

The Wharf

When the Virginia Central Railroad was built in 1854, Staunton transformed from a rural village into a booming center of commerce. By the turn of the century, warehouses were built around the train depot supplying everything from fresh produce to wagons and harnesses. The Wharf Area Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972.



1 Augusta Co. Courthouse • 1901
 Located on the corner of Johnson and Augusta Streets, this T.J. Collins-designed building is the fifth to occupy this site. In 1745, a crude log structure served as the first county courthouse.



2 20-124 S. Augusta St. • 1876
 This building's upper facade is made of pressed metal, a rarity in Staunton, a town better known for brick buildings. The structure was built directly over Lewis Creek, which still flows underneath.



3 119-123 S. Augusta St. • ca. 1880
 The pride Victorian builders took even in utilitarian structures is evident in this warehouse. Originally the wholesale grocery house of Hoge & Hutchinson, it was completely renovated in 1962.



4 125 S. Augusta St. • 1855
 When built by the railroad in the 1850s, The American Hotel was the last word in luxury. The Stonewall Brigade Band serenaded President and Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant from this site in 1874 when their train passed through.



5 Train Station • 1902
 The C&O Station is an unusual adaptation of the Bungalow style for a public building. This is the third railroad station on this site; the Virginia Central Line built the first in 1854.



6 Concourse & Bridge • ca. 1905
 The sweeping curve of the concourse provides an impressive approach for rail travelers. A cast-iron footbridge links Sears Hill to downtown. The bridge (rehabilitation completed in 2013) offers a fine view of the City.



7 112 S. New St. • ca. 1870
 According to the painted sign, Fulton Witz once manufactured "shirts, overalls and duck coats" in this building. Its 1973 renovation was the City's first mixed-use development project.



8 1 Mill St. • ca. 1892
 White Star Mills unusual trapezoidal shape distinguishes this major landmark. Once one of the Valley's largest flour mills, it closed in 1966. The tall, round grain storage bins date from the 1950s.



9 Wharf Warehouses • 1870-1910
 This district once bustled with the activity of farmers, wholesalers and grocers. Sturdy brick buildings clustered around the depot represent one of Virginia's finest collections of warehouse architecture.



10 109-111 S. Lewis St. • 1893
 Here, Dr. S.P. Hite made his patent remedies, including the famous "Hite's Pain Cure," which claimed to cure everything from headaches to gangrene. Note the painted signs, an early form of advertising.



11 118 W. Johnson St. • ca. 1854
 Thought to be the oldest unaltered house in the downtown, the simple vernacular dwelling has board and batten siding, with scalloped trim under the eaves. The original floor plan is still intact.



One of "The 20 Best Small Towns in America" — SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

Year	Event
1884	Stanton Military Academy founded
1881	T.J. Collins opened his architectural practice
1902	Stanton became an independent city
1908	City manager form of government pioneered in Staunton
1912	Homecoming celebration held for President-elect Woodrow Wilson
1924	Stonewall Jackson Hotel opened
1931	Final run of Staunton's streetcars
1941	President Franklin Roosevelt dedicated Woodrow Wilson
1961	Demolition of 32 downtown buildings (an "urban renewal" project)
1971	Historic Staunton Foundation formed to promote preservation over demolition
1988	Frontier Culture Museum opened
1998	Stanton Streetscape Improvement Project (downtown) utilizes relocated underground
2001	American Shakespeare Center opened
2005	Stonewall Jackson Hotel & Conference Center renovated and expanded
2007	Redevelopment underway on the Villages at Staunton site
2018	The Blackburn Inn opened

Staunton's Timeline

Also Of Interest

Fairview Cemetery
 In the years following the Civil War, a large community of free African-Americans began to grow up around Staunton. Excluded from burial in Staunton's Thornrose Cemetery, African-Americans from Mount Zion Baptist Church and Augusta Street Methodist Episcopal Church created Fairview in 1869. The six-acre grounds feature mature trees, tombstones distinctive to the 19th and 20th centuries, and a panoramic view.

