



Moorefield Walking Tour: South 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 Hardy County Public Library at Winchester Avenue and Main Street and head south on the west side of Main Street.

1. The tour begins at the Hardy County Public Library (102 North Main St) at the corner of Winchester Avenue and Main Street. The current Library building was built on the site of the Taylor Building. The Taylor Building was built in 1857 and torn down for a modern grocery store in the 1970s. That building was significantly altered when it became the home of the Library in 1978. Moorefield has had a public library since 1925 when the Women's Club started a lending library in the Harwood Home on North Main Street. Later it moved to the second floor of McCoy's Grand Theatre and then in 1953 the Library moved to 113 Winchester Avenue.

2. Heading south from the Library on Main Street at the southwest corner of Main and Winchester, is the former Mullin Hotel, built in 1847. The hotel's guest register shows both Lee's and Grant's signatures although there is some question about the authenticity of them. The Mullin Hotel later became the McNeill Hotel, operated by Mr. A. C. McNeill and later by Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Harrison. A restaurant on the ground floor featured "Red" Harrison's famous hamburgers. In 1967, Hester Industries converted the old hotel into an office building. The building is currently owned by Pilgrim's Pride, A major poultry processing operation.

3. In the next building (116-118 South Main St.) the storefronts were built on to the front of second oldest remaining court house in West Virginia. From the side you can still see the outer walls of the original structure which

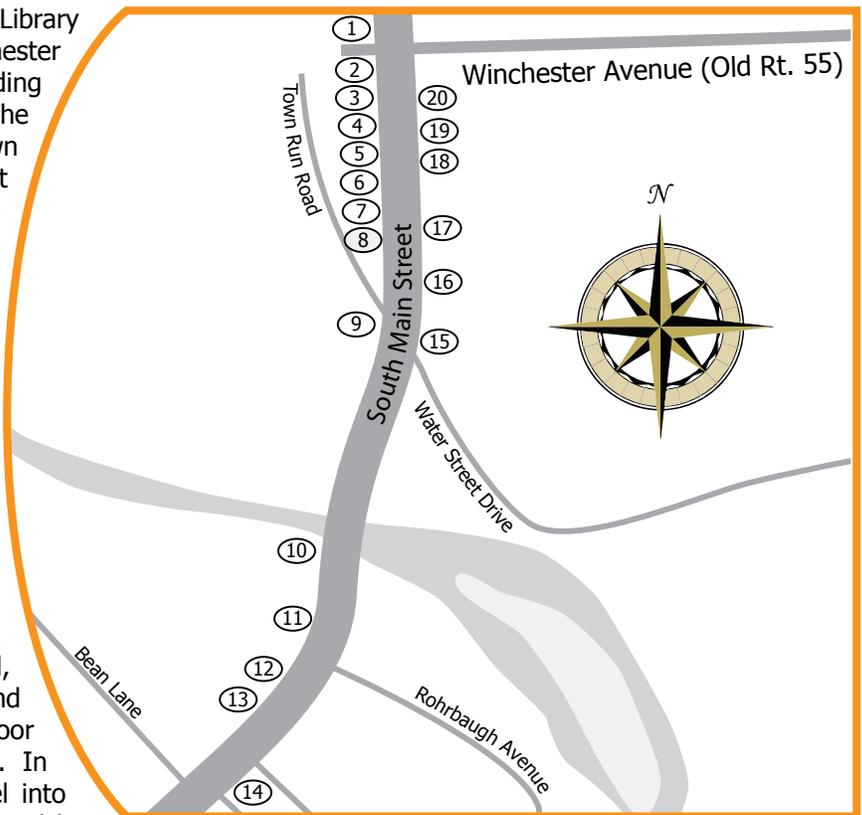
was used as the Hardy County Court House from 1860 until 1913. The original portion and the second floor are apartments while the front portion contains retail space. Over the years, it has housed Mack Baer's Clothing, the H-P Store, Bond's Jewelry, Grafton's Pharmacy, Allen's Drug Store, Chipley's Drug Store, Lang's Pharmacy, Judy's Drug Store, Gifts 'N Things, House of Flowers and others.

4. The P. T. Shearer and Thomas Maslin store operated in this building (122 South Main St.) beginning in 1880. In 1919, Arno Friddle purchased the stock and fixtures from Hackney's Drug Store (then located on the northeast corner of Main and Washington) and opened Friddle's Pharmacy. He operated the drug store until 1964. The building has since housed real estate offices, the Community Action Agency, and is now occupied by Fox's Pizza.

