

DANVILLE, VIRGINIA

OLD WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR



OLD WEST END HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR



About the Old West End

Danville was fortunate during reconstruction, becoming unusually prosperous from its thriving tobacco trade. As a result, the Old West End boasts perhaps the finest and most concentrated collection of Victorian- and Edwardian-era architecture in Virginia. Main Street and its adjoining side streets have dwellings from the antebellum era to the First World War. The district includes High Victorian Italianate, High Victorian

Gothic, French Renaissance Revival, Romanesque Revival, Eastlake, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Beaux Arts styles—good examples of which are rare in the South.

For many years district homeowners maintained their properties to the highest standard, investing their own time and dollars. However some areas of the district began to experience decline—primarily because of absentee landlords. Enactment of a Rental Overlay District in 2013 resulted in



Main Street, Danville, Virginia, ca. 1903

The Danville Historic District a.k.a. the Old West End (OWE) was created by the City Council in July 1972. The Council also created a Commission of Architectural Review to approve any exterior alterations at that time. The OWE was included in the Register of Historic Places by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission in November 1972. The district was listed in the National Register in April 1973.

the transfer of dozens of properties to a local Land Bank under the auspices of the City's Community Development Department and administered by the Danville Redevelopment and Housing Authority. In 2017, a marketing agreement with the neighborhood non-profit Friends of the Old West End (FOWE) resulted in many historic properties being returned to private hands for rehabilitation and restoration. Those new homeowners have also

invested millions of dollars in private capital to improve homes in the district.

With support from the City, FOWE also researched, documented, and published online the history of many of the homes in the district. In addition

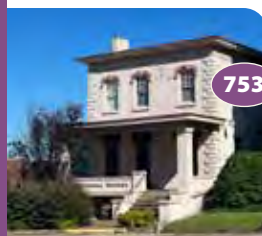
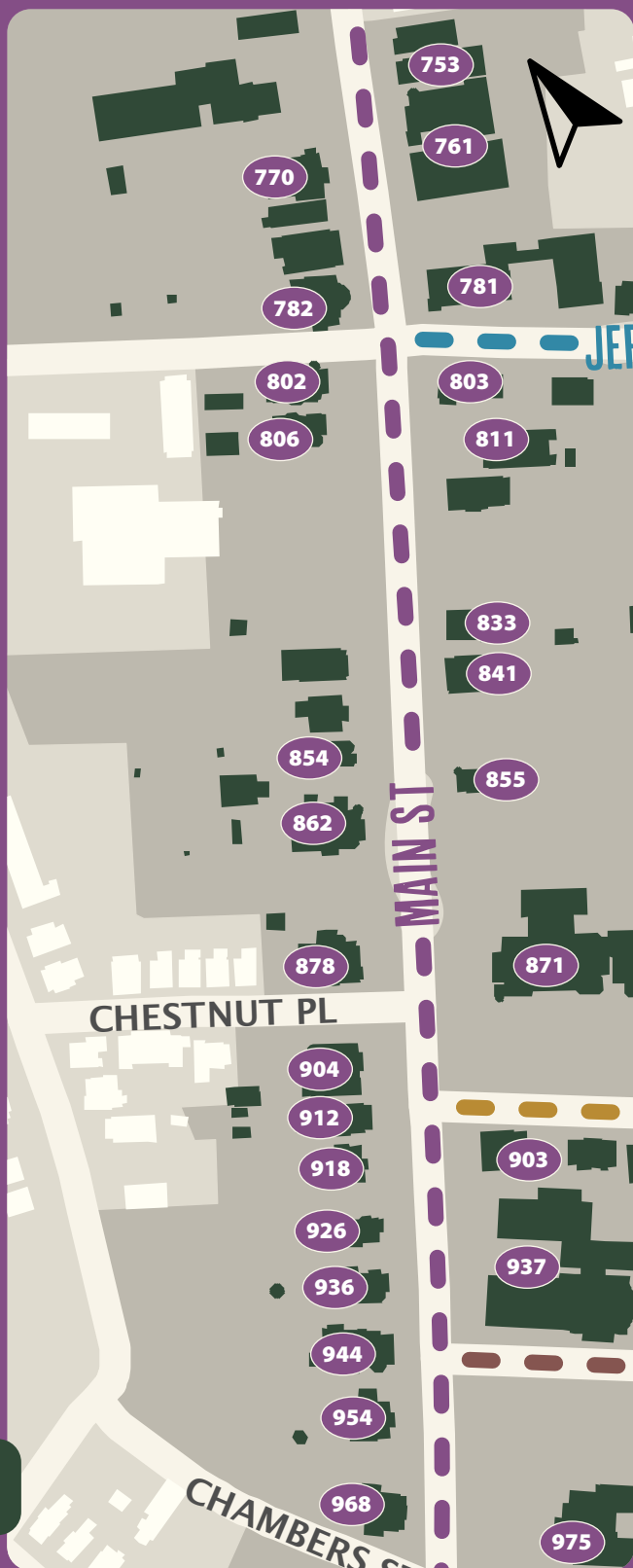
to online searching, these histories can be accessed from a district Story Map prepared by the City that can be viewed using this QR Code.➔



