

PUBLIC SQUARE

- Jefferson County Courthouse [NAT REG]**
 100 East Washington Street
http://jeffersoncountyclerkswv.com/court_house.html

Still a working courthouse, the first county courthouse was built on this site in 1803. It was replaced by a larger building in 1837. In October 1859 the courtroom was the setting for the trials of John Brown and six of his men. Severe damage during the Civil War caused the country to be temporarily removed to Sheperdstown from 1865-1871. In 1872 the county seat returned to Charles Town and the courtroom was rebuilt. An annex added in 1910 provided office spaces for the judge and circuit clerks, and meeting rooms for jurors. In 1922 William Bizzard and miners from Logan County. The trials of John Brown and Bizzard are two of the only three treason trials held in the United States prior to World War II.


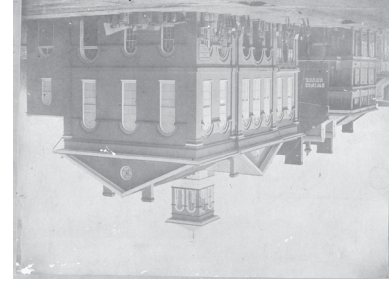
Jefferson County Court House c. 1875

Town Hall - City of Charles Town [CTU]
 101 East Washington Street
<http://www.charlestownwv.us/>

Originally the site of the county clerk's office, this corner became known as "Lawyer's Row" named for the office buildings occupied by local attorneys. In 1906 the Farmers and Merchants Deposit Company purchased the site and built the present building. The Bank of Charles Town purchased the building in 1938 and operated here until they moved to their current site in 1966. The building is currently the Town Hall for the City of Charles Town.

"Hunter's Lawyers Row c. 1906"

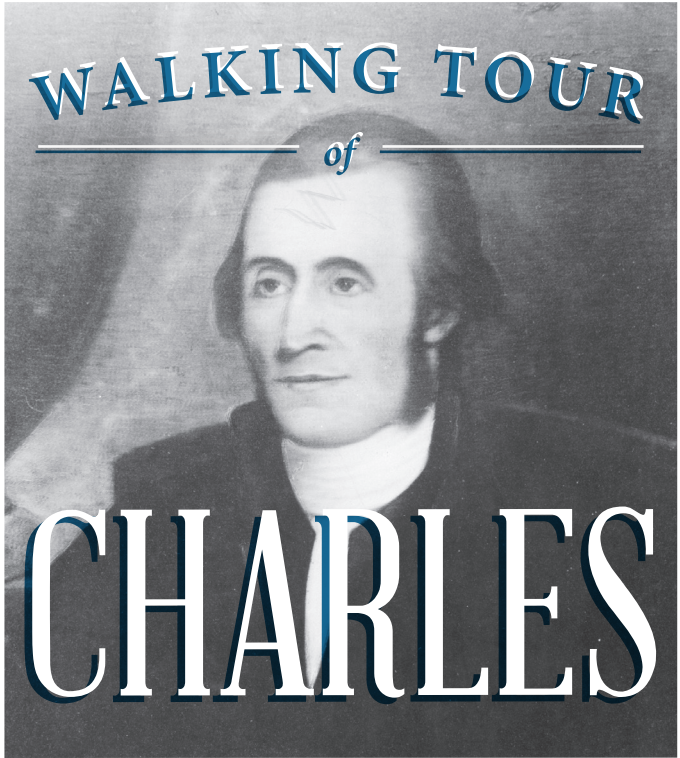
EAST WASHINGTON STREET

- United States Post Office (Jefferson County Jail)
- 101 West Washington Street
- 
- location of the Jefferson County Jail which was built in 1806. In 1859, John Brown and six of his men were incarcerated there during their trials. Each man was handcuffed to a wall which was taken from the jail during the Civil War. During the Civil War the jail was destroyed. It was rebuilt on the site in 1873 and continued in operation until a new jail was built one block north on George Street in 1919. The United States Post Office purchased the lot, demolished the jail, and built this building in 1922.
- Jefferson County Jail c. 1910s
- 100 West Washington Hall [C7L]
- 100 West Washington Street
- 
- In 1806 a market house was built here. The building was burned by Union soldiers as they retreated through Charles Town in May 1862. The present building was built in 1874 and named in honor of the town's founder. Over the years a number of businesses operated on the first floor including several general stores, the United States Post Office, and first the Central and then the New Central Restaurant. The second floor was an auditorium with seating for several hundred. When the New Opera House opened, the auditorium closed and was re-configured for office spaces. Currently, the first floor is home to Bushell & Peck grocery store, Charles Town Visitors Center, and Ortega's Taco Shop.
- Charles Washington Hall 1875
- Hunter House
- 124 East Washington Street
- This Federal-style building was constructed c. 1840 and was the residence of Andrew Hunter prior to the construction of this home Hunter's Hill. Hunter was the chief prosecutor in the trial of John Brown. The turret on the west end was added in the late 19th century.

