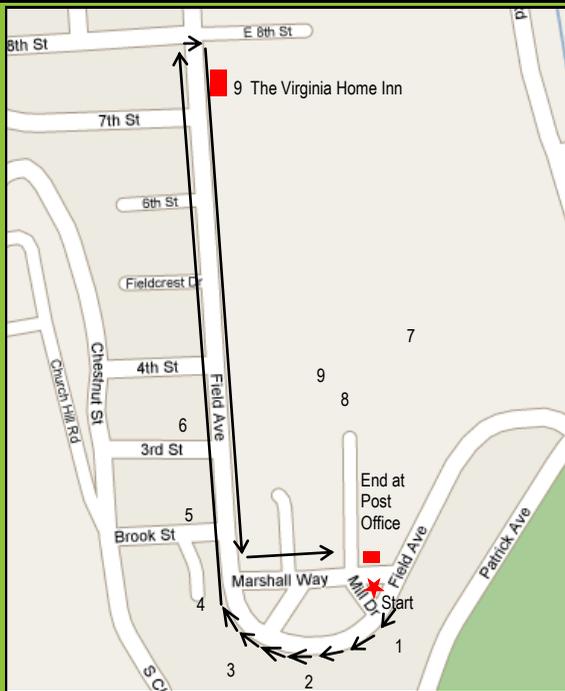
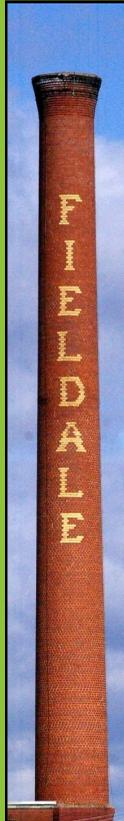


Suggested Walking Route



Sponsored by:
 Activate MHC
 Fieldale Heritage
 Festival Committee
 Dan River
 Basin Association



Safe Walking Practices

- **Walk facing the traffic:** The "rules of the road" say you should walk against the traffic. This also keeps you aware of any potential danger coming towards you.
- **Beware of drivers:** Do not assume that drivers know when pedestrians have the "right-of-way." Be especially cautious of driveways- most drivers are watching for oncoming cars, not walkers.
- **Know where to walk:** Use sidewalks, crosswalks and pedestrian signals to cross streets safely. You should always look left, look right and look left again.
- **Warm-up:** Try a few minutes of light stretching before and after your walk.
- **What to bring:** It is a good idea to carry a cell phone, identification, water and sunscreen.
- **Find a buddy:** Walking with someone can be a great motivator and make the time more enjoyable.
- **Wear reflective gear:** If you will be out at dawn or dusk, wear light colored clothing or reflectors.

Marshall Field

Shortly after the turn of the 19th century, Marshall Field and Co., located in Chicago, became interested in this area of land for a new textile mill site, conveniently located on the Smith River between two railroads, the D&W and N&W.

Marshall Field and Co. wanted to build a model town, which provided homes, churches, boarding houses, and schools. Later the company supervised the establishment of a bank, furniture and hardware store, a mercantile, hotel, drugstore, grocery store, and a theatre. The town became self-sufficient, providing for all the needs of mill employees. A doctor (Dr. Newton Wilson) and mill nurse were hired for health benefits that included making house calls to the sick.

As people came to the area seeking employment, the need for housing grew which spurred the construction of 87 houses that would be leased to mill employees. Employees paid \$5.00 a month for a 5 room house or .25 cents per room per week. The company also provided electricity. Each room had one light. The lights were turned off each night at 11:00 p.m. when the mill closed and turned back on the next morning when the mill started up again.

Marshall Field died in 1906 and never got to see the town that would bear his name. Upon his death, John C. Shedd took over Marshall Field and Co. and built the mills and Fieldale.



1835 - 1906



Fieldcrest Lodge



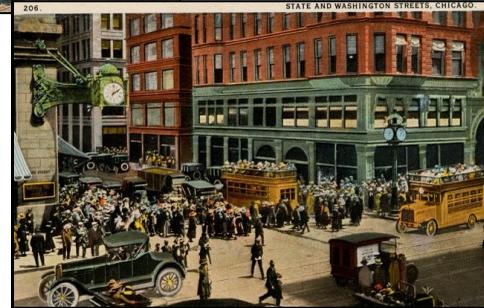
Marshall Field's

Marshall Field & Co. built the Fieldcrest Lodge so company officials and guests would have a place to stay when visiting the Fieldale mill or North Carolina textile mills.

Waller's Ford



In 1770 Major George Waller and his wife, Anne Winston Carr (second cousin to Patrick Henry) established a plantation called "Waller's Ford" which covered the area in and around what is now Fieldale. The Wallers reared eight children and became active in the newly formed Henry County. Major Waller became the Sheriff, tax commissioner, one of the first four justices of the county and one of Martinsville's first trustees. Waller's Ford was used as a drill ground during the Revolutionary War. Iron bars covered the windows for protection from Indians. A storage shed was built behind the home where ammunition was stored to use as defense in the event that the British crossed the Irvine River, now the Smith River.



