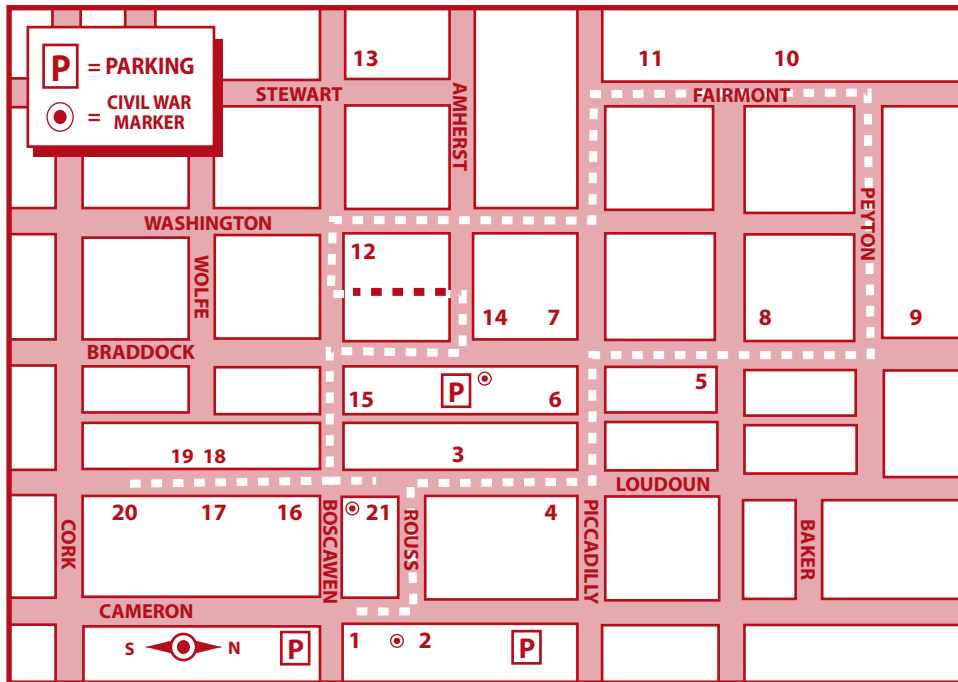


The Civil War Years

Time: 1-1 1/2 Hours **Distance:** Approximately 1.5 miles



Introduction

By Gordon Harrower

Called "a dagger aimed at the heart of the North," the Shenandoah Valley was of vital strategic importance to the Confederacy throughout the Civil War. Lying northeast to southwest between the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Mountain chains, it supplied provisions to the troops and civilian population to the east and served as an almost made-to-order staging area for raids on Federal lines of communication and for three invasions of northern territory: the campaigns of Antietam and Gettysburg and the 1864 attack on Washington.

For these same reasons, the Valley was equally crucial to the Union, yet it continually kept them on the horns of a dilemma; for the deeper Federal troops advanced into the Valley, the further they moved from their primary objective: Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Nonetheless, occupation of the Valley was necessary to deny it to the Confederates and prevent "back door" access to Washington.

Ever mindful of these factors and the North's demonstrated obsession with protecting its own Capitol, the Confederate command rattled its collective sabre in the northern (or lower) Valley time and again for the express purpose of drawing Federal troops from the east, thus affording a measure of relief for Lee's outnumbered legions.

The town of Winchester, situated at the lower end of the Valley, was a key road and rail head, and a major agrarian center — an attractive objective for both the North and the South. Sitting on relatively flat terrain, Winchester could not be easily defended by the numbers of troops generally available to either side; so when threatened, it

was most often evacuated and left to new masters. This phenomenon occurred 72 times making Winchester unique for remaining in the front lines for virtually all of the war. Five significant battles were fought at or near Winchester — engagements that affected not only the Valley, but the course of the war itself.

Briefly, these were:

KERNSTOWN, MARCH 23, 1862 — Stonewall Jackson's only defeat, albeit a strategic victory for the South, occurred when he attacked and was repulsed by a numerically superior Union force led by General Shields. The scene of action was Sandy Ridge, between Middle road (Rt. 628) and Cedar Creek Grade (Rt. 622). As a result of the battle, the North detached more troops from the Army of the Potomac to thwart the Confederates in the Valley.

FIRST WINCHESTER, MAY 25, 1862 — The mid-point of Jackson's brilliant Valley campaign. Jackson struck and routed General Banks' force that was already retreating from a decisive defeat just days before at Front Royal. The battle area centered on camp Hill, today's South Kent Street, and on Bowers Hill, behind Handley High School.