- 11 Tate House**
201 East Washington Street
The house was built c. 1800 on a lot owned by Magnus Tate, II. In 1804 the house was rented to Ferdinand Fairfax, descendant of Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax. When Tate died in 1808 his daughter Margaret Mager lived here. She sold the house in 1829, and it has had many owners currently headquartered for the Jefferson County Chamber of Commerce.
- 12 Zion Episcopal Parish Office (Mason - Gibson House)**
221 East Washington Street
This was the home of Dr. Gerard F. Mason. In October 1859, Dr. Mason was asked to tend to John Brown's wounds. Dr. Mason determined that Brown was physically capable of standing trial. During the Civil War Dr. Mason's house was one of a number burned to the ground. The present house was built by his daughter Mary who married Braxton Davenport Gibson.
- 13 Neill House**
302 East Washington Street
Local builder Julius C. Holmes built this house in 1883 for Dr. William Neill and his family. In 1892 Dr. Neill was elected president of the Electric Light Company. When Charles Town Hospital was organized in 1912, Dr. Neill served on the board of management. During World War I he served on the draft board.
- 14 Geizendanner House**
307 East Washington Street
C. 1900 Henry Clay Geizendanner purchased this house from the widow of William Lynn Wilson. In the Spanish-American War Captain Geizendanner led Company M, 2nd West Virginia Volunteer Infantry. During World War I he was president of the draft board. From 1924 – 1928 Captain Geizendanner served as Postmaster of Charles Town.
- 15 Flag House**
323 East Washington Street
This was the home of George H. Flagg. On October 1, 1896, Flagg was Postmaster of Charles Town when Rural Free Delivery service first began. During the Civil War Flagg was an officer in Company C "Boys Grays," 2nd Virginia Infantry Regiment. When his first wife died, Flagg married Elizabeth Clemens.



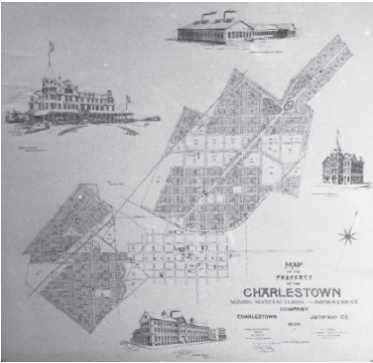
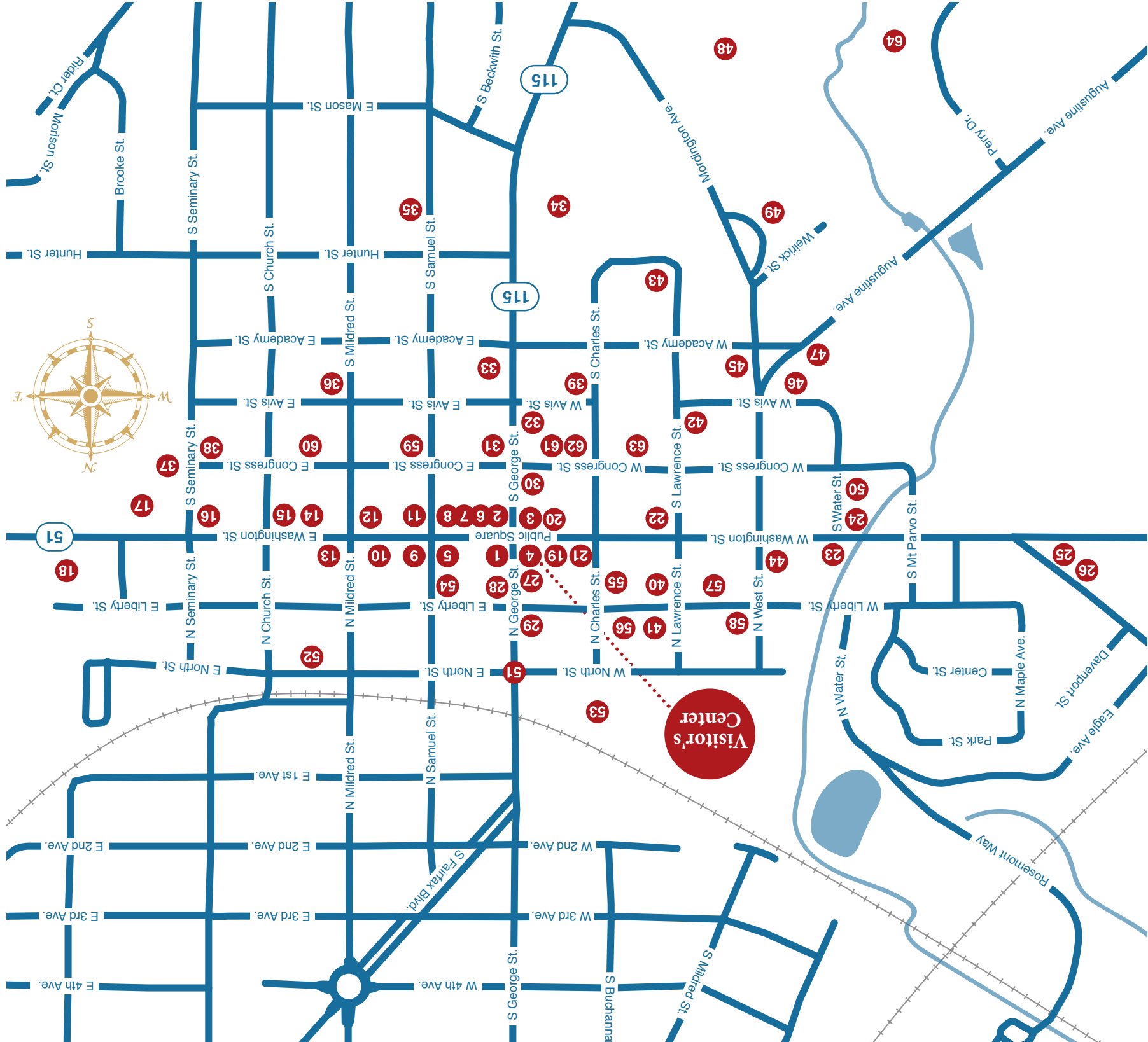
About The
WALKING TOUR



