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DISCOVER

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West Virginia landmarks*

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- Learn the history behind monuments, markers, and historic buildings



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Developed at Marshall University



Mills Group maintains a commitment to the cultural heritage of our region. We strive to raise awareness of the significant history and culture that is the foundation of who we are and ultimately, will become.



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West Virginia

Historic Preservation Awards

Clarksburg, WV • September 21, 2019



Historic Walking Tour

In Partnership with:



Greetings!



preservation tools, and heritage tourism.

In September 1981, a group of dedicated volunteers established the Preservation Alliance of West Virginia (PAWV). Founding members of PAWV included Dr. Barbara Howe, Ralph Pederson, Eugene Harper, Jeanne Doughty, Dr. Emory Kemp, and Beverly Fluharty. These volunteers were determined to build interest in, knowledge about, and legislative support for historic preservation through grassroots advocacy, education, and outreach. Officially incorporated the following year, the organization quickly began making significant, positive contributions to the preservation of West Virginia's vast, proud heritage.

With similar goals in mind as were in 1981, PAWV continues to build on the original insight of its founding members. The organization continues to grow and focuses on how historic preservation can be a tool for economic and community development throughout our Mountain State.

Danielle Parker
Executive Director
Preservation Alliance of West Virginia



<http://www.pawv.org>
info@pawv.org
304-345-6005

1. Nathan Goff Jr. House | 463 W. Main Street

The Nathan Goff Jr. House was built from 1880 until completion in 1883, and belonged to a prominent figure in Clarksburg, and the state of West Virginia. Goff was the United States District Attorney for West Virginia from 1868 to 1883, and was the son of Waldo Goff, the owner of Waldomore. Nathan Goff Jr. was also responsible for creating the Waldo hotel, named after his father. The Goff home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1976, but was delisted in 1994 after the home was demolished in 1993.



2. Empire National Bank Building | 406 W. Main Street

The Empire National Bank Building was established by Virgil Highland in 1903 in the Oak Hall Building directly across Main Street from the structure on the northwest corner of Main and Fourth Streets. In 1907, the Empire National Bank moved to the Empire Building. The Clarksburg Publishing Company used to print copies of the town's newspaper in the basement of the Empire National Bank Building. Today, the bank portion of the structure is occupied by MVB Bank.

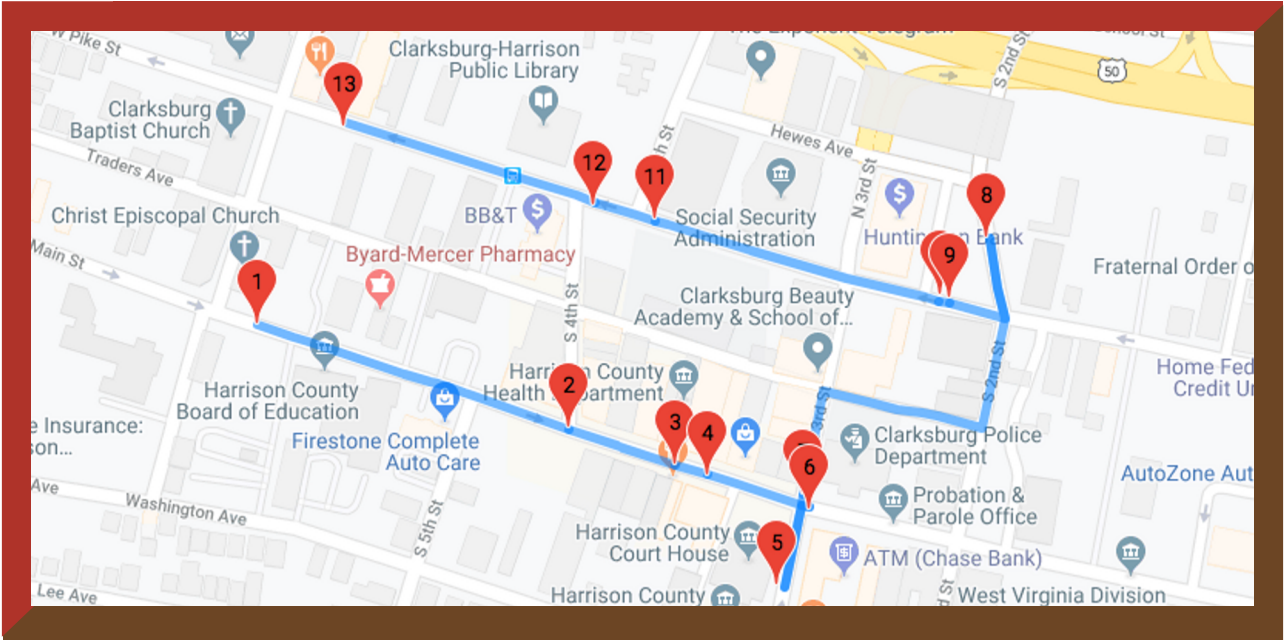
3. Stonewall Jackson's Birthplace | 326 W. Main Street

Similar to many Confederate markers and monuments, this bronze plaque was the result of the efforts of women in the early 19th century. The United Daughters of the Confederacy funded and dedicated this plaque to commemorate the birthplace of Confederate General Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson. Jackson was born on January 21, 1824 in Clarksburg, Virginia. He entered West Point in July 1842 and, in spite of his poor childhood education, was able to graduate seventeenth in his class in 1846. Upon graduation, Jackson served as an officer in the Mexican American War. In 1851, Jackson became professor of artillery tactics and natural philosophy at Virginia Military Institute. He resigned from the army in 1852 and later joined the Confederate army where he earned a reputation as a competent and fearless military officer.