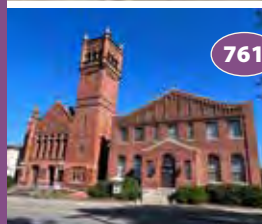
With a grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and contributions from homeowners, many homes have a plaque next to the sidewalk with basic information about the home and a QR Code linked to their published history. Use your smart phone and this guide to learn as you walk.



MAIN ST.



753, Dr. William L. Robertson House, 1874, Italianate.



761/767, Former United Methodist Church, 1867, Romanesque Revival. The castellated tower and Romeo and Juliet balcony make this building visible from most older parts of the city. Now in private hands.



769, Education Annex, Methodist Church, 1921.



770, Lanier-Wyllie House, 1830, Federal. This 1830 early-Federal style house was completed in 1830 for Danville's future first mayor elected in 1833. The portico was added later.



776, Second Peatross House, 1905, Georgian Revival. This 1905 Georgian Revival was once more richly ornamented with an open porch and a second floor overlook.



781, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany, 1880, Gothic Revival. Built between 1879 and 1881 the church of the Epiphany features a fine stuccoed Gothic Revival exterior with a gabled front facing main with a corner tower that rises three levels ending with a detailed octagonal steeple.



782, Lawson-Overbey House, 1881, Italianate/Georgian Revival. Once threatened with replacement by a filling station, this 1881 Italianate home acquired its Georgian Revival elements in 1911.



802, Neal House, 1890, Renaissance Revival.

MAIN ST.

803, Dr. Bruce James House, 1899, Queen Anne.

806, Crews House, 1890, Queen Anne.

This 1890 Queen Anne mansion is high on the list of Danville's Victorian homes because of its rich and complex ornamentation.

810, **Union Church** (old YMCA), 1967.

811, Jacob Davis Cottage / Elm Court, 1853, Italianate/Eastlake influences.

A small 1853 brick cottage here was enveloped in the present home by 1920 complete with double porches reminiscent of a steambot.

815, **Paxton-Grant House,** 1895, Queen Anne.

833, Acree House, 1881, Eastlake-Queen Anne.

840, **Moseley House,** 1902, Queen Anne.

841, Flinn House, 1881, Georgian Revival.

842, **Wiseman House,** 1917, Craftsman.

854, Lipscomb House, 1885, Italianate with French Revival and Gothic influences.

Of the famous names in Danville's history, the **Penn family** appears prominently. James Gabriel Penn was the first to arrive, having been born in Patrick County. He built the architecturally significant mansion at 862 Main Street in 1876. His brother Greenville also came to Danville in 1884, joining James in the tobacco business and building his own fine home at 138 Holbrook Avenue. Greenville's son Barnes also built an amazing home at 1020 Main Street. That home is often called the "wedding cake house" because of its decorative round turret.



803



806



811



833



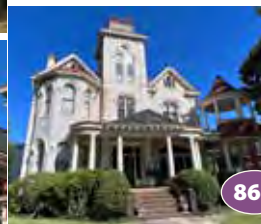
841



854



855



862



871



878



903



904



912

MAIN ST.

918, Jopling House, 1882, Second Empire.