Washington's



WALK *in the*
FOOTSTEPS *of* HISTORY



CHARLESTOWN, W.VA., 1891

For centuries, visitors have fallen captive to the allure of the Lower Shenandoah Valley. In the words of Julia Davis, they "...came, they fell in love with the countryside and the life, and they remained." Surveying for Lord Fairfax in 1750, George Washington recognized the rich land along Bullskin Run and purchased over 2,000 acres in then Frederick County, Virginia. Over time Germans, Scotch-Irish, and Tidewater Virginians, including George's older half-brother Lawrence, purchased valuable farmland between the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers in what is today Jefferson County.

Born in 1738, Charles Washington was the youngest full brother of General George Washington. When Lawrence Washington died in 1752, Charles inherited a portion of Lawrence's Frederick County lands (today Jefferson County, West Virginia). Although a prominent resident of Fredericksburg, Virginia, sometime after April 1780, Charles moved to the Shenandoah Valley and began construction of his home *Happy Retreat* on a knoll overlooking Evitt's Run.

In October 1786 the Virginia General Assembly granted Charles Washington permission to incorporate a town on 80 acres of his inheritance. Following the custom of the time, the new village was called Charlestown (changed to Charles Town in 1912). The town's streets are a permanent remembrance of the Washington family. Main Street, which travels east to west, is named **Washington Street**. Public Square is formed by its intersection with **George Street**, named in honor of General Washington. The streets to the east of Public Square are named for Charles' brother **Samuel** and Charles' wife **Mildred**. The streets to the west are named for **Charles** and for his half-brother **Lawrence**.

When Charles died in September 1799, Charles Town was in Berkeley County. His will specified that if Charles Town became a county seat, the four lots on Public Square would be given for public buildings. In 1801 Jefferson County was formed, Charles Town was made the county seat, and Charles' son Samuel executed his father's wishes and granted the four corner lots for public use. Eventually the court house, jail, market house, and the county clerk's office were built on those lots.

Charles Town has been an eyewitness to History. On October 16, 1859, abolitionist John Brown's raid on the federal gun factory at Harpers Ferry, stunned the nation and thrust Charles Town into the national limelight. The raid, the trials of the raiders, and their executions are among the events that precipitated the Civil War. For one week in October, all eyes were focused on Public Square as John Brown and his men made the daily trek from the county jail (present site of the U.S. Post Office) across the street to the courthouse where they were put on trial for murder, treason, and conspiracy to incite slaves to rebel. All were found guilty and sentenced to be hanged. On December 2, 1859, John Brown was executed by hanging in Rebecca Hunter's field, four blocks south of the courthouse.

The Civil War was catastrophic to Charles Town. Once the conflict began and Virginia joined the Confederacy, most of the community supported the southern cause. During the war, Charles Town was the scene of many battles and skirmishes. On May 28, 1862, Charles Town was caught in the middle of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign. Confederate troops, under General Charles S. Winder, met an equal force of Union soldiers at Charles Town and routed them. As they left Charles Town, Union soldiers destroyed the market house.

On October 18, 1863, Confederates led by General John Imboden moved to dislodge the 9th Maryland Infantry Regiment commanded by Colonel Benjamin Simpson which was garrisoned at Charles Town. Imboden succeeded in capturing several hundred Union soldiers. The artillery

barrage during the fight severely damaged many buildings in Charles Town, including the courthouse and the county jail.

The devastation continued in 1864. In July *Hunter's Hill*, the home of Andrew Hunter, John Brown's prosecutor, was one of three houses of prominent citizens burned to the ground. Ironically the orders were issued by Hunter's first cousin, Union General David Hunter. The area suffered the consequence of total warfare during General Philip Sheridan's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. During four years of the Civil War, the economic, social and political life of Charles Town was dominated by the overshadowing presence of war.

At the conclusion of the Civil War, Charles Town was in ruins. The county seat was moved to Shepherdstown as the citizens adjusted to life in the new state of West Virginia. Eventually order was restored, the county seat returned, and Charles Town began to rebuild. The landscape of every state is dotted with towns which withered and died. The citizens of Charles Town were determined that that they would not suffer the same fate.

Today Charles Town, West Virginia is a picturesque collection of homes, churches, and public buildings. It is one of a handful of towns in West Virginia to be awarded a *Preserved America* designation. Two hundred years of history define Charles Town as we see it today. As you walk along the storied streets of Charles Washington's Town, prepare to "Walk in the Footsteps of History."