5. The Philip T. Shearer House (124 South Main St.) was built sometime before 1840. At one time it was used by Judge J. W. F. Allen, one of the dedicated partisans of Southern independence. The home was later owned by Mrs. Janie Gilkeson, then Mrs. A.C. McNeill.

6. The frame McNeil house (128 South Main St.) with weather-boarded log construction dates to the 1780s and was built in two sections: one a residence with a detached kitchen, and the other a harness shop. It is one of the four remaining original houses in town.

7. The Moorefield Examiner building (132 South Main St.)



was purchased by Samuel Alexander McCoy in 1902 when he bought the Weekly Examiner from Capt. Chipley. Newspapers were published in Moorefield as early as 1845. S. A. McCoy added an office to the building which once housed an oyster bar. Mr. McCoy's daughter, Catherine McCoy Fisher, and now

his granddaughter, Phoebe Fisher Heishman, continued the publication of the Examiner, which has the distinction of being the oldest continuously family-run business in Hardy County.

8. The arts and craft style building next to the Examiner Building is owned by the paper's publishers, Mr. And Mrs. David O. Heishman. It was built in 1913 by S. A. McCoy. (136 South Main St.).

9. Crossing Town Run Road, you are on what used to be called The Island, so-called because what is now Town Run Rd was a creek connecting with the South Fork River effectively creating an island. The stately brick house at 202 South Main Street was built in the 1870s by George Eberly. The flood of 1877 surrounded the site before Mr. Eberly completed the house and could move in. He would not live in a house that was in a flood plain, so he sold it to Mathias "Thice" and Emily Fisher Henkel. It was later owned by H. M. Henkel before coming in to the Fisher family. Note the finely-carved cornices above the windows and the small widow's walk.

10. Continuing past the poultry processing plants and crossing the South Fork River Bridge, the M. A. Bean home is next to the bridge. It was built well before 1900.

11. The next four homes are Sears and Roebuck "kit" houses (310-316 South Main Street), built by M. A. Bean about 1912. These were America's first pre-cut, packaged homes and were advertised in the Sears catalogs.

12. The E. O. Harwood House (330 South Main St.) is a frame cottage-style home built in the 1870s. The next house (to the south) was built for a Harwood daughter about the same time.

13. The Riggelman House (336 South Main St.) was built before 1900 and is a typical Victorian cottage. It is now a real estate office.

14. Across Main Street, is a lovely home called Arlington Manor (339 South Main St.). Built in 1850, it contains a beautiful double staircase and had quarters for slaves in a rear addition.

15. Turning back north on Main Street and re-crossing the bridge, to the east behind the triangle park is a bungalow (135 Town Run Rd) built by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Leatherman. It was also a Sears House.

16. The Gamble-Maslin House (131 South Main St.) was built in 1848 by Thomas Maslin, member of the county court and a community leader. Maslin hired a builder from Baltimore and insisted on the finest materials for his home. Note the doorway, pillared porch and the lovely proportions of the house. Maslin was head of the county court when it was forced into hiding during Northern occupation of the town during the Civil War. Though disenfranchised immediately, he was again active in state and local politics when that limitation was lifted.

17. Robert A. Wilson built this fine example of the elaborate Queen Anne style in 1910 (125 South Main St.). It is of frame construction with multiple gables, heavily turned porch posts and decorated barge boards and finials. The cast iron fence is original and the building in the rear matches the house.

Recent owners researched "painted ladies" and chose the four color combination.

18. The Old Stone Tavern (117 South Main St.), is one of the oldest structures in Moorefield, the stone section built in 1788 with additions over the years including the Victorian section on the south side. It was once the residence of Conrad Moore for whom the Town of Moorefield was named and is the only stone home in Moorefield.

19. The Moorefield Presbyterian Church was built in 1847. Two sections have been added to the church since then. During the Civil War it was used as a hospital by both Union and Confederate troops. Union soldiers also stabled their horses in the sanctuary. Fifty years later, the United States government paid the church for the damage.

20. The South Branch Valley National Bank built the building at the southeast corner of Main and Winchester in 1909. It is the last known structure in Moorefield with a cast iron facade. Before renovations in the 1970s the ceiling was decorative tin and the floor was laid with decorative ceramic tiles.

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

www.heritageweekend.com