A mixture of styles including Italianate and Second Empire, this is the third house to be situated on this plot. This version was built in 1882.

926, W. F. Patton House, 1890, Richardsonian Revival.

Once threatened with demolition, this 1890 home's unique Richardsonian Revival style suggests it was originally designed as a townhouse.

936, John Hamilton Cosby House, 1895, Colonial Revival.

937, First Presbyterian Church, 1912.

Completed in 1912, this rare Greek Revival-style church is also unique for its lack of a bell tower. Additions were made in 1925, 1953, and 1961.

944, J. H. Schoolfield House, 1884, Italianate.

This 1884 High Victorian Italianate dwelling is currently undergoing repairs. Much of its system of bracketed hidden gutters await replacement.

954, Dr. Harvie House, 1873.

968, Ayres House, 1875.



975, Sutherlin Mansion, 1859, Italian Villa.

Now the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History, this Italianate home was the most lavish in Danville in 1859. Jefferson Davis stayed here.

990, Holbrook Hotel, 1957.

This rather plain medical office building replaced two Main Street mansions in 1957. It was repurposed as a boutique hotel in 2023.

1012, T. S. Williamson House, 1897, Queen Anne.

1020, Barnes Penn / Wedding Cake House, 1902, Queen Anne.

The tower of this 1902 home suggests a wedding cake, and the house is often known by that name.

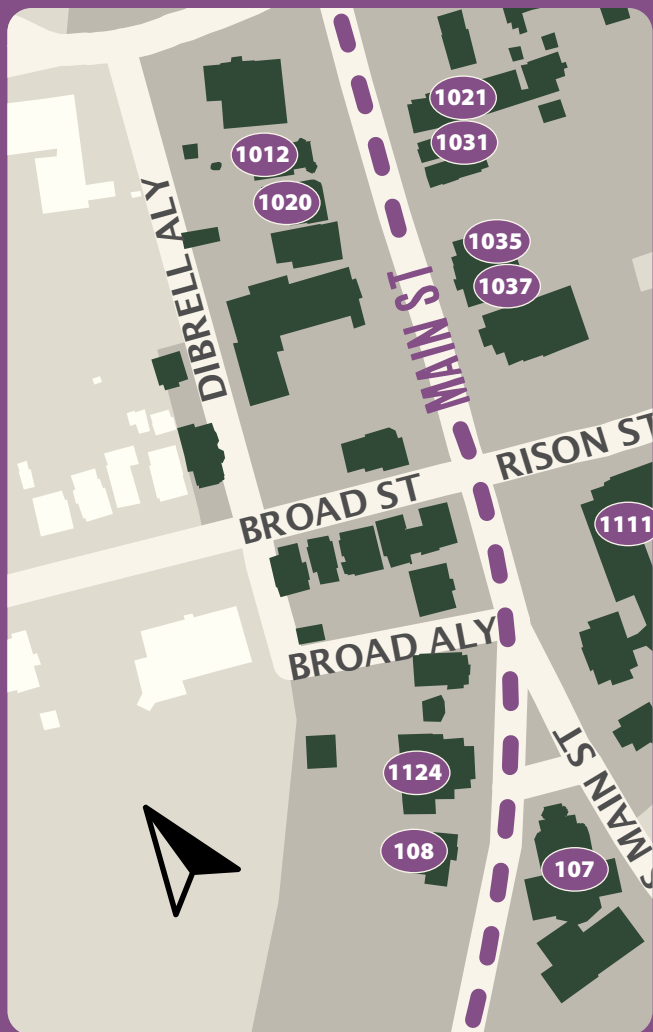
1021, J. J. O'Donnell House, 1881.



James E. "Jim" Schoolfield came to Danville to enter the hardware business in 1873. His brother Robert Addison "Addy" Schoolfield visited in 1874 and resided here in 1880. A third brother, John H. Schoolfield, arrived in 1883. On June 10, 1882, six men met at the Jim Schoolfield home at 750 Main Street. They were Jim, John, Addy, Thomas Benton Fitzgerald (1840-1928), Benjamin Franklin Jefferson (1835-1913), and Dr. Howson White Cole (1830-1910). Together, they founded the Riverside Cotton Mills, later Dan River Inc.—the largest single-unit cotton mill in the world. While the Jim Schoolfield home no longer remains, John's home stands at 944 Main Street and Addy's home at 1124 Main Street.