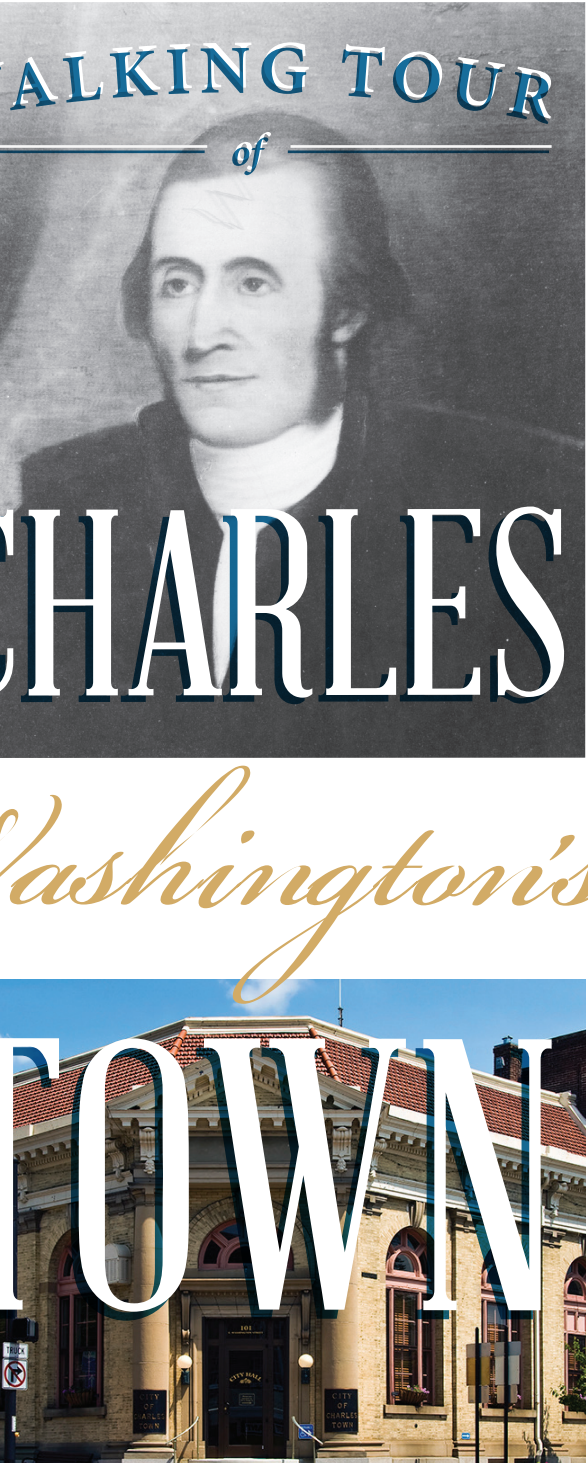
CHARLES
WASHINGTON'S
TOWN



Charlestown, Virginia 1830



JEFFERSON COUNTY
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU



16 **Carriage Inn Bed and Breakfast (Rutherford House) [CTL]**
417 East Washington Street

The house was built by Dr. Taliaferro Stribling and purchased in 1858 by Thomas Rutherford. During the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign, the house was headquarters for Union General Philip Sheridan. Sheridan met here with General Ulysses S. Grant to discuss his plans for attacking the Confederate Army. For many years this was the home of Nicholas Carson, long-time Mayor of Charles Town.

17 **Stephenson's Seminary**
515 East Washington Street

On May 21, 1883, the Stephenson Female Seminary was incorporated. The new school was built on land donated by John Stephenson and its first Principal was Reverend C. N. Campbell. Members of the board of directors were C. N. Campbell, Cleon Moore, Gustav Brown, William H. Travers, and S. S. Dalgarn. When the school closed its doors in 1921 the Briscoe family opened the Charles Town Inn, a boarding house, which continued operation until 1941.

18 **Hunter's Hill [JC LAND]**
540 East Washington Street

Built by Andrew Hunter, a prominent local attorney who led the prosecution of John Brown and his men. Due to the serious nature of the trial, Circuit Judge Richard Parker appointed Hunter to assist Jefferson County's prosecutor Henry Harding. Hunter's house was burned to the ground during the Civil War on orders from his cousin Union General David Hunter. After the war, the house was rebuilt on its original foundation.



Hunter's Hill 1947

WEST WASHINGTON STREET

19 **United Bank (Sappington House)**
106 West Washington Street

Prior to the Civil War the Sappington House was located here. It was one of three hotels in operation on Washington Street. Later known as both the Owings House and the Watson House the property was acquired by Peoples Bank of Charles Town in the early 1900s.

20 **Sadler Block**
103 West Washington Street

The L. L. Sadler family operated a cabinet making shop here. In 1859 the Sadler's made a coffin for John Brown, and their freight wagon (on exhibit in the Jefferson County Museum) carried Brown to the execution site south of town. Sadler's business was purchased by the Strider family in 1889.

21 **Calico Jack's Grill**
132 West Washington Street

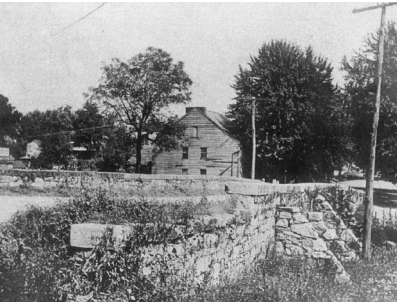
In 1845 John Frederick Blessing opened a confectionary shop at this location. When John Brown was captured and brought to the Jefferson County jail in Charles Town, Blessing brought food to Brown from his shop and showed Brown "other kind attentions." As a result of Blessing's friendship, John Brown gave Blessing his Bible on the day he was hanged. During the Civil War Blessing was a commissary sergeant in the Stonewall Brigade. The Spirit of Jefferson had its office on the second floor of this building.

