



Moorefield Walking Tour: Winchester Avenue

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 east on the south side of Winchester Avenue.

Alexander's Store stood at the southeastern corner for many years. Later, it housed a number of retail businesses and was finally torn down for parking by the South Branch Valley National Bank. The historical sign on the corner was erected originally by the WPA and the State. It was restored by Hester Industries and was originally the only cast iron sign to have the State Seal detailed in color. The clock, benches, brick trimmed sidewalks, cast iron streetlights and trash receptacles were part of a revitalization project following the disastrous flood of November 1985.

1. The W.F. Wilson house (105 Winchester) was built in the early 1920s by W.F. Wilson. It remained in the Wilson Family until 1994.

2. The Stewart Law Offices (113 Winchester) are in the first Hardy County Public Library building, erected in 1952. The Hardy County Senior Center was located here before the law office. The site is where Miss Mamie Alexander had her candy store and photography studio. Miss Mamie recorded many local scenes and people of Moorefield for posterity using a box camera and glass negatives.

3. The Alexander Home at the corner of Winchester and South Elm, dates to the late 18th Century. The older section is on the south side of the home. The newer section was built in 1841 by Samuel Alexander. Note the stone foundation and early brick work.

4. Crossing Elm Street (originally called Franklin Street) you will come to the Old Court House Apartments (203-205 Winchester). This building was the second Courthouse in Hardy County, built 1793. Notice the original entrances and

arches which were bricked over when it was converted to other uses. The Jail, a separate structure, stood on the south side of the Courthouse and was later used as a residence until it was torn down in the 1960s. Mr. and Mrs. C.B. Allen renovated the building in the 1970s.

5. The Bergdoll home (211 Winchester) was built in 1909 by Mr. Tom Bergdoll. His daughter, Miss Ella Bergdoll, was born in the home and resided there for many years.

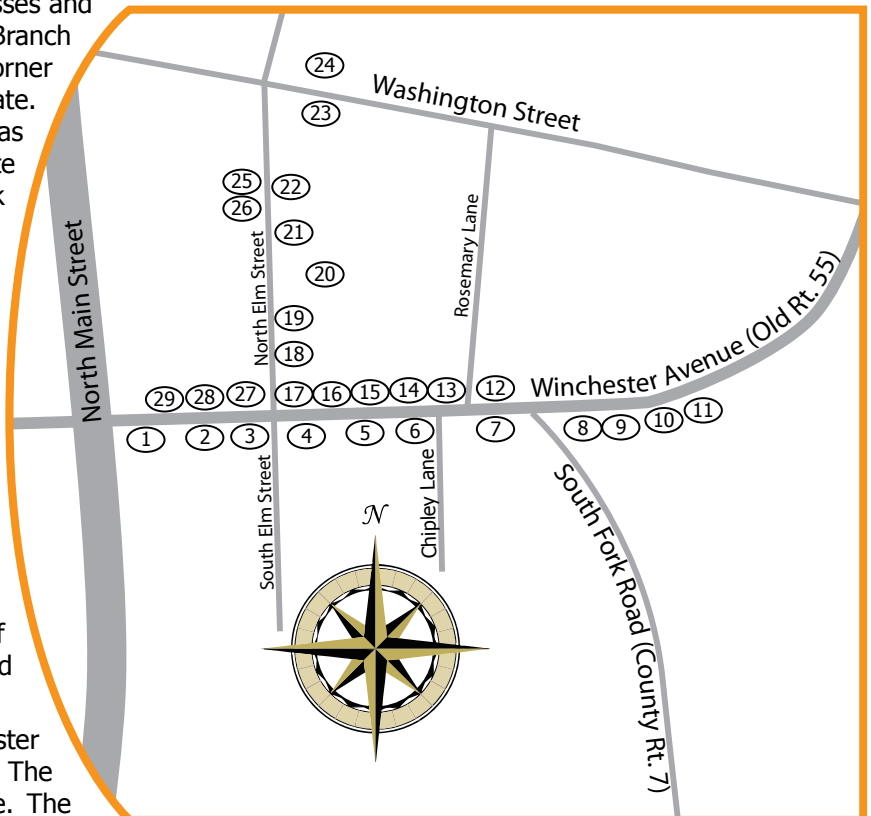
6. The Elmore Funeral Home (217 Winchester) was built in 1905 by Capt. Ed Chipley in the Queen Anne style. It was remodeled into a funeral home in 1969 by Mr. and Mrs. G. K. Chambers.

7. The brick home (307 Winchester), Sunnyside, was built by B. W. Chrisman in 1910. His daughter, Miss Patty, lived there until her death. In the 1980s, it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Hawse III who restored this lovely brick home. The woodwork was made by Tom Bergdoll.

8. Across South Fork Road is the Emmanuel Episcopal Church. This is a prime example of late Gothic Revival. Note the stained glass and etched windows. The doors continue the look of the Gothic arch.

9. Next to the Episcopal Church at 311 Winchester is a Queen Anne style home built in 1910 for the superintendent of the Union Tanning Company.