SECOND WINCHESTER, JUNE 13-15, 1863 — Heading north for what was to become the Battle of Gettysburg, the confederate Second Corps led by Richard Ewell found Winchester occupied by General Milroy's federals. A skillfully executed double envelopment soon had the latter force in full retreat. The Southern left wing attacked West Fort, northwest of town; while the main force trapped Yankee troops retreating from Star Fort, West Fort and fort Milroy, at Stephenson's Depot, northeast of town. Many of these battle sites remain, especially at West Fort, Star Fort and Stephenson.

continued on page 2

Take yourself on a walking tour of Winchester and enjoy many Civil War sites. This guide will help you on your route.

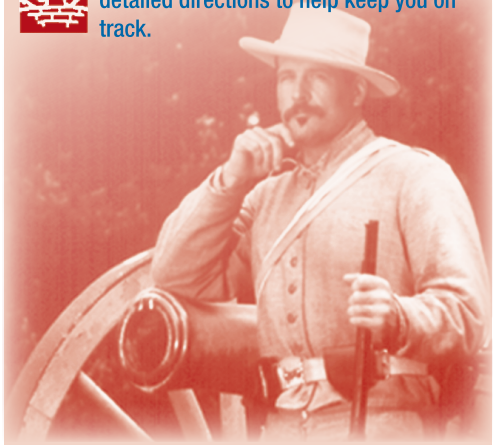
Using this guide

1

Each location has a number corresponding to the map below. The tour begins at #1 and continues until #21.



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



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Introduction, continued from page 1

THIRD WINCHESTER, SEPTEMBER 19, 1864 — The Army of the Shenandoah, commanded by Philip Sheridan, and assigned the task of rendering the northern Valley unusable to the Confederacy, overwhelmed Jubal Early's outnumbered force in the largest battle in the Valley to that point. Attacking westward toward town along Berryville Pike (Rt. 7) and Martinsburg Pike (Rt. 11), the Federals drove Early's troops south to Fisher's Hill, near Strasburg, and there defeated them again.

CEDAR CREEK, OCTOBER 19, 1864 — Attempting to turn the tables, Early attacked Sheridan's army at its camp just south of Middletown and sent it reeling to the north. This Confederate success might have turned into a true victory had Early pressed his attack with greater determination. As it evolved, however, Sheridan, who had not been present at the outset, rode south from Winchester "to the sound of the guns," rallied his retreating forces and sent them forward to thoroughly defeat the Southerners and win permanent control of the lower Valley for the Union.

The scene of battle ranged from Cedar Creek west of the Valley Pike (Rt. 11) to Middletown — countryside that is little changed today from the time the battle was fought. Dominating the area is Belle Grove, a prominent plantation used as a hospital by both sides. A mile or so to the south of Belle Grove on Hupp's Hill are entrenchments that have survived virtually intact to this day. Belle Grove Plantation, a property of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, is open to the public from mid-March through mid-November.

At the beginning of the Civil War there were approximately 700 families living in Winchester. Of the 4,403 individuals listed in the 1860 census 3,040 were whites, 708 were slaves and 655 were freedmen. The majority of the population was pro-Union at the beginning of the war; however, nearly everyone became pro-Southern after Union General Banks' occupation.



Begin in front of the Kurtz Building, corner of Boscawen and Cameron Streets.

1

**2 North Cameron Street
Kurtz Building, c. 1836**

Originally built as a grain warehouse, this building was a general merchandise store run by Thomas Latham & Son during the war years. In 1876, it was purchased by Captain George W. Kurtz, a veteran of the Stonewall Brigade, for his furniture and coffin making business. A leader in Confederate veteran associations, he assisted many local veterans with advice and loans. The building was a popular gathering place for veterans to recount tales from the war.



Proceed north to Rouss Ave.

2

**106 N. Cameron Street
Bell House, c. 1809**

During the Civil War this handsome Federal-style house was the home of John N. Bell, a Winchester merchant during the war and his wife Margaretta. Bell's youngest son, Stewart, was born on September 18, 1864, eve of the third Battle of Winchester. Since the house was in range of artillery fire during the battle, mother and child were taken to the basement for safety. After the war, Margaretta successfully sought donations of food and clothing from her Baltimore friends to help the residents of the Shenandoah Valley left destitute by the "scorched earth" policy of General Sheridan.



Turn left & go west on Rouss Ave. to Loudoun St. Mall. Turn right & proceed north.

3

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

This building, once graced with an impressive three-tiered porch, was Winchester's most elegant hotel. It was used as headquarters by both Union and Confederate troops and as a hospital following the major battles. According to local lore, it was taken and retaken five times within one day during the war. Its guests included General "Stonewall" Jackson, Henry Clay and Daniel Webster.



Continue north along the pedestrian mall.

4

**168-186 North Loudoun Street
South Wall of Virginia National Bank**

On the second floor of a store located at this site on May 3, 1865, Captain William McKinley (an officer in General Sheridan's army) was initiated into the Masonic Lodge. He became the 25th President of the United States. During Sheridan's 1864-1865 occupation of Winchester, 207 "enemy" soldiers joined the Mason's Hiram Lodge No. 21.