Gypsy Hill Park
 Gypsy Hill Park began as the site of Staunton's water supply in the mid-1800's. Several springs were located in this area and water from the springs was dispensed to the city via the pumping plant nearby. In 1876, the city purchased 30 acres of land around the springs in order to protect the town's water supply. By 1890, the city had acquired approximately 90 acres and a proposal was made to City Council to establish a recreational park on the property. The grounds became known as Gypsy Hill Park (named for the wandering gypsies) who camped near the springs. Today, Gypsy Hill Park is a sprawling 214-acre multi-use recreational facility with Victorian-era buildings, including a bandstand for live music during the summer.

Montgomery Hall Park
 In 1808, John Howe Peyton, a graduate of Princeton University and a young lawyer, moved to Staunton in order to establish a legal practice. He built Montgomery Hall in the 1820's on several hundred acres southwest of Staunton. The estate was named for his wife, Ann Lewis Montgomery, the great-granddaughter of John Lewis, founder of Staunton. After Peyton's death the property changed hands many times. By the 1940's, Staunton's African-American community successfully lobbied for the City of Staunton to purchase the land to create a park for black residents. City Council minutes show that in June 1946, the city paid \$42,500 for 148 acres. The city immediately placed the operations of the park in the hands of the black community. From 1947 until the fall of 1969, when integration brought the park into the city's system, a black committee ran the park with minimal interference from the city. Montgomery Hall Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2018.

Sears Hill Bridge
 The Sears Hill Bridge dates from circa 1905 when the present train station, designed by architect T. J. Collins, was erected. The rare iron truss pedestrian bridge is a contributing structure in the Wharf Historic District and is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The bridge connects the Sears Hill neighborhood and park, located on the steep hill south of the tracks, to downtown Staunton, providing access for over 100 years to its residents. The bridge was removed for repair in 2010, and then reopened to the public in 2013.

Staunton Public Library
 Located in a refurbished early 20th century schoolhouse designed by T.J. Collins, the library contains extensive local history and genealogical research information.

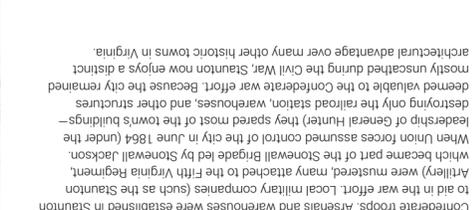
Thornrose Cemetery
 This magnificent burial ground features a stone bridge, gatehouses and many mausoleums designed by architect T.J. Collins. Established 1849.

visitstaunton.com
 540-332-3865

historicstaunton.org
 540-885-7676

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained within this brochure is accurate and up to date, the City of Staunton and HSF and its partners make no warranty, representation or undertaking whether expressed or implied, nor does it assume any legal liability, whether direct or indirect, or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information.

Historic Staunton Foundation
 VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS
 © 2019 Staunton Convention & Visitors Bureau. All rights reserved.



One of "The 20 Best Small Towns in America" — SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE

The Civil War Years

1854	Virginia Central Railroad completed, connecting Richmond to Staunton
1855	Woodrow Wilson was born on December 28 in Staunton
1864	General Hunter's Union troops entered Staunton, a Confederate supply depot
1865	African-American congregation established as first Blue Ridge Mountains
1866	The presence of the Virginia Central Railroad provided a vital link between the Shenandoah Valley (the "breadbasket" of the Confederacy) and eastern Virginia, making Staunton an important supply depot for the Confederacy.
1867	Confederate troops. Armies and warehouses were established in Staunton to aid in the war effort. Local military companies (such as the Staunton Artillery) were mustered, many attached to the 5th Virginia Regiment. When Union forces assumed control of the city in June 1864 (under the leadership of General Hunter) they spared most of the town's buildings — destroying only the railroad station, warehouses, and other structures deemed valuable to the Confederate war effort. Because the city remained mostly unscathed during the Civil War, Staunton now enjoys a distinct architectural advantage over many other historic towns in Virginia.

The Architectural Legacy of T.J. Collins

STAUNTON VIRGINIA

Self-Guided Architectural Walking Tour of Historic Staunton

One of the oldest cities west of the Blue Ridge Mountains

"An architectural gem in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley" — WASHINGTONIAN

06.16.2019

Newtown

Deeded to the city by Alexander St. Clair in 1787, this area was called Newtown to distinguish it from the original part known as Oldtown. Staunton's oldest residential area encompasses the grounds of Stuart Hall School, historic Trinity Episcopal Church, the landmark Stuart House, and the City's first black church. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983.



