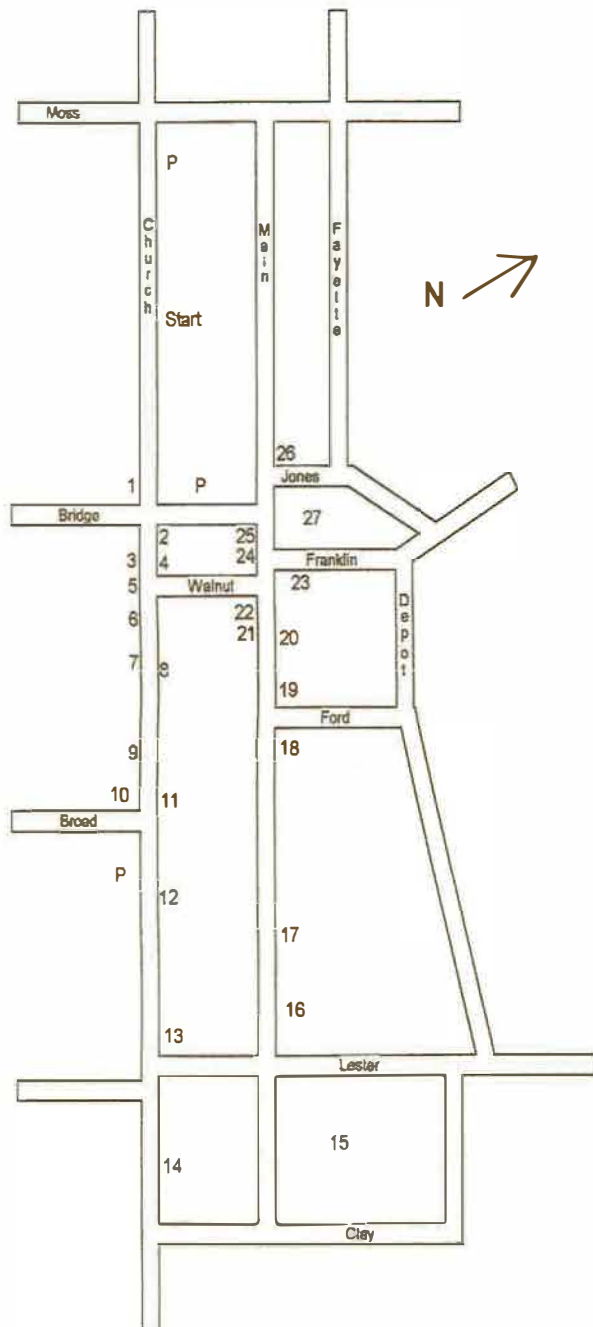


Map of the Martinsville Historic District Walking Tour



P - Parking

Start the tour at the Visitor Center and the Southern Virginia Artisan Center
54 West Church Street.

Open everyday from 9 to 5.

Martinsville
UPTOWN

Some Martinsville History

Established in 1791 as the county seat, the town was known as Henry Courthouse. Land for the town was donated by George Hairston. The town's earliest development centered around the courthouse. In 1808 the name of the town was changed to Martinsville in honor of the local Revolutionary War hero, Brigadier General Joseph Martin.

The economy of the late 18th and 19th centuries was based almost exclusively on tobacco as the main cash crop. By 1900, there were 14 tobacco factories in Martinsville. Driven by the growth of the tobacco industry and the development of the railroad, the population grew from 300 in 1880 to over 2,000 in 1889. The town incorporated in 1873. As larger companies began buying and consolidating smaller, independent factories, the tobacco industry left Martinsville.

After the decline of the tobacco industry, the lumber, furniture and textile industries soon followed. Many more buildings were built as the town prospered. Banks, hotels, livery stables and salons were established. Social organizations, such as the Masons, the Knights of Pythias and the Woman's Club formed. Large residences were built along Church Street and Main Street.

The new industries not only rescued Martinsville from the post-tobacco economic depression, but they continued to grow and expand, serving as the driving force behind the economic and commercial development of Martinsville through the 20th century.

The 21st century has been a challenge for the community. With the globalization of the world economy, and the mass exodus of manufacturing jobs to other countries, Martinsville-Henry Co. saw a major decline in employment. In the early 1990s, there were over 20,000 manufacturing jobs located here. As of 2009 there were less than 7,000.

Despite the loss of these manufacturing jobs, the community is attempting to recreate itself once again. The diversification of local employment, revitalization of Uptown Martinsville, and a broader focus on arts, sports, and cultural amenities have proven successful over the past few years. By building upon this momentum, the community is positioning itself to be successful in the 21st century and beyond.

1 1 West Church Street



The US Post Office was built in 1939 in Classical-Revival style with Doric columns. The basement was used by the National Guard Armory for training. To keep an eye on the employees, the postal inspector would use peep holes to spy on them.

2 1 East Church Street

The Masonic Temple (Holt) was built in 1914 in the Classical-Revival style. It has large arched windows in the third floor meeting hall. It has tin ceilings on all floors.



3 10 East Church Street

The Thomas Jefferson Hotel was built in 1927 in the Classical-Revival style. It became the first fire-proof hotel in town. (See sign high on the side of the building) The hotel is now known as the Jefferson Plaza.



4 11 East Church Street

The Ford Building was built in 1908.

5 14 East Church Street

The Piedmont Trust Bank was built in 1922 in the Classical-Revival style out of cast concrete with molded cornice and dentils.