22 **American Legion (Pitts Jefferson Theatre)**
225 West Washington Street

The Pitts-Jefferson Theater opened here in February 1932 and was the local movie house until the early 1960s.

23 **Holl's Pump and Tavern**
500 block West Washington Street

The Samuel Holl family operated a tavern near here in the late 1700s. For many years Holl's pump was one of a dozen public pumps which provided water to the citizens of Charles Town. Older town residents related memories of wagons lined up awaiting their turn to get water from Holl's pump.



Holl's Tavern/Pump

24 **Howell House**
503 West Washington Street

Samuel Howell, who operated a tan yard, built this house in 1828. It remained in their family for three generations. During the Civil War David Howell, Jr. was an officer in Company G, Botts Grays, 2nd Virginia Infantry. After the Civil War Howell initiated legal action which prevented the sale of the land on Public Square which led to the restoration of the county seat to Charles Town.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD

25 **Zion Baptist Church [CTL]**
819 Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

The Zion Baptist Church, located on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, was founded in 1881. It was organized by former slaves, and was originally named the Second Baptist Church, since the Charles Town white congregation was named the First Baptist Church.

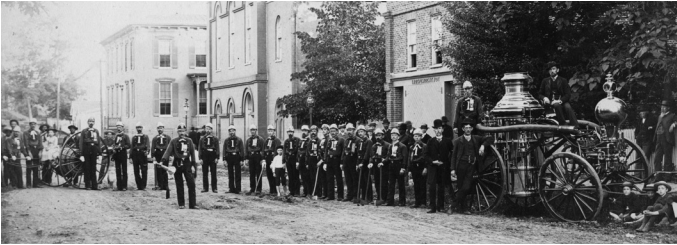
26 **Second Free Black School in Charles Town**
848 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue

Built in 1874, this one-story brick building still stands today. It is located next to the Zion Baptist Church. The school's first teacher, Littleton L. Page, served for 40 years.



Second Black School

GEORGE STREET



Independent Fire Company 1887

27 **Charles Town Now, Washington Street Artists & Jefferson Arts Council (Rouss Memorial Hall)**
108 North George Street

This building was built in 1896 with major support from local philanthropist Charles Broadway Rouss. Rouss Memorial Hall was designed by Charles Town contractor Julius C. Holmes as headquarters for the Independent Steam Fire Company No. 1. The fire department operated out of this building for over 100 years. Today it is home to both the Charles Town Visitors Center and the Washington Street Artists' Co-Op.

28 **Jefferson County Old Jail Annex [CTL]**
119 North George Street

Built in 1919, this building replaced the original Jefferson County Jail. It is one of several buildings in Charles Town designed by architect Thomas A. Mullet. During the second treason trial in West Virginia in 1922, some of the defendants were incarcerated here while awaiting trial. Today it is offices for the Jefferson County Circuit Clerk.

29 **Old Opera House [NAT REG]**
204 North George Street
<http://www.oldoperahouse.org/>

In 1910 Ann Gibson Packette, a descendent of Samuel Washington, raised \$50,000 to build the New Opera House. The theater had an orchestra pit, a curved balcony, and seats for 330 people. The curtain opened for the first show in February 1911 and continued in operation until 1948. 35 years later, the Old Opera House re-opened its doors and has been providing community theatre since.

30 **Gray Hall (County Office Building)**
120 South George Street

Until the early 1900s this corner was the site of one of several livery stables in Charles Town. In the 1920s the stables were demolished and a county office building was constructed here. At one time this building was home to the Jefferson County Board of Education, the Jefferson County Health Department, and the Jefferson County Chapter of the American Red Cross.

31 **Green – Timberlake House**
203 South George Street

This was the home of Attorney Thomas Claiborne Green. In October 1859 Green was appointed by Judge Richard Parker to assist in the defense of abolitionist John Brown. Green was the Civil War Mayor of Charles Town. In 1876 he was appointed to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and served until his death in 1889.

32 **Washington House**
216 South George Street

Following the Civil War many families who had farms in the country moved into Charles Town. This house was built at the end of 19th century by descendants of Samuel Washington. Samuel, a brother of General Washington, built Harewood just west of Charles Town on land that he had inherited from his older half-brother Lawrence. Several generations of the Washington family enjoyed summers and holidays here in Charles Town.

33 **Bishop House**
311 South George Street

This handsome house was constructed in 1896 by Dr. Jonathan Peale Bishop. His son, John Peale Bishop, a well-known author and poet, grew up here. His friend, F. Scott Fitzgerald, visited here on many occasions. During his writing career, Bishop published four books of poetry, a volume of short stories, a novel, and a number of essays. His novel, Act of Darkness, recounted the true story of a personal attack by a Jefferson County man on the female friend of his wife. Set in a fictional town called Mordington, the book was considered scandalous and for many years was "banned" in Charles Town.