William T. Sutherlin, born in 1822, touched not only Danville but also the entire state. By 1845, Sutherlin became a partner in a tobacco manufacturing firm and had his own firm by 1849. He served as town alderman from 1851 to 1855 when he was elected Danville's mayor. In 1856, he purchased the four acres on Main Street that would become his homeplace. His Italian villa home remains, though much of the acreage now contains some of Danville's finest residences. Sutherlin, a unionist, served as a delegate to determine whether Virginia would secede from the union. It was not until Lincoln acted against the South that Sutherlin and other delegates voted for secession. His greatest fame was for hosting Jefferson Davis as the Confederate President fled from Richmond in 1865. Following the war, Sutherlin became active in many businesses including agriculture, warehousing, distillation, and shipping. The Sutherlin Mansion at 975 Main Street has been used as a Confederate memorial, as the Danville Library, and for last 50 years, the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History.

MAIN/W. MAIN



1026, **Swain House**, 1881.

1031, **Dula-Penn House**, 1896.

1033, **Holland-Conner House**, 1908.



1035-1037, **E. B. Withers House**, 1876.

1050, **King Cropp**, 1895. Queen Anne. Built by Robert Haskins of imperial tobacco. the home remained original until 1927 when local architect J. Bryant Heard transformed it into an English cottage bungalow



1111, **Stratford House**, 1883, Italianate.

Once a liberal arts college for young ladies, its 1883 Main Hall is now the heart of a senior living complex.



1124, **R. Addison Schoolfield House**, 1910, Spanish/Mission.

This 1910-11 Spanish / Prairie School home is the second home built on this lot for the same owner replacing an 1890 Victorian.



107 West Main, **Mt. Vernon United Methodist Church** 1884, Gothic.

108 West Main, **J. I. Pritchett House**, 1922.

233 to 247 West Main. **Booth Houses**. These four-square homes were built by the Booth brothers, Charles and Peter, between 1914 and 1917. Three of the homes are made from granite supplied from Mt. Airy, NC, and erected by four Italian masons. The brick home at 235 served for many years as the Grogan Tourist Home.



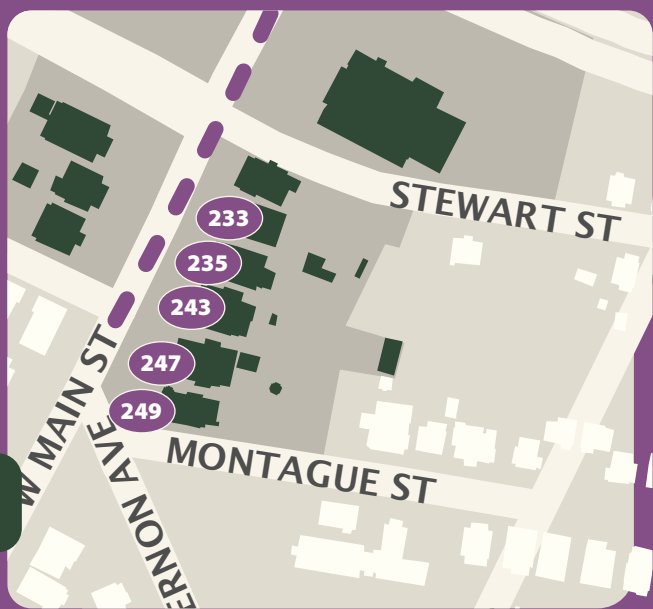
108



249 West Main, **Montague House**, 1891, Queen Anne. Andrew Jackson Montague served as 44th governor of Virginia from 1902 to 1906.



249



HOLBROOK ST./AVE.

HOLBROOK STREET

102, Old Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 1878, Stick.

HOLBROOK AVENUE

120, Sparks House, 1911.

130, M. P. Jordan House, 1883.

135, Pattie Douthat House, 1907.

137, Dance-Williamson House, 1889, Queen Anne.

145, Copeland House, 1889, Queen Anne.

150, Berkeley House, 1888.