4. The Goff Building | W. Main & Court Street

Constructed between 1910-1911 by Nathan Goff Jr., the Goff Building replaced a modern brick office building which he had erected in 1891. Designed by architect Frank P. Milburn and constructed by Elliott and Winchell, the first floor was built to house a bank, while the remaining stories held 193 offices collectively. Some of the building's first tenants include: Farmers Bank, Williams-Coffman Hardware Co., Bane and Bond, and Hayman Greenhouse Co.

Welcome to Historic Clarksburg!



This Tour is Just One of Over 50 within WV that Can be Found Using CLIO! Total Tour Distance: 1.2 Miles | Directions Provided by Google Maps

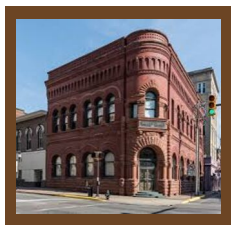
5. Harrison County Courthouse | 301 W. Main Street

The current Harrison County Courthouse is not the original building and in fact has been replaced four times. However, the location is quite close to the original courthouse. The first courthouse was built at a cost of \$550, while the second courthouse boasted a whipping post in the rear. The third courthouse featured a bell and clock from the previous courthouses in its construction. The location is marked by a "Civil War Trails" plaque that describes the significance of the Union Meetings in 1860 and the role they played in forming the state of West Virginia. Also displayed in the courthouse square is the flagstaff from the U.S.S. West Virginia.

6. Union Bank Building | 229 W. Main Street

The Union Bank Building started construction in 1911, directly following the destruction of the Traders Building. The Traders Building was established in 1895 and was a prominent location for Downtown Clarksburg social life. The Union Bank Building was complete in 1913 and originally housed the Union National Bank and the Stonewall Jackson Hotel. Today the building is occupied by Chase Bank and has available commercial rental space.

7. Merchants Bank Building | 300 W. Main Street



The Merchants and Mechanics Bank was established as a branch of a bank in Wheeling in 1860, and was originally housed in a storefront of the Despard Block. In 1894, the Merchants Bank Building was constructed and housed three storerooms, all of which are still in their original state today. In 1961, Merchant Bank's assets were purchased by Union Bank, and the building was then purchased by its present namesake, Community Savings and Loans.

8. The Towers School | 212 W. Pike Street

The Towers School site was previously inhabited by the Northwestern Virginia Academy until 1893. During the Civil War, the Academy was utilized as a barracks, military prison, and a hospital because Clarksburg was home to hundreds of troops from 1861 through 1865. Not only did the Academy provide room and board for soldiers, but every church did as well. Towers School was established in 1895 and served the Clarksburg community for nearly 100 years. Towers was demolished in the mid-1900s.

9. Clarksburg City Municipal Hall | 227 W. Pike Street

The Clarksburg Municipal Building dates back to 1888 when it served as the city's post office. From 1932 to 1965, the structure was deemed the Federal Building because it housed various Federal Offices. In 1966, the structure became the City of Clarksburg's Municipal Building. Despite the efforts of preservationists and local residents who rallied to save the structure and convert it into a museum and visitors center, the building was demolished.

10. Hotel Gore | 201-209 W. Pike Street

This historic hotel was built in 1913 by Dr. Truman E. Gore, the brother of Governor Howard M. Gore, who served West Virginia from 1925 to 1929. The hotel quickly earned a reputation for elegance and it was the place to be for the leaders of the city and their guests during the boom years of the 1920s. As fewer guests came to the city center, the building was converted into office space. In 1998, the structure was purchased by Steve Haning who worked to restore some of the original exterior features while modernizing the interior.

11. Waldo Hotel | N. Fourth & W. Pike Street

Nathan Goff Jr. hired architect Harrison Albright to design the Waldo Hotel in 1901. Opening in 1904, the Waldo was one of the most luxurious hotels in West Virginia. The hotel was named after Nathan Goff Jr.'s father, Waldo P. Goff. The Waldo was built with the intent to entertain prominent guests in Clarksburg, and became the hub of social and political life. The Waldo Hotel currently sits vacant and is at risk of being condemned, however there are efforts being made to preserve and eventually restore the hotel.

12. Waldomore | 404 W. Pike Street

The stately mansion was constructed in 1842 by local businessman and Virginia state senator Waldo P. Goff and his wife, Harriet Moore. In 1930, the property was donated to the city by May Goff Lowndes to serve as a library and museum. Waldomore was home to the Clarksburg Public Library from 1931 until the completion of a new library in 1975. Today, Waldomore operates as a local history and genealogical library as well as the archives of the Clarksburg-Harrison Public Library.

13. Robinson Grand Theatre | 444 W. Pike Street

The theatre opened in 1913 with the help of the Clarksburg Amusement Company. It was renovated and enlarged in 1927. A fire destroyed most of the stage and theater house in May 1939. Luckily, it was able to be rebuilt by December of the same year. The theater continued to show movies and host local events, but later shutdown due to suburban multiplexes. Thanks to local efforts, the theater has been completely remodeled.