1 217 W. Beverley • ca. 1887
 Stonewall Jackson School was built as Staunton's first permanent public school and remodeled in 1913 by T.J. Collins. President-elect Woodrow Wilson stood here to watch a parade in his honor in 1912.



2 Trinity Episcopal • 1855
 The first Augusta Parish Church was built on this site in 1763. The present church is a fine example of early Gothic Revival architecture and boasts 12 Tiffany Studios stained-glass windows.



3 Trinity Parish House • 1872
 The Gothic Revival facade of Virginia's first parish house overlooks Trinity's churchyard with its many old gravestones. The rear addition to Trinity Parish House dates from 1924.



4 Trinity Rectory • 1872
 Designed by William A. Pratt, the Rectory is a rare local example of the Jacobean Revival style. Note clustered chimney pots, fine brickwork and studded oak door.



5 18 Church St. • ca. 1880
 A brace of lions stand guard at the entrance of this unusual residence. The Eastlake-style exterior decoration was popular in other parts of the country, but is rarely found in this area.



6 120 Church St. • 1791
 The Stuart House, one of Virginia's earliest Classical Revival buildings, was built by Judge Archibald Stuart; his son Alexander added the south wing in 1844. It remains occupied by Stuart descendants.



7 120 Church Street • ca. 1785
 This wooden cottage served as Stuart's dwelling until the main house was completed. Both Judge Stuart and his son used it as a law office.



8 101-105 Madison Place • ca. 1910
 These three townhouses in the Queen Anne style feature steep gables with Palladian windows, curved bays on the front and sides, fish scale shingles, classical trim, and columns on the porches.



9 600 W. Johnson St. • 1851
 This white brick Greek Revival house was sold in 1870 to the Wesleyan Female Institute. When the girls' school closed in 1900, the structure reverted to a single-family home.



10 610 W. Johnson St. • 1871
 In 1871, the Wesleyan Female Institute built this red brick house to accommodate its expanding needs. This house reverted to single-family use in the early 20th century.



11 23-27 S. Fayette St. • ca. 1909
 In densely populated neighborhoods like these, townhouses were popular. Constructed of concrete "stone" block, the townhouses boast individual porches and attractive trim.



12 19 S. Fayette St. • 1810
 The frame section of this house dates from circa 1810, while the brick section was added around 1835. The original porch was removed circa 1905 when T.J. Collins designed the arched entrance.



13 10-20 S. Fayette St. • Late 19th C.
 This block of late 19th-century houses illustrates the district's development and the progression of architectural styles including Italianate, vernacular Queen Anne and Dutch Colonial.



14 701-703 W. Beverley St. • 1929
 The right portion of the Smith-Thompson house, a log structure with clapboard siding, is one of Staunton's few remaining 18th-century structures. The left portion is an 1870-addition, constructed of brick with a stone foundation.



15 515 W. Frederick St. • ca. 1877
 This Italianate typifies many Staunton homes of the mid-1800s. Note the large double-door entrance, and lacy gingerbread trim.



16 401 W. Frederick St. • 1858
325 W. Frederick St. • 1886
 Now part of Stuart Hall, these two Victorians were single-family homes. Note the central tower at 325 and 401's Italianate details — arched windows, bracketed cornice and porch.



17 Stuart Hall School • 1846
 Stuart Hall's Greek Revival "Old Main" was designed by Edwin M. Taylor as the Virginia Female Institute. It was renamed in 1907 to honor headmistress Mrs. J.E.B. Stuart.



18 Emmanuel Episcopal • 1894
 The Gothic Revival Emmanuel Episcopal Church features handsome brickwork, pointed arched openings, beautiful woodwork, stained glass windows, and painted murals in the sanctuary.



19 216-234 W. Frederick St. 1890 - 1920
 This block of five brick homes exemplifies building styles popular from the late 19th century. Note the brickwork in chimneys and eaves, the elaborate woodwork and patterned slate roofs.

One of "America's Favorite Mountain Towns" — TRAVEL + LEISURE

Beverly



This compact urban area retains its 19th century charm and Main Street ambience. Although Staunton was founded in 1747 on land originally owned by William Beverly, most buildings date from the "boom" years between 1870 and 1920. Downtown Staunton, one of Virginia's finest collections of Victorian-era architecture, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Beverly Historic District in 1981.