Turn left at Piccadilly St., proceed west.

5

**218 North Braddock Street
Corner of Fairfax Lane**

One block east of this corner, towards Loudoun Street where the Auto Park is now located, is the site of Rebecca Wright's home. She was a Quaker school teacher who had strong Unionist sympathies. Preceding the Third Battle of Winchester, she provided General Sheridan with vital information regarding General Early's Confederate forces. Nearby was the home of Julia Chase, also a Unionist, who kept a diary detailing military maneuvers of the two armies. It is this source that documents the number of times Winchester changed hands between the two armies (estimated at 72 times).

6

**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 removed and buried so it would not be melted down for ammunition. George S. Patton, grandfather of World War II General George S. Patton, was mortally wounded during the Third Battle of Winchester and brought here to his cousin Philip Williams' house where he died.



Continue west to intersection of Piccadilly and Braddock Streets.

7

**135 North Braddock Street
General Sheridan's Headquarters**

Built in 1850 by Lloyd Logan, a wealthy Winchester merchant, this ornate home was commandeered by both General Milroy (1863) and General Sheridan (1864) for their headquarters. Published diaries of the period tell of the community's outrage when in April 1863, General Milroy laid claim to the house, moved his family in and rudely ousted the Logan family leaving them destitute.



Turn right and proceed north on Braddock St.

8

**319 North Braddock Street, Kent St.
Presbyterian Manse, c. 1845**

This was the home of Dr. and Mrs. James R. Graham. He was pastor of the Kent Street Presbyterian Church, the church general "Stonewall" Jackson attended while in Winchester. During the winter of 1861-62, General and Mrs. Jackson lived in the Graham family home for a time. Mrs. Jackson remained a friend of the Grahams and visited after the war. Dr. Graham conducted a school in the basement of the manse in order to supplement his small salary.

9

**415 North Braddock Street
Jackson's Headquarters, c. 1854**

This Gothic revival-style house, "Alta Vista", was purchased in 1856 by Lewis T. Moore who served as Colonel for the 4th Virginia Volunteers. He offered his home to General Jackson when he came to Winchester to command the Confederate Army of the Shenandoah Valley. In November 1861, Jackson described his quarters in a letter to his wife: "The situation is beautiful. The building is of cottage style and contains six rooms. I have two rooms, one above the other. My lower room, or office, has a matting on the floor, a large fine table, six chairs, and a piano. The walls are papered with elegant gilt paper. I don't remember to have ever seen more beautiful papering and there are fine paintings hanging on the walls." The building is operated as a museum by the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society and open to the public April through October.



Walk around the south (left) side of the house to view the original front entrance which faced on Peyton Street. Proceed west up Peyton St. to Fairmont Ave.



10 311 Fairmont Avenue "Fair Mount", c. 1812

This elegant Georgian-style house was the home of the Frederick Schultz family during the war. According to a local diarist, when the Yankees occupied the house, in January 1865, they left the family only 2-3 rooms to live in. At other times, officers from both armies boarded with the Schultzes.



Turn left and proceed south along Fairmont Ave.

11 209 Fairmont Avenue Dr. William Miller House, c. 1860

During the war, the Bank of Winchester was forced to close. In an effort to save the bank's funds and documents, young Dr. Miller secured the items in boxes and buried them in the cellar of his home. After the peace was declared and it was safe for the bank to restart operations, every dollar and document was accounted for leaving the stockholders in a much better position than was expected.



Turn left on Piccadilly then right on Washington St. & proceed south to Boscawen St. intersection.

12 140 W. Boscawen St. Christ Episcopal Church, c. 1828

With some additions and alterations, this Gothic Revival-style church is basically unchanged since the Civil War days. The church escaped serious damage during the war because the Union Army chaplains conducted services there. During the federal occupations, many citizens objected to worshipping with Union soldiers, so they attended Kent Street Presbyterian or held prayer meetings in private homes. The Lecture room (West Boscawen Street) was used as a hospital for confederate soldiers after General Jackson's Bath Campaign (January 1862) and by General Sheridan after the third Battle of Winchester (September 1864). In the winter of 1864-65, it was used as a jail for confederate prisoners.

13 Winchester Medical College

One block west of Christ Episcopal Church, on the northwest corner of Boscawen and Stewart Streets, is the site of the Winchester Medical College which was destroyed during the war. The Winchester Medical College opened in 1847 and trained 72 students before closing in 1861. In 1859 after John Brown's infamous raid in nearby Harpers Ferry, a group of curious medical students went there and found a dead body beside the railroad tracks. Always on the lookout for cadavers for anatomical study, they shipped it back to Winchester. Unfortunately, it was generally believed to be one of John Brown's sons. The school was used as a military hospital for confederate troops until 1862 when it was burned by General Banks' Union troops in retaliation for the cadaver incident.