34 **Chew House**
512 South George Street

This was the home of Robert T. Brown who was clerk of the circuit court from 1831 – 1861. Brown was clerk during the trial of John Brown and his men. After the Civil War, the house was purchased by Colonel Roger Preston Chew, commander of General J. E. B. Stuart's Horse Artillery (the Stuart Horse Artillery flag is on exhibit in the Jefferson County Museum). Chew served with distinction under Confederate Generals Turner Ashby and J.E.B Stuart. After the Civil War Chew was a prominent Charles Town businessman. His wife was Louisa Fontaine Washington, whose family was the last of the Washington's to live at Mount Vernon. The house was remodeled and the tower was added by Colonel Chew in the late 1890s.

SAMUEL STREET

35 **Gibson - Todd House [NAT REG]**
515 South Samuel Street



Gibson House 1980

In 1859 Academy Street was Charles Town's southern boundary. The land south of town was an open field owned by Rebecca Hunter. For security reasons, this site was selected for the execution of John Brown and his men.

On three separate days - December 2nd and 16th, 1859, and March 16th, 1860, a gallows was constructed on the high ground in the field to carry out the executions of John Brown, John E. Cook,

Edwin Coppoc, John Anthony Copeland, Jr., Shields Green, Albert Hazlett, and Aaron Stevens. A light freight wagon owned by local cabinet maker Leonard Sadler (the wagon is on exhibit at the Jefferson County Museum) carried the men from the Jefferson County Jail to the gallows.

The house was built in 1891 by Colonel John Thomas Gibson. Gibson commanded the Jefferson Guards, the Charles Town militia company which responded when John Brown attacked Harpers Ferry. During the Civil War Gibson was an officer in the Confederate Army. After the war he was both the Mayor of Charles Town and a county commissioner.

MILDRED STREET

36 **Wilson House**
304 South Mildred Street

The William Lyne Wilson house was built in 1876 by Julius C. Holmes. While serving as president of West Virginia University from 1882-83, Wilson was elected to the United States House of Representatives from the 2nd district of West Virginia. On March 1, 1895 Wilson was appointed United States Postmaster General by President Grover Cleveland. While Postmaster General he introduced Rural Free Delivery mail service which began on October 1, 1896, at three locations (Charles Town, Halltown, and Uvilla) in Jefferson County. In 1897 Wilson was appointed President of Washington and Lee University where he served until his death in 1900.

SEMINARY STREET

37 **Edge Hill Cemetery [CTL]**
198 South Seminary Street
604 Hunter Street (office)
<http://www.edgehillcemetery.org/home>

Edge Hill Cemetery has been in continuous service since August 1858. The land was given by John Stephenson, and his sister Jane Stephenson was among the first laid to rest here. Many of the soldiers buried in the Confederate Cemetery are men who died at the Battle of Sharpsburg in 1862 and the Battle of Cameron's Depot in 1864.



Superintendent's Lodge
Edge Hill Cemetery

38 **Charles Town's Potters Field ("Coloured" Grave Yard) [CTL]**
290 South Seminary Street

This ninety foot square lot was deeded to the Trustees of Charles Town on December 16, 1836. The lot was to be used as a "potters field and burying place for coloured persons." A mock burial ceremony was held here in 2006 for Shields Green and John Copeland Jr., since there was no service following their executions.

CHARLES STREET

39 **Mt. Zion United Methodist Church [CTL]**
303 South Charles Street

In 1867, 33 people organized the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, the first black Methodist church in Charles Town. The rear of the edifice was completed in 1867, and the front was completed in 1887. Mt. Zion was added to the name around 1887.

LAWRENCE STREET

40 **Griggs House**
119 North Lawrence Street

On June 22, 1788, Thomas Griggs, Sr. paid Charles Washington £12 for lot number 19. Built in 1791, the oldest part of the house is made of logs and brick. For nearly a century, the Griggs House was used by the H. Vernon Sheetz family for their greenhouse and flower business.

41 **Episcopal Lecture Room**
201 North Lawrence Street

In 1844 this building was purchased by Zion Episcopal Church for use as a meeting room. According to tradition, John Wilkes Booth entertained here with readings from Shakespeare. Booth was with the Richmond Grays who had come to Charles Town to provide security during John Brown's trial and execution.

42 **Star Lodge #1 F & A M**
Northwest corner South Lawrence Street and West Avis Street



Star Lodge c. 1930s

Lodge #1 F & A M and Queen of the Valley Lodge #1558, Order of the Odd Fellows bought the building. In June 1927 the Odd Fellows sold their share of the building to Star Lodge who still own the structure. A plaque outside the building honors Charles Town resident Martin Robison Delany who during the Civil War was commissioned a Major in the 104th Regiment, United States Colored Troops.

43 **St. Philip's Parochial and Industrial School, St. Philip's Academy, and St. Philip's Sewing School [CTL]**
409 S. Lawrence Street

These three schools figured prominently in the history of St. Philip's Church. Young women were trained in a sewing school started by Mrs. William Craighill from Zion Episcopal Church in 1875. In 1900, St. Philip's Parochial and Industrial School was started in the Parish Hall under the leadership of St. Philip's Church minister and principal Rev. John Deaver, and teachers Mrs. Sarah D. Tolbert and Mrs. J. N. Deaver. The church newsletter was printed by the school. The St. Philip's Day School (or Academy, as it was sometimes called) was organized in the 1920s and the 1930s by Rev. Joseph H. Hudson and paid teachers Miss Nethersole Ross and Miss Marion Ridgley. Subjects included reading, writing, arithmetic, spelling, and printing. Weekly tuition fees of \$.25 to \$.45 financed the school. The school was closed as a result of the Great Depression. St. Philip's also served as an emergency hospital for African-Americans during the 1918 Influenza epidemic.