The Temple House (Beverly #1) is located in the Gospel Hill District. Stuart Addition's #1, 3 & 4 and the Wharf's #1, 10 & 11 are actually located within the boundaries of the Beverly District. Alternative placement facilitates your walking ease.



1 The Temple House of Israel • 1925 The Temple House of Israel was built to replace the original temple at 200 Kalarama Street. Sam Collins designed the building in the Moorish Revival style. The firm of Charles Connick Associates (Boston) created the stained glass windows for the synagogue.



2 125 E. Beverly St. • 1912 Built as the New Theatre, it hosted live performances and silent films. In 1936, fire gutted the interior, but part of the original Renaissance Revival facade, with its terra cotta decoration, remains.



3 113 E. Beverly St. • ca. 1870 In 1878, the City purchased the Grange Hall, remodeling it for municipal offices and an opera house. The City Manager form of government was born here in 1908. Sam Collins designed this facade circa 1930.



4 19-21 E. Beverly St. • 1911 Designed in the Venetian Revival style, the delicate white facade is made of terra cotta panels shipped from New York at a cost of \$825 and applied to the brick wall beneath.



5 7 & 9-15 E. Beverly St. • 1899-1906 The Colonial Revival Witz Building dominates the block—note the globe atop the center. T.J. Collins's 1899 design for the Wholey Building was based on 14th century palazzos in Venice.



6 12-18 E. Beverly St. • 1888-1899 These three buildings, with their elaborate detailing, typify Staunton's late 19th-century commercial architecture. They were originally used as a confectionery, a marble cutter and a grocery.



7 2-4 E. Beverly St. • 1895 The Marquis Building housed the offices of architect T.J. Collins. This Romanesque Revival structure features an unusual corner entrance supported by stone columns with carved capitals.



8 12-14 W. Beverly St. • 1903 Established in 1865, National Valley Bank, Staunton's oldest banking institution, is housed in a fine example of the Beaux-Arts style. The interior features a magnificent oval stained-glass skylight.



9 7-13 W. Beverly St. • 1896 The Masonic Temple has dominated the Staunton skyline since its completion. Chicago architect I.E.A. Rose's design mixes classical and medieval elements. Note the terra-cotta emblem of the Masonic order on the central gable.



10 15-23 W. Beverly St. • ca. 1880 The Gooch & Hoge Building was built by two prominent Staunton families whose names it carries. This Italianate building boasts fine cornice detailing, such as the lions' heads in the corner brackets.



11 27-29 W. Beverly St. • 1890 The clock tower marks the center of town. Originally the YMCA, this building contained an auditorium, bowling alley, gym, running track and library. Note the tower's brickwork.



12 20-28 W. Beverly St. • 1890 The Crowle Building features a terra-cotta cornice and stone lintel above the entrance, with basket weave carving. The floor of 1896 washed away the entire rear portion of the building.



13 103 W. Beverly St. • 1894 This was the showroom of the Putnam Organ Works, begun here by W. Putnam of Vermont. The Romanesque Revival facade originally had a huge, arched-stone entrance.



14 Barristers Row • pre-1870 These structures were primarily used as law offices, but also housed cobblers, barbers, saloons and restaurants; enterprises that benefited from being close to the courthouse.



15 3-7 S. New St. • ca. 1830 One of Staunton's oldest commercial structures, this building has been home to a grocery, laundry, print shop, tailor, taxi garage and restaurant. Note the original stone on the sidewalks.



16 20-22 S. New St. • 1894 The Second-Empire-style Eakleton Hotel boasts a mansard roof, decorative brickwork and iron balconies. Recently restored, it now houses The R.R. Smith Center for History & Art, home to three local non-profit groups.



17 24 S. Market St. • 1924 The Stonewall Jackson Hotel, designed by H.L. Stevens & Co. of New York in the Colonial Revival style, originally cost \$750,000 when built. Atop Staunton's tallest building is another area landmark, the neon sign.

Stuart Addition



This diverse older neighborhood adjoins the campus of Mary Baldwin College and the former Staunton Military Academy. Rich in historical associations, it boasts numerous buildings listed in the National Register and some of the steepest hills in town. Deeded to the City in 1803 by Judge Archibald Stuart, Stuart Addition Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984.