154, L. B. Conway House, 1906.

157, W. P. Averett House, 1892.

161, Judkins House, 1890, American Picturesque.

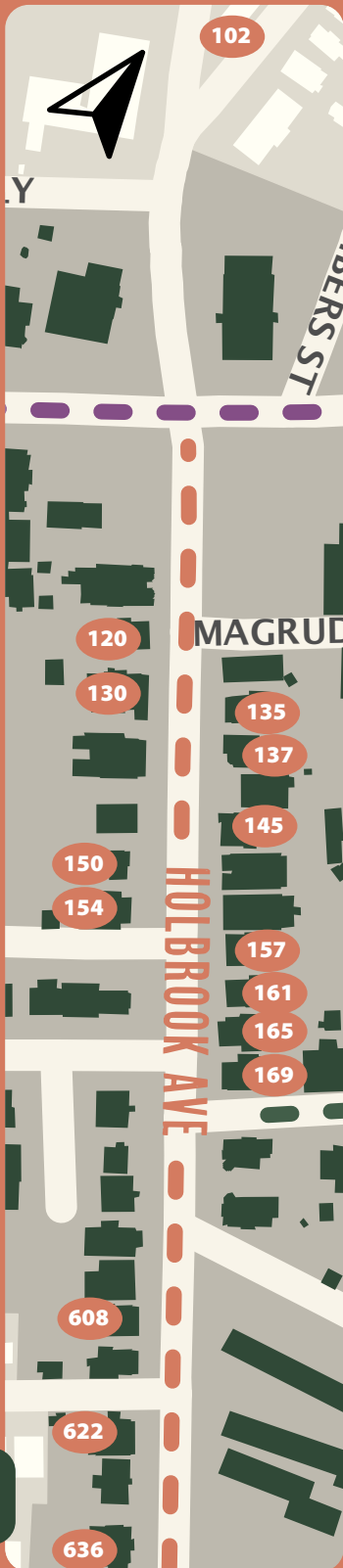
165, Walter Watson House, 1898, Colonial Revival.

169, D. A. Overbey House, 1895.

608, W. N. Brown House, 1909, Colonial Revival.

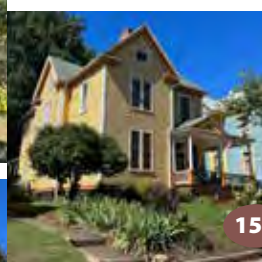
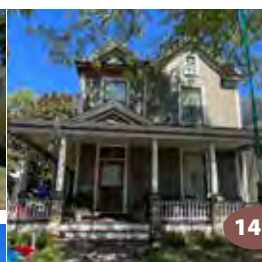
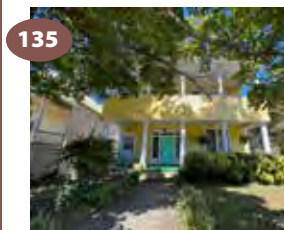
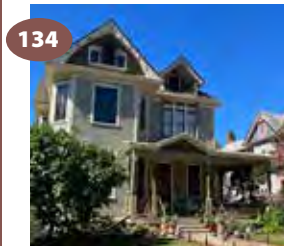
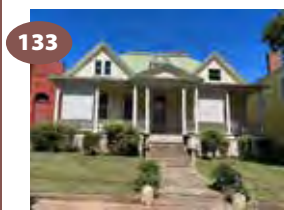
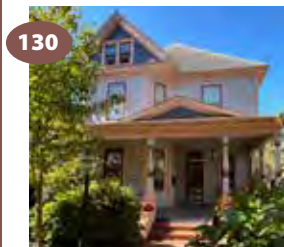
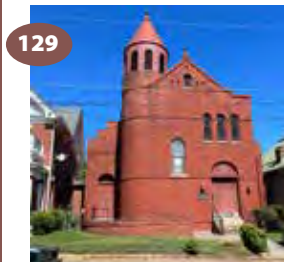
622, Venable-Carrington House, 1880, Italianate.

636, Bouldin-Edmunds House, 1875.





