frieze panels, and carved brackets typical of Winchester.

*At the Old Town Mall, stop and look to the left.*

**12. Court House Square, 20 N. Loudoun St., c. 1840**

The Old Frederick County Court House was built 1834-1840 on land set aside by Lord Fairfax and James Wood for public use. The first court house was a log building, and the second was a frame structure. The third is an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture in Winchester with its dominating portico on Doric columns. Note the cupola with the whimsical fish weathervane.

*Turn right and walk north on the Old Town Mall.*

**13. Union Bank Building, 101 N. Loudoun St., c. 1878**

The Union Bank is Winchester's only example of an Italianate-style building with a cast-iron façade. Note the ornate architectural details including high arched windows with prominent keystones, Corinthian capitals, and brackets topped by lions' heads.

**14. The Farmers and Merchants Bank Building, 106 N. Loudoun St., c. 1902**

This Classical Revival-style bank building was designed by Frye and Chesterman of Lynchburg, VA. Notable features include the eaves with denticulated copper cornice, windows capped with pediments, contrasting belt courses, and banded fluted columns flanking the pedimented entryways. Yellow bricks such as these result from clay high in lime content.

**15. Hiram Lodge No. 21, 118 N. Loudoun St., c. 1868**

Take note of this highly decorated Beaux Arts-style entrance. The Lodge's door is flanked by Corinthian stone columns crowned with a broken pediment topped by a lion's head. Two cherubs sit in the tympanum holding a cartouche inscribed with the Masonic symbol. The projecting third story bay is clad in copper sheathing, which has weathered to create a pleasing patina.