1 First Presbyterian • 1872 Staunton's Presbyterian congregation was organized in 1804, but the first church was not built until 1818. Their second was this Romanesque Revival church with its tall spire, dedicated in 1872.



2 Mary Baldwin College • 1842 Reverend Rufus Bailey founded Augusta Female Seminary in 1842. Two years later, this Greek Revival structure was built to house the growing school. The Seminary was renamed in 1895 to honor principal Mary Julia Baldwin.



3 32 N. New St. • 1830s Early tax and deed research indicates that this lot contained a dwelling as early as 1809; however the Greek Revival house dates to the 1830s. The rambling house was enlarged in 1909 and again in the 1920s.



4 41 N. Augusta St. • 1914 Cyrus McCormick's estate donated \$50,000 to help build this fine Renaissance Revival structure. It originally served as the Staunton YMCA, and now houses private condominiums.



5 121-123 N. Augusta St. • pre-1870 This structure has long been important to the local Catholic community. It was built as the St. Francis Academy, then converted to a convent in 1880, and it continues to serve the church today.



6 St. Francis of Assisi • 1895 This imposing Gothic Revival church, designed in 1895 by T.J. Collins, replaced the original 1851 Catholic Church. Its walls are composed of stone from Pennsylvania, Indiana and Virginia.



7 215 N. Augusta St. • ca. 1800 In the days when Augusta Street was the busy Valley Turnpike, this house served as a stagecoach stop. Now covered with hand-hewn clapboards, it is one of Staunton's few remaining 18th century log houses.



8 Augusta St. Methodist • 1876 This congregation was formed in 1866, making it one of Staunton's earliest African-American churches. In 1911, the building was remodeled and the Gothic Revival facade added by T.J. Collins.



9 400-600 N. Augusta St. • 1790-1910 Important to Staunton's African-American community, these buildings include Ebenezer Baptist Church (1910); 503 N. Augusta (ca.1800), a hotel and Elks Lodge; and T.J. Collins' 1904 Mt. Zion Baptist Church.



10 11-23 Prospect St. • ca. 1900 Staunton's boomtown years created a need for more residential construction. These Victorian rowhouses feature bracketed cornices with sawtooth brickwork below and beautiful millwork.



11 322 N. New St. • ca. 1880 Local Congressman Henry St. George Tucker lived in this house. In 1897, he entertained U.S. Presidential candidate William Jennings Bryan, who became Woodrow Wilson's Secretary of State.



12 419 N. New St. • 1868 William Haines was born here January 1, 1900. A major film star in the 1920s, Haines appeared in over 50 films. He later became a leading interior designer for some of Hollywood's brightest stars.



13 119 Prospect St. • ca. 1875 Historian and lawyer Joseph A. Waddell built this Italianate residence. He wrote the Annals of Augusta County (1901) and co-authored the Atlas of Augusta County (1885) with Jed Hotchkiss.



14 Kable House • 1873 This elaborate Italianate house was built by J.W. Alby. Ten years later, it was purchased by Capt. William H. Kable as the first building for his boys' school, which later became the Staunton Military Academy.