Turn left on Boscawen St., pass the church buildings & turn left through the alley to Amherst St. Turn right on Amherst St. & proceed east to corner of Braddock St.

14 103 North Braddock Street The McGuire Home, c.1790

This was the home of Dr. Hugh Holmes McGuire, a faculty member of the Winchester Medical College and one of the leading physicians in the country. Although well past the age of military service, he was in the medical branch of the Confederate Army during the Civil War serving under his son, Dr. Hunter Holmes McGuire — General "Stonewall" Jackson's personal surgeon and friend.



Turn right on Braddock St. and proceed south to Boscawen. Turn left & proceed east.

15 26 West Boscawen Street Grace Lutheran Church, c. 1841-43

During the Civil War, this church was known as the New Lutheran Church, replacing an 18th century church that burned in 1854. Reverend Thomas William Dosh was pastor from 1862-1872. The church served as a hospital caring for military forces during the war. By March 1865, the church was in a deplorable state and had to be renovated. The Gothic-style front with the prominent spire and central tower were completed in 1875. In 1909 a claim was presented to the Federal government for war damages and was granted.



Continue east to Loudoun St. intersection

16 South Loudoun Street The Holliday House, c.1797

The original portion of this structure was built in 1707 by William Holliday, a merchant. His grandson, Frederick William Mackie Holliday, served as a colonel in the confederate Army. In August 1862 he became a member of the Confederate Congress. He lost his right arm in the Battle of Cedar Mountain near Culpeper Court House, Virginia. He remained active in politics after the war and was elected Governor of Virginia in 1878.



Turn right & proceed south on Loudoun St.

17 28 South Loudoun Street Godfrey Miller Home, c. 1785

13-year-old Margaretta "Gettie" Miller lived in this stone house with her parents and sisters. During the Civil War, "Gettie" kept a diary that described community happenings, and today her diary is housed in the Archives of the Handley Regional Library.

18 33-39 South Loudoun Street Issac Russell House & Business, c. 1820

Issac Russell's family lived at #39 and #33 was the family business. Russell's daughter, Matilda, acquired fame as a local heroine during the war when she saved a young wounded officer's life by keeping a vigil on the battlefield until daybreak and rescue. After the war, Oregon Wilson, a Virginia artist, depicted the scene in a painting entitled "Woman's Devotion" and author John Esten Cooke used Miss Russell's heroic act as the basis for his heroine in the story, "A Night on the Battlefield."

19 41 South Loudoun Street Sperry house, c. 1800

Kate Sperry, age 18 when the war began, kept a spirited and valuable diary for the four years of the conflict. Titled, "Surrender! Never Surrender!" she wrote about the effect of the war on her family and community in a frank and honest manner. She spent much of her time during the war visiting wounded and imprisoned soldiers, providing comfort and home-baked goods.

20 First Presbyterian Church, b. 1841

Reverend Dr. Andrew Hunter Holmes Boyd was the wartime pastor. Totally dedicated to the Confederacy's cause, he used his pulpit to preach on political subjects and was seized and held hostage by Federal authorities several times. His health weakened by such treatment, Reverend Boyd died in 1865. The church was not seriously damaged during the troop occupation. It was used as a hospital for confederate soldiers in 1862 and again by General Sheridan, after the Third Battle of Winchester, in 1864.



Turn around & proceed back up Loudoun St. (north) to the Courthouse.

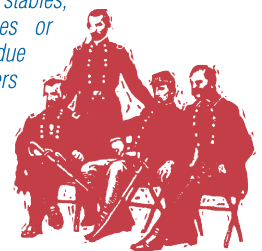
21 Old Frederick County Courthouse, b. 1840

This fine Greek Revival courthouse was built in 1840. During the war it was used as a hospital and the yard, which at the time was fenced in, was used as a holding facility for prisoners of war. The memorial statue was erected in October, 1916 to honor Confederate soldiers.

END OF TOUR

1864 was the most trying year of the war. Social life was dormant and most stores and shops were closed. The civil government had given way to military rule. Courts seldom met. Little teaching was done. Many people were out of work and money was scarce.

By the end of the war more than 200 houses were destroyed in and around town. Some were demolished and others burned. On Loudoun Street nearly a hundred houses had been claimed for use as stables, hospitals, slaughter houses or some other exceptional use due to military urgency. Farmers lost nearly all their livestock, wagons and farming tools and many of the homes and outbuildings were destroyed by union troops. Every building that survived needed repairs.



**This brochure was proposed by:
Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc.**

PHW is a non-profit preservation organization founded in 1964 to help protect Winchester's rich heritage.



PHW

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