Sutherland Avenue 130 to 152. Frame Queen Annes. As Sutherland Avenue developed in the 1890s and the first decade of 1900s, numerous Queen Anne-style homes were built on the streets south side. These included the Bagby House at 130, the P. F. Conway House at 134, the J Tuner Hamlin House at 138, the W. P. Boatwright House at 142, and the John Lee House at 152.



SUTHERLIN AVE.

125, Rabbi's Residence, 1907, Queen Anne.

126, Anderson House, 1904, Queen Anne

129, Temple Beth Sholom. Serving Danville's reformed Jews since 1900, they allowed the building to be used by the fire-damaged First Baptist Church congregation in 1905.

130, Bagby House, 1903, Queen Anne.

133, 1906, Folk Victorian Cottage.

134, P. F. Conway House, 1897, Eastlake-Queen Anne.

135, 1907, Italianate.

138, J. Turner Hamlin House, 1895, Eastlake-Queen Anne.

141, James Watson House, 1910, Queen Anne.

142, W. P. Boatwright House, 1897, Queen Anne.

144, 1957.

145, 1908, Queen Anne.

148, Queen Anne.

149, 1908, Queen Anne.

151, 1911, Queen Anne.

152, John Lee House, 1899, Queen Anne.

154, S. J. Slaughter House, 1913, Folk Victorian Cottage.

155, 1910, Federal.

162, Tyack-Wheatley House, 1899, Queen Anne.

163, Meeks-Perry House, 1900, Queen Anne.

Chestnut Place 10 to 16. Miller Row Houses. These four nearly identical Colonial Revival-style homes were built as income properties in the rear yard of 878 Main Street at its corner with Chestnut Place. Completed in 1905 at a total cost of \$5,200, they were auctioned to individual owners in 2000.



CHESTNUT ST.



407

120, Shadrack House, 1925, Raised Cottage.



140

122, Henderson House, 1890, Second Empire.

124, Chaney House, 1890, Victorian Chalet.



407

125, Watson House, 1860, Antebellum/Victorian.

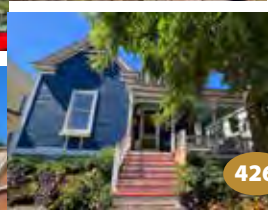
126, Talley House, 1889, Queen Anne.



120

130, Folk Victorian Cottage.

136, H. Lee Boatwright House, 1892, Folk Victorian Cottage/Eastlake influences.



426

139, Clark House, 1928, Dutch Colonial.

407, Watson Spec House, 1911, Colonial Revival.



122

140, Howard House, Folk Victorian.



431

142, Booth-Wyatt House, 1907, Folk Victorian.

426, Strother House, 1906, Folk Victorian.



124

431, H. W. Brown Florist

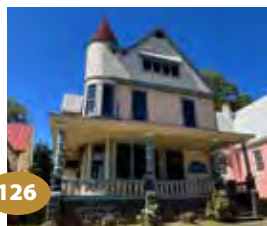
432/434, Italianate duplex.



432

154, Morris J. Fox Cottage, 1882, Folk Victorian Cottage.

440, Folk Victorian Cottage.



126

166, Colonial Revival.