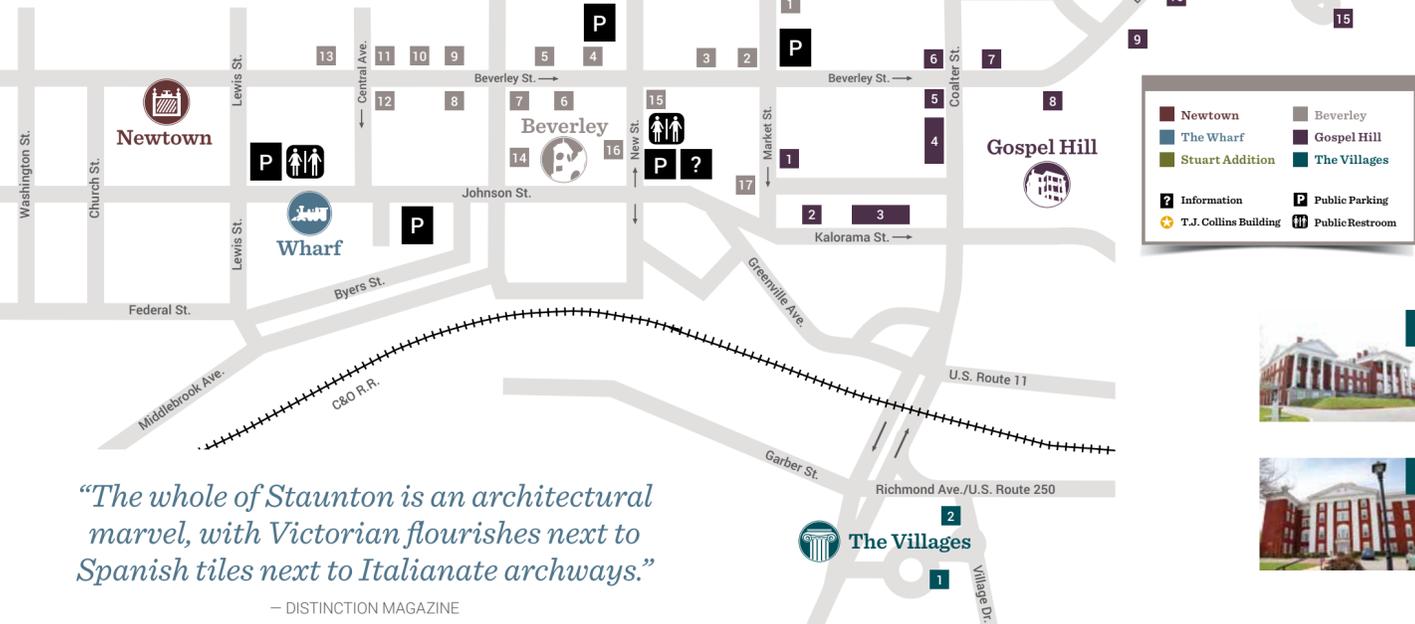
15 200 N. Market St. • 1928 Designed by Sam Collins, Shenstone features a steeply pitched gabled portico with diamond pattern in brick and concrete, turned Corinthian columns, and embossed tiles.



16 220 N. New St. • 1910 Designed by T.J. Collins in the Colonial Revival style, it features blocked cornice, dormers with arched windows, Chippendale balcony, and an elaborate front door with leaded fanlight.



17 210 N. New St. • 1900 T.J. Collins designed the area's best example of Chateausque-style for C.W. Miller. Note the profuse decoration—frieals, iron cresting on patterned slate roof and elaborate brickwork.



"The whole of Staunton is an architectural marvel, with Victorian flourishes next to Spanish tiles next to Italianate archways."

Gospel Hill



The corner of Beverly and Coaler Streets was called Gospel Hill in the late 1790s when religious meetings were held here at Sampson Eagon's blacksmith shop. Today, the intersection marks the heart of this gracious neighborhood of shady streets and elegant homes that represent a century of domestic architectural styles. The district was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.



1 19 S. Market St. • ca. 1810 Named Kalarama—Greek for beautiful view—this house stands on the site of William Beverly's manor house. Since the 1830s it has been used as a girls' school, a hotel, and the public library.



2 215 Kalarama St. • 1891 The stone front was designed by T.J. Collins for City Treasurer Arista Hoge. Note the date and initials A.H. carved into the facade. It is Staunton's only Richardsonian Romanesque residence.



3 200 Block Kalarama St. • 1870-1910 This late 19th century neighborhood of large homes boasts styles ranging from Italianate to Colonial Revival. T.J. Collins designed 227 Kalarama St. in 1898 using Jacobean details.



4 10-22 S. Coaler St. • Late 19th C. This block illustrates adaptations of Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, and Shingle styles. Limestone walls and steps are prominent features of Staunton streetscapes.



5 238 E. Beverly St. • ca. 1840 Legend has it, in the early 1800s, Sampson Eagon, a founder of Staunton's Methodist Church, held revival services on this site—hence the name Gospel Hill. T.J. Collins remodeled this building in 1915.



6 18 N. Coaler St. • ca. 1870 T.J. Collins's 1898 remodeling of the original house included a wrap-around porch, now removed. Chateausque-style features include classical detailing, decorated chimneys and irregular roofline.



7 305 E. Beverly St. • 1912 Sam Collins designed this elegant Georgian Revival residence for the L.W.H. Peyton family. A handsome frontispiece entrance with fanlight and fluted columns dominates the symmetrical facade.