WEST STREET

44 **Auto Serve (Kearsley House; Citizens Fire Department)**
100 North West Street



Citizens Fire Company c. 1900

The Citizens Fire Company was formed in 1884 and purchased the Kearsley House for use as a fire hall. With the addition of a three story tower to dry fire hose, the frame building continued in use until replaced by the modern brick building in 1959. The fire department was relocated in 2005.

45 **Fishermen's Hall (Galilean Temple) [CTL]**
342 South West Street

Fishermen's Hall was built by the Charles Town Industrial Association, an African American organization for the local tabernacle of the Grand United Order of the Galilean Fishermen. The group supported community development and economic empowerment of Blacks in Jefferson County. Over the years, the building has served as a black community center and a meeting place for Star Lodge Masons, John Brown Elks, Knights of Pythias, American Legion Post #63, church services, and finally a tavern. Legendary showman and comic Silas Green, as well as other show business figures, performed in the hall. The cornerstone reads, "Galilean Temple June 6, 1885". The building is owned and has been restored by the African American Community Association of Jefferson County.

46 **Wainwright Baptist Church [CTL]**
413 West Avis Street

In 1868, Reverend Nathan Cook Brackett of the Freedmen's Bureau donated land to a small group of freed slaves for their newly-organized church, the Colored Free Will Baptist Church of Charles Town. Reverend Chester C. Wainwright was its pastor from 1874 until his death in 1902. The church was, posthumously, renamed Wainwright Baptist Church. It is the oldest black Baptist church in Jefferson County.

AUGUSTINE AVENUE

47 **Tollgate House**
114 Augustine Avenue

In 1903, Sezzie Wainwright, widow of Rev. Chester C. Wainwright purchased the former tollgate house on Augustine Avenue from the County Court of Jefferson County for \$505.00. Sezzie Wainwright was the mother of Dr. Chester D. Wainwright, the first black physician in Charles Town. The structure served as a toll house on the Charlestown-Berryville Turnpike.

MORDINGTON AVENUE

48 **Happy Retreat [NAT REG]**
600 Mordington Avenue

Charles Washington, General Washington's youngest brother and Founder of Charlestown (the spelling until 1912), was 14-years-old when his older half-brother Lawrence died and left him this land. Although a successful businessman in Fredericksburg, Charles moved his wife Mildred and their four children to Frederick County (now Jefferson County) in the midst of the American Revolutionary War.

Their home, Happy Retreat, was initially two one-and-one-half story structures, separated by either an open area or a breezeway. In 1786, the Virginia General Assembly authorized the founding of Charlestown. Washington laid out 80 acres of his land to be sold in one half acre lots.



Happy Retreat c. 1930s

After Charles' death in 1799 (General Washington's letter written to Colonel Burgess Ball which acknowledges Charles' death is on exhibit in the Jefferson County Museum), Happy Retreat passed through several owners until bought by Judge Isaac Douglas in 1837, who built the center section which connected the original wings. The Friends of Happy Retreat (<http://www.happyretreat.org/>) are currently working to purchase the property and develop it for public use.

49 **Jefferson County Board of Education (Page-Jackson High School)**
110 Mordington Avenue

Page-Jackson High School for African-American students was built on Mordington Avenue in 1951. It served grades 9 through 12. Following the Supreme Court decision in 1954 which ended segregated schools, Page Jackson closed 11 years later in 1965 and is now the office of the Jefferson County Board of Education.

At the request of the Jefferson County branch of the NAACP, the Jefferson County Board of Education set aside a room in their office building that was designated, "The Page-Jackson Room". Dedication services were held on July 26, 1986, by the NAACP. Shortly thereafter, the NAACP relinquished the management and the completion of this room to the Page-Jackson Alumni Association. The Page-Jackson Room Exhibit was unveiled and dedicated by the Alumni Association on July 24, 1993. This exhibit is open to the public during the regular office hours of the School Board.

Page-Jackson High School



WATER STREET

50 **Water Street [CTL]**

This street is in the oldest section of Charles Town. Some of the town's oldest houses are located on this street. The first settlement in what became Charles Town grew up around where a wagon road from Keyes Ford crossed Evitt's Run on its way to Winchester.

NORTH STREET

51 **North Street**

Until 1786 North Street was Charles Town's Main Street. With the establishment of Charles Town, Washington Street became the town's principal thoroughfare.

52 **Webb – Blessing House [CTL]**
303 East North Street

The stone portion of this house was built in 1829 - 1830 by James Henry Webb. On October 25th, 1830 Patty Webb paid \$27 for the house. Patty Webb was a free African-American living in Charles Town. Therefore this house is not the oldest is one of the oldest in Charles Town built by and lived in by free African-Americans. The home was sold in 1852 to Samuel and Sara Ann Young. John Frederick Blessing (Blessing artifacts are in the collection of the Jefferson County Museum) purchased the home in 1866 from Thomas C. Green who was a trustee for the Young family. When John Brown was incarcerated in the Jefferson County jail in Charles Town, Blessing brought food to Brown from his shop and showed Brown "other kind attentions." As a result of this friendship, John Brown gave Blessing his personal Bible as a token of his esteem. John Frederick's granddaughter Miss Ollie Blessing was the last Blessing to live in the house. She lived there until her death. In 2003 the Webb-Blessing House was acquired by Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society to serve as an archive and museum.