WALKING TOUR OF HISTORIC FIELDALE

1 Original "All" Grade



The Original "All" Grade School served children through the seventh grade. At that time children would go to work in the mill or go to high school in Martinsville. High school instruction began in 1931. A home economics class was added in 1932, a four year high school course was installed in 1933, achieved high school accreditation in 1934, and built a four-room brick addition in 1935. Fieldale High School was built in 1941 with a major addition in 1953.

The company built a four-room brick school in 1920 on a four-acre lot that Marshall Field subsequently granted to the Henry County School Board.

2 The "Lower Circle"

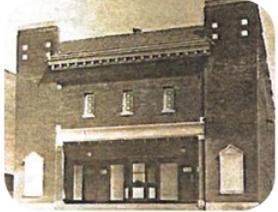
The town was designed with an upper and lower street and an alley in between. The lower street consisted of a pool house and café, mercantile store, grocery store, theater, drugstore, and hardware store.



3 Log House



The log house was built in 1927 for Joe Lindsey who was Mill Manager. Later it was used by doctors. Gene Copeland who was cost accountant for the mill purchased the house in the early 40's. The house is still occupied by his daughter.



4 C. L. Hedgecock House

Mr. Hedgecock was paymaster for the mill and his wife managed the lodge. Mill employees were paid in cash in brown envelopes every Saturday.



7 Water Source

Water pumps were located on Field Avenue and each side street. Each family carried their water from the pumps for drinking, cooking and bathing. The pumps became a place to socialize with neighbors.



5 Fieldale Hotel



The Fieldale Hotel was one of the first permanent buildings erected. As the town grew there was a need for a place where people could stay when they visited Fieldale or came to work in the mill. It also was a boarding house for mill workers. When it opened there were 12 men and 1 woman, and was operated by Anna Stultz.

6 Sherrill-Norris House

This house was first owned by E. Sherrill who was the first foreman of the sewing room. It was later owned by J. W. Norris who was in charge of maintenance. J. W. Norris also owned the first airplane in Fieldale. A field near the river was used as the runway for taking off and landing.



8 John Smith House

In 1920 John Smith was hired as the general contractor to oversee building houses, churches, and schools. Because there was no fire department he alternated between building stucco and frame houses so a fire would not destroy the village. He also served as Mayor and Justice of the Peace.



9 Virginia Home



The Virginia Home was one of the first buildings completed in 1920. Originally called "The Dormitory", it housed 100 young women hired to work in the new mill. In 1929 Bessie Merriman and daughter Grace and family took over operation of the home and changed the name to "Virginia Home". The home also served as a social gathering place over the years along with an open dining room that served family style dinners from the 1940's until 1979. The home closed in 1996 as a boarding house, then opened in August 2011 as the Virginia Home Inn.

10 Fieldale Baptist and Methodist Churches

Marshall Field & Co. supported the establishment of the Fieldale Baptist and the Fieldale Methodist Churches. These churches were built on the crest of Church Hill Road to accommodate the growing congregations that previously met in houses on Seventh Street. The Methodist Church eventually moved to Patrick Avenue but the Baptist Church still remains. For many years Marshall Field & Co. supplemented the salaries of the pastors until the congregations became self-supporting.



11 Fieldale Community Center



Marshall Field & Co. sold its industrial steam generated electrical power plant to Appalachian Power company in 1937. Proceeds from that sale built the Fieldale Community Center which included a basketball court and in later years two regulation size swimming pools were added. The center is still open and used as a meeting and gathering place for the community.

12 First Businesses



There were four original buildings on the upper street. In 1922 a bank was organized by J. Frank Wilson so employees would not have to travel to Martinsville to bank. Other structures included the second post office, which replaced the original one that stood where the Methodist Church now stands, the Fieldale Fruit Co. and a grocery store.



13 The Mills

By 1917 nearly 1800 acres had been secured and construction was underway by June of that year. The mill was completed in the spring of 1919. When operations started there were 300 employees. The new mill, called The Carolina Cotton & Woolen Mills Co., consisted of a plant and warehouse covering four acres. The mill contained 19,200 spindles and 530 looms. Weavers earned \$17 to 19 per week with men on the higher end of the pay scale. Cotton, bleaching, and hosiery mills were established in 1926-1928. In 1934, the mills were renamed Marshall Field & Co., which became Fieldcrest Mills in 1953. A merger with Cannon Company in 1985 resulted in a new name, Fieldcrest-Cannon. In 1997 Fieldcrest-Cannon was purchased by Pillowtex Corporation which declared bankruptcy and closed the mills in 2003.



14 The Train Depot



The Danville & Western, which ran east to west, reached Fieldale between 1881 and 1883. The brick station was built in the mid 20's and the train stopped running in 1942 due to a lack of use and the war needed the metal. During the earlier years a wagon met the train and transported people and supplies to their destination. The last train ran July 31, 1942. The depot was demolished in 2010 following a fire.