8 324 E. Beverly St. • 1848 Owners of this house included Stonewall Jackson's engineer, the founder of Staunton's oldest bank, and Virginia Supreme Court justice Henry Holt. It now incorporates the original detached kitchen, on the right.



9 402 E. Beverly St. • ca. 1908 The symmetrical design and exaggerated proportions of this house typify early 20th-century Colonial Revival—a free interpretation of the style with details inspired by Colonial precedents.



10 422 E. Beverly St. • 1861 This graceful house is a fine example of the transition between the Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Typical of the latter are the bracketed eaves and narrow, paired windows.



11 437 E. Beverly St. • 1888 Jed Hotchkiss, aide and mapmaker to Generals Lee and Jackson, built this addition onto the front of a circa-1840 house, and named it The Oaks. Hotchkiss's campaign maps are in the Library of Congress.



12 521 E. Beverly St. • 1851 With its steep gables, scrolled bargeboards, and diamond-paned windows, this Gothic-Revival-style cottage was built for the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind's administrator Dr. J.C.M. Merrillat.



13 605 E. Beverly St. • 1893 A fine example of Queen Anne architecture, Oakdene was built by Edward Echols, Virginia's Lt. Governor (1898-1902). It employs every imaginable building material. Note the owl atop the turret.



14 654 E. Beverly St. • 1869 Edmund Cabell, who was described prior to the Civil War as a "freeman of colour", built this two-room log home. The original roof was wood shake but has been replaced with tin. Interestingly, this is the only remaining exposed log structure in Staunton.



15 Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind (VSDB) • 1839-1846 Baltimore architect Robert Cary Long designed the VSDB. The magnificent Greek Revival main building, with its massive columned portico, was completed in 1846.



16 Berkeley Place • 1880s-1890s This street features late Victorian homes in the Queen Anne, Stick Style, and Colonial Revival style. Although smaller than some of Gospel Hill's residences, they are rich in ornamentation and design.



17 303 Berkeley Place • ca. 1896 Characteristic of the late 19th century Shingle Style, this house has a stone foundation, decorative shingles and strong horizontal lines. It was built by the Catlett family.



18 Woodrow Wilson Birthplace • 1846 This twelve-room, Greek-Revival-style house was built by the First Presbyterian Church as their manse or minister's home. Woodrow Wilson was born here on December 28, 1856.

"Top 10 Idyllic and Historic Main Streets Across the USA"

— USA TODAY

The Villages



Western State Hospital Complex

The five antebellum structures at Western State are recognized as one of the best-preserved and original assemblages of early institutional architecture in the United States. First known as Western Lunatic Asylum, this institution was founded in 1825 to serve Virginia's western region.

Architect Thomas Blackburn, master builder William B. Phillips, masons, and carpenters executed finely detailed work on this campus. They also worked on the early construction (1817-1826) of the University of Virginia, designed by Thomas Jefferson in nearby Charlottesville. The original architectural fabric of the campus remains remarkably unaltered. Architectural elements such as roof top railings, masonry techniques, door and window surrounds, interior archways, stairs, and specific molding details clearly indicate the involvement of fine craftsmen deeply influenced by their work with Jefferson. The buildings are a testament to Virginia's early effort to provide enlightened care to the mentally ill. Surrounding the building is a landscape of healing, where patients enjoyed the therapeutic pleasure of fresh air in a lush, verdant setting. Of note is the decorative wrought iron enclosure with pineapple finials.

The hospital relocated in the 1970s. The complex was then converted into a state prison, which closed in the 1990s. Today, the 80-acre campus is undergoing re-development into a mix of uses.



1 The Blackburn Inn • 1828 The central portion of the main building was originally designed by Baltimore architect William F. Small, Jr. The structure was significantly expanded in 1833 by architect/builder Thomas Blackburn (the namesake of the inn) with the addition of new end wings and again in 1847 with Greek Revival porticos. After a comprehensive rehabilitation, the building opened for guests in 2018 as a boutique-luxury hotel.



2 170 Village Drive • 1838 Known as The Bindery, this neoclassical building is one of the largest in the complex. The imposing façade includes four-story Doric pilasters, Doric pediment, and an octagonal cupola. The building now houses private condominiums. The building's name refers to a period in the building's history when inmates in the state prison here learned the trade of binding books.