10. The W. E. Woy house (313 Winchester), also in the Queen Anne style, was purchased in 1957 by the Brethren



Church for use as a chapel and parsonage. It was the first Brethren Church in Moorefield. The chapel addition at the rear was built in 1958.

11. The Chipley Homeplace (317 Winchester) was built in by John J. Chipley when he returned from the Civil War and

was completed in 1868. The present day porch was added in 1930.

12. Crossing Winchester Ave and heading west back toward Main Street, is the Dr. Levi Hockman home (304 Winchester). Built by T. W. Lakin in 1870, it was built on one of the best fishing ponds in the area. In the 1930s the house was damaged by fire. A former porch on the west was enclosed to enlarge the dining room after the fire. This home is designed in the Gothic Revival style. The gingerbread had been removed to "modernize" the home and the current owners used early photographs to replace it as closely as possible.

13. The former home of Homer Carr (220 Winchester), a lawyer in Moorefield, has the original cast iron fence that was brought in by railroad. Mr. Carr was one of the owners of a resort located in the area of what is now Lost River State Park in eastern Hardy County.

14. The brick home and two wooden-sided homes (214, 216, and 218 Winchester) were built by and for Dr. J. M. Harman just prior to World War II. All three homes have the same floor plan.

15. The Lobb House was built in 1842 by the Lobb family (212 Winchester). During the Civil War, residents were cautioned not to hide in their basements during skirmishes. The theory was that if a house were hit and it burned, the family would be trapped inside. On one such occasion, the Lobb children were sent to the attic for safety and to play during the battle. A Confederate mortar shell struck the east gable of the house and landed in the attic where the children were playing. Luckily, the shell was a dud and no one was hurt.

16. Inskeep Hall was built in 1907 with money bequeathed by Mrs. Scotia Inskeep Chenoweth. It was used for community gatherings, talent shows and minstrels. At one time, the local fire company used the ground level for its trucks. The offices of the town of Moorefield have been in the building for over 50 years.

17. The Higgins House was built by Lt. Robert Higgins who served in the Revolutionary Army. Higgins built the 20 x 18 house as required by his deed and added the stone chimney. The building is log, covered with German siding to protect the logs from deteriorating. George Harness purchased the home in 1793. Harness was the first to be buried in Olivet Cemetery in 1816.

18. Turning north on Elm Street, the lovely white wood siding home (107 North Elm) was owned by Samuel A. McMechen in the mid-1800s. His daughter Kate McMechen McCoy moved into the home when she became a widow with two young sons. Kate's son, J. C. McCoy and his wife lived there in later years. The gardens were an extension of the lovely McMechen House gardens across the street. There is a summer kitchen beside the house and a gas street light used in Moorefield is in the side yard.

19. This lovely home (111 North Elm) was built in 1914 as a wedding gift from Robert Wilson Sr. to his son, Robert Jr. and his wife Pauline Williams Wilson. Before the house could be built, graves from the Union Church Cemetery had to be

moved to Olivet Cemetery.

20. Set back from the street, this house (113 South Elm) served as Moorefield's first fire house in 1930s and 40s.

21. The home at 117 North Elm was built in the late 1920s, and was the home of W. E. Rinker and family. It was built on the site of the Union Church.

22. The Seldon House (121 North Elm) was built by T. W. Lakin for Dr. Levi Hockman who designed it just before the turn of the 20th century. It is in the Queen Anne style.

23. The Presbyterian Manse (123 North Elm) was built in 1845. It was the home of the minister of the Moorefield Presbyterian Church for many years.

24. The present Hardy County Courthouse was built in 1913 and added onto in 1977. According to legend, it was built facing South in the tradition of court houses in the South after the Civil War. It is the third courthouse still standing.

25. Crossing Elm Street and heading South, this lovely two story home (116 North Elm) was built by T. W. Lakin for his family. While the Lakins lived in the house, there was only one finished room. It was never plumbed for water, nor was the outside painted. Lakin's spinster daughter, Lottie, lived here until her death in the early 1980s. The house was sold at auction and new owners finished the construction.

26. The Captain James Parsons House (114 North Elm) is thought to be one of the oldest homes in Moorefield. Capt. Parsons was a Revolutionary War officer. The home is a double log house with a brick chimney at the end of the original house.

27. The Duffey Memorial Methodist Church was built in 1919. The original church was built in 1850 on land given by the Harness and VanMeter families.

28. Turning West on Winchester, next to the Methodist Church was the site of the Berry General Store (108 Winchester) in the 1880s. Later it was a vacant lot where David Crites would set up his carnival in the 1930s. The house is now owned by Duffey Memorial Methodist Church. The small attached building was the office of dentist Dr. Hansel Snider.

29. The Angus M. Inskeep House (106 Winchester) was built circa 1890 in the Queen Anne style. It was built by Angus M. and Eliza Groves Inskeep as their winter home. It was the first house in Moorefield to have a central heating system. The house originally featured wrap-around porches and gingerbread trim. It was remodeled into its present style by the late John and Elizabeth Coffman.

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

www.heritageweekend.com