6 18 East Church Street

F. W. Woolworth Co. (McCollum- Ferrell) building was built in 1922. It was built in the Romanesque-Revival style with its large, rounded arched openings on the second floor surrounded with patterned and corbelled brickwork.



7 20-24 East Church Street

The Montgomery Ward and Company building was built in circa 1930.

The building is built with a Baroque inspired parapet with oval tablets featuring raised reliefs of goddess-like figures. The store front has been filled.

8 19 East Church Street

Leggett's Department Store was built in 1935 in the Classical-Revival style. The facade has been altered.

9 46-48-50 East Church Street

The National Theatre and Joyce's Barber shop buildings were built in circa 1925.

10 52-54 East Church Street



The Henry Hotel was built following WW1 as a joint stock enterprise. The building was built due in response to hotel's facilities being insufficient with the population boom in the 1920s. It is constructed of a simple brick block form that features decorative brickwork patterns in the frieze.

11 51 East Church Street

The Chief Tassel building was built in the Classic-Revival style in 1930. The first two floors contain offices and the third and fourth floors apartments. The building was named for an Indian Chief who made treaties for General Joseph Martin. The building features a silhouette of the Indian Chief in the pediment surrounding the main entrance.



12 115 East Church Street

The Globman's Department Store building was owned and operated by Abe Globman and his wife, Masha. The store started on the Public Square in 1915 and moved to Church Street in 1961.

13 133 East Church Street

The First United Methodist Church original building was built in 1839. It was destroyed by a fire and rebuilt in 1866. It was replaced again in 1892 and again in 1922 in a Greek-Revival style.

14 209 East Church Street

In the 19th Century, Church, Main and Fayette Streets were primarily residential. In 1896 the Queen-Anne style H.C. Lester House occupied an entire block. It had 22 rooms that contained 11 foot ceilings and a fireplace in every room. The home had been converted into a boarding house when it burned down in 1946.

All that remains is the 1915 carriage house in the Craftsman style with large overhang roof and exposed rafters. The large central arched entrance reflects its use as a carriage house.



(Behind Sherwin -Williams)

19 21-25 East Main Street

Blue Ridge Hardware & Supply was built circa 1920.

20 18 East Main Street

The Whitlock CPA building was built circa 1900.

21 24 East Main Street



People's National Bank served as a cornerstone of the business district around the courthouse at the turn of the 20th century. The bank was built in 1891 in the Romanesque-Revival style. It is constructed of granite blocks. Corner buildings, such as this one, typically featured recessed corner entrances.

24 2 East Main Street

The Kearfott Drug Store was built in 1891. This building was the site for the first telephone in Martinsville. Soft drinks were five cents and milk shakes cost a dime. The outside of the building was covered in the 50's with an orange and white facade.



25 29 Jones Street

The Knights of Pythias building was built in 1922 in the Classical-Revival style. The land for the building was donated by George Hairston with the agreement that the building be named in memory of his son, Wyatt. The store front has been altered.



15 149 East Church Street

Mitchell's Motors was built circa 1945.



22 30 Franklin Street



Globman's Department Store was built in 1915. In the 1930s the façade was changed to an Art Deco style. The ceilings inside are decorative tin. In 2006-2007 the building was rehabilitated for the New College Institute.

26 1 East Main Street



The Historic Henry County Courthouse was built in 1824 in the Roman-Classical style with Doric columns. In 1929 the building was enlarged to encase the 1824 structure. The roof was extended over the portico and the exterior stairs leading to the courtroom were replaced with interior stairs.

16 133 East Main Street

Main Street Barber was built circa 1940.

17 101 East Main Street

Holland Motor Company was built circa 1935. The facade has been altered.

23 4 East Main Street

Built in 1925, First National Bank was built with scored concrete featuring a large two story arched opening in the "vault" motif.

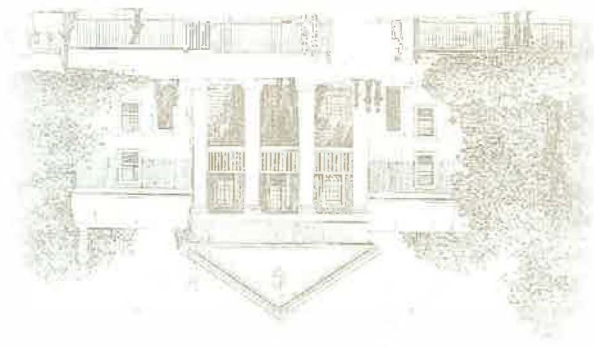
18 37 East Main Street



J. W. Booker and Company was built circa 1930.



The Confederate Monument and two 1885 Fort McHenry naval cannons were placed on the grounds in 1901. The War Memorial obelisk honors those fallen in battle during American conflicts. The Brig. Gen. Joseph Martin obelisk is in honor of the man for whom the city was named.



Martinsville Historic District Walking Tour

Martinsville Uptown Promotions

Martinsville
UP TOWN

Uptown Martinsville Farmers' Market

Window Decorating Contests

Easter Scavenger Hunt

Uptown Restaurant Week

Oktoberfest

Uptown Trick-or-Treat

Small Business Saturday

Uptown Tree Lighting

Holidays from the Market

*A publication of Martinsville Uptown
Photos and text provided by Martinsville-Henry County
Historical Society*

For more information contact (276) 632-6401.

www.martinsvilleuptown.net