



Moorefield Walking Tour: North Main Street

An act of the Virginia General Assembly chartered the Town of Moorefield in October, 1777 in response to a petition from citizens of what was then Hampshire County. It was the fourth oldest town in what is now West Virginia.

"...that sixty-two acres of land belonging to the said Conrad Moore, in the most convenient place for a town be...laid out into lots of half an acre each, with convenient streets, which shall be and the same is hereby established a town by the name of Moorefield"

Begin at the stoplight at Winchester and Main and head north on the east side of Main Street.

1. The stately home of Samuel Alexander McMechen (109 North Main St) was built in 1853 in the Federal style with Greek revival features. It probably was the finest brick home in Moorefield, and during the Civil War it was used as headquarters by officers of both the North and the South. Mr. McMechen was a merchant and the retail space on the southern side of the building was his store. After the turn of the 20th century it was operated by the Kuhn brothers, George and Dave. It later became a dress shop and an antique shop. The McMechen House has been a private residence, an apartment building known as the McCoy Apartments, a bed and breakfast and is currently under renovations.

2. McCoy's Grand Theatre (121 North Main St) was built in 1927 by James Curtis McCoy and his wife, Eunice Dasher McCoy. The first movie was shown on February 16, 1928. Sound was introduced in 1933. After Mr. McCoy's death in the 1940s, Mrs. McCoy continued to operate the Theatre until her death in 1982. She left the building and many of her lovely antiques to the community. The theatre was renovated in the late 1980s and is used for various performances. The acoustics are considered some of the best in the region for a small theatre. The museum is open for special showings. Moorefield's second public lending library was in the second floor front room.

3. The Turley Hotel (127 -129 North Main St) was located in this building, constructed about 1847. It was later called the South Branch Hotel and then the Hollomore Hotel. It presently houses apartments.

4. The Bowen House (137 North Main St) and Duffey's Tavern and Exchange Hotel, currently office and retail space, were all one building prior to 1885. The tavern was built in 1801. Dr. William Bowen purchased the southern end of the hotel/tavern and an alley was cut through what was then the bar room making two structures. Dr. Bowen's drug store was actually on the site of Hardman's Hardware. He made changes to the tavern building and his family lived there.

5. The Fraley Funeral Home (145 North Main St) was for many years the White House Restaurant. A new façade and porches were added around 1960 when it was converted to a funeral home.

6. The former Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge (northeast corner of Main and Washington Sts.) was the site of Dr. R. E. L. Hackney's Drug Store which was built in 1910. A dental office was housed on the second floor. Later the second floor was used as a dance studio. Dr. Hackney's Drug Store was torn down in 1948 to make room for the present building which was converted to apartments in 2009.

7. The Wratchford Home (207 North Main St) was built by Tom Bergdoll between 1910 and 1915.

8. The Harrison Home (211) North Main St) was also built by Tom Bergdoll during the same time period.

9. Welton House (219 North Main St). This apartment house was built prior to 1915 as a hospital. It was never used as



one, but always as a multiple dwelling place.

10. Across Main Street on the northwest corner of Kuykendall Lane and Main Street is the home built by James William Kuykendall in the mid 1800s. It remained in the family until 1961. Since then the home has been renovated

and repurposed to house retail/professional space and apartments.

11. The Love House (224 North Main St) was built in 1906 for Dr. R. W. Love by T. W. Lakin. The contract between Lakin and Dr. Love states "all rooms, hallways, presses, etc. . . . in said house are to have two regular coats of plaster and a scum coat in addition." Dr. Love was to select the colors of paint used on the outside of the house and the wall paper for each room inside. The small building in the corner of the front yard was Dr. Love's office.

12. Rosedale (220 North Main St) was built circa 1845 by George Harness as a wedding gift for his daughter, Ann Rebecca, who married James Kuykendall.

13. George Harness's other daughter, Mary Katherine, fell in love and married John Francis Williams. Harness did not approve of this match. It was after Mr. Harness' death that his widow built this home (208 North Main St) as a wedding present for her daughter and son-in-law. This house was the Parsonage for Duffey Memorial Methodist Church for many years.

14. James R. Heiskell bought the corner lot (204 North Main St) in 1876 and built the lovely frame house. His daughter, Sallie Heiskell Chambers, sold the house to Emma McMechen Cunningham, daughter of S. A. McMechen, in 1919. Her heirs sold the house to S. L. Dodd in 1930. Dodd was the Agricultural Extension Agent for Hardy County.

15. The Harwood House (144 North Main St) is built around one of Moorefield's early homes. Research on the deed shows that it became the Maupin home in 1860. E. O. Harwood, Jr. married Olive M. Maupin in 1893. Their son, Mask M. Harwood Sr. died at an early age and the property passed on to his children. Olive Maupin Harwood was a school teacher and helped start a lending library in a first floor corner room in conjunction with the Women's Club. That has evolved into the Hardy County Public Library.

16. Now housing office/professional space, (140 North Main St) M. A. Bean started a livery stable at this site in 1908. He began selling Fords in 1913 and in 1917 got the franchise for Gulf products for the area, operating a Gulf Gas Station for many years.

17. The Beatty House (136 North Main St) was built in 1860 by Elijah Cunningham. The two story frame Queen Ann style has multiple gables. Note the brick work in the chimneys, tall and thin with extensive corbelling. The building is encased around a mid-19th century log house.

18. Dating to approximately 1880 (130 North Main St), this building has housed many retail establishments over the years.

19. The Slyler home (122 North Main St) is a frame structure circa 1880. It was later remodeled with a brick front and housed a number of businesses over the years including Bishoff's Studio, a photography studio and flower shop.

20. In 1880 the building at 118 North Main Street was a home with a bay window onto Main Street. It was later renovated and has housed a drug store, the first Hawse grocery store and a Western Auto Store in addition to the current tenant.

21. The McWhorter Building (114-116 North Main St) was built for the US Post Office and the Hardy County Bank (founded in 1909 and closed in 1931). This is a 3½ story, seven bay brick Renaissance Revival-style building. After the bank closed, the state liquor store was housed there. The building was owned by Boyd J. McWhorter who obtained Miss Mamie Alexander's glass negatives and photos and preserved them for future generation. Miss Alexander was a famed local photographer, her studio was at 113 Winchester Avenue, and was torn down in 1953 to make way for what was then the new Hardy County Public Library building.

22. The Coffman Fisher Building (110 North Main St) was the home of the AM & FM Masonic Order until a new lodge was built in the late 20th century. In 1912 the Wilson Store was located on the street level. From the 1930s until it went out of business in the 1970s the Coffman Fisher Company, a retail department store, was located in the building. The building is currently apartments over the Judy & Judy Law Offices.

Hardy County Tour and Crafts Association
Organizers of Heritage Weekend events.

www.heritageweekend.com