53 **Asbury Methodist Church/First Free White School**
110 West North Street

The church lot was purchased in 1791 from Charles Washington, and by 1794 Bishop Francis Asbury found a "good house of worship" in place. A new sanctuary was built in 1854, and like other churches was used by soldiers during the Civil War. The congregation outgrew their church and built a replacement in 1893. The present church was consecrated in 1971. In 1849 the stone structure became Charles Town's first free school for white students. When the school moved in 1893 the building was used for a time as a creamery.

LIBERTY STREET

54 **First Black School**
121 East Liberty Street

In 1865, the Freedmen's Bureau, working with the American Missionary Association, established schools in Jefferson County for the newly freed slaves. The first school established in Charles Town was at the residence of Achilles Dixon, a free African-American blacksmith. It was located on the corner of Liberty and Samuel Streets. The home served as a school until the county began its own system for providing public education for black students sometime between 1867 and 1874.

55 **Birthplace of Martin Robison Delaney**
205 West Liberty Street

A marker commemorating the birthplace of Martin Robison Delaney is located on the corner of North Lawrence and West Liberty Streets. The actual location of his birth is believed to have been in a structure on land owned by his grandmother Patty Peace. That structure, long razed, would have been located in the area of 205 West Liberty Street.

56 **Tiffin House**
210 West Liberty Street

On June 22, 1788 Dr. Edward Tiffin bought lot number 18 from Charles Washington for £8, 5Shillings. Tiffin was born in 1766 in Carlisle, England, and came to Charles Town in 1784. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania and returned to Charles Town to practice medicine. In 1798 Tiffin left for the Ohio country with his brother-in-law, Thomas Worthington. Tiffin used a letter of introduction from General Washington to become acquainted with Territorial Governor Arthur St. Clair. When Ohio was admitted to the Union in 1803, he was elected its first governor. Thomas Worthington was elected the first United States Senator from Ohio and also served as Governor of Ohio.

57 **Rankin House [CTL]**
309 West Liberty Street

As early as 1786 Judith Rankin operated a tavern on this site. The house retains many of its original appointments. In 1786 Benjamin Rankin, Judith's husband, was among the prominent local men who petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to establish Charles Town. Before his death in 1787 Benjamin was appointed a trustee of the new town. The Rankin's owned a farm outside of Charles Town. Judith continued operation of both the tavern and the farm after her husband's death.

58 **Cherry House [CTL]**
324 West Liberty Street

William Cherry was a captain in the Continental Line during the American Revolutionary War. In February 1787 he bought Lot 1 for £16 ½ on the southeast corner of North and West Streets from Charles Washington. This is presumably the location for the first commercial venture in Charles Town – Cherry's Tavern (corner of West North and North West Streets). The tavern was torn down in 1881 and "replaced by a modern building." Cherry purchased Lots 2 and 3 (324 West Liberty Street) in 1789 and built a house where his daughter lived.

CONGRESS STREET

59 **Baptist Church**
211 East Congress Street

The first church was built in 1801 at the Zoar community north of Charles Town. The congregation moved to Charles Town in 1856. The church was under construction in 1859 and can be seen in the background of newspaper sketches of John Brown's execution. Like many buildings in Charles Town, it was used by Union soldiers during the Civil War. The present sanctuary was completed in 1914.

60 **Zion Episcopal Church & Graveyard**
301 East Congress Street

There have been three Episcopal churches on this site. The first two were built in 1818 and 1846. The second church burned two years after it was completed. The present church was completed in 1851.

During the Civil War Union troops quartered here desecrated the church almost beyond recognition. Zion's Graveyard holds the largest number of Washington family descendants in the United States – more than 70 – including many who were born at Mount Vernon.

61 **Etter Hall (Charles Town Hospital)**
111 West Congress Street

The first home of Charles Town physician Dr. Richard Venning, in 1912 this impressive building became the Charles Town Hospital, the only hospital in Jefferson County. The hospital operated on this site until it relocated to Ranson in 1948. The building continued in service as a nursing home until the late 20th century.

62 **Williams House**
115 West Congress Street

Dr. Richard Venning, the founder of the Charles Town Hospital, built this house in 1908. When Dr. Venning died in October 1919, Dr. Abner O. Albin purchased the house. In 1949 Dr. L. Mildred Williams established her medical practice in Charles Town and purchased the house, and saw patients here until her retirement in 1986. During her tenure Dr. Williams served as the Chief of Staff at Jefferson Memorial Hospital.

63 **Wright Denny Intermediate School (Charles Town High School) [CTL]**
209 West Congress Street



Charles Town High School 1938

In 1922 the Charles Town school board acquired the Timberlake property located here. The house became Charles Town High School, and in 1926 Dwight P. Hurley was appointed principal. A bond issue to build a new high school was passed in 1928, and the new Charles Town High School opened on the same site in the fall of 1929.

64 **Charles Washington Grave Site**
136 Perry Drive

Graves of Charles and Mildred Washington.

[CTL] = Charles Town Historic Landmark

[JCL] = Jefferson County Historic Landmark (<http://jeffersoncountyhlc.org/>)

[NAT REG] = National Register Property (<http://jeffersoncountyhlc.org/>)