154



130



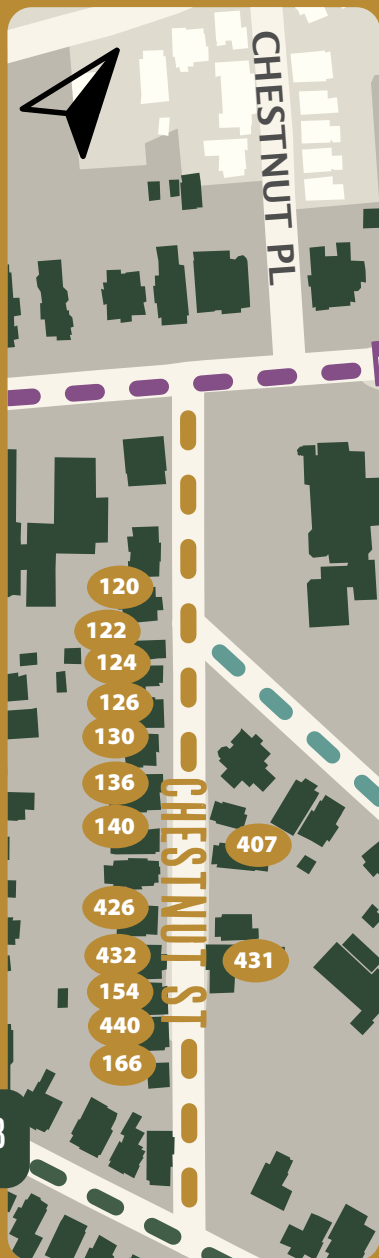
440



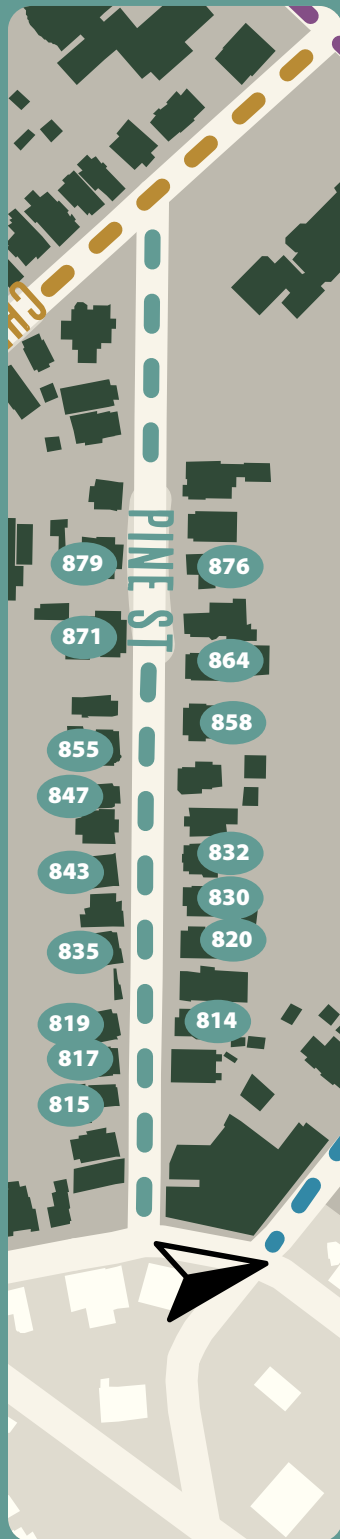
136



166



PINE ST.



814



843

814-816, 1920 duplex.



815



847

815, P. R. Jones House, 1900.

817, Harris-Altice House, 1910, Folk Victorian Cottage
817 to 861. Worker Cottages. These Pine Street cottages were built between 1872 and 1914. Many original residents here worked for the steam railroad including an engineer, an inspector, a telegrapher, a ticket agent, and a clerk.



817



855

819, Harvey House, 1914, Folk Victorian.



819



858

820, Woodward-Davis House, 1888, Eastlake-Queen Anne.

830, Clark-Allen House, 1890, Folk Victorian.



820



864

832, Jones-Thompson House, 1920.

835, Goodwin-Speer House, 1885, Folk Victorian Cottage.

843, Folk Victorian Cottage.

847, 1919, Cottage.



830



871

855, Stovall-Lumpkin House, 1872, Folk Victorian Cottage.

858, Hughes House, 1887, Italianate.



832



876

864, First Peatross House, 1877, Italianate.

871, Worsham House, 1873, Italianate.



835



879

876, S. H. Holland House, 1879, Folk Italianate.

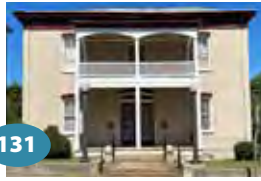
879, Stokes House, 1855, Gothic Revival.

JEFFERSON AVE.



116

116, Saint Peter's Greek Orthodox Church, 1947.



131

131, J. B. Harrington House, 1879.



200

200, Old First Presbyterian Church, 1853, Gothic Revival.



226

212-216, Monticello Terrace Apartments.



212

217, Bendall House, 1894, Italianate.



230

218, Clarke House, 1887, Queen Anne.



217

221, Laban Silverman House, 1929, Greek Revival.



234

225, Robert Ross House, 1830, Federal/Adamsesque.



218

226, Clarke-Yates House, 1890, Queen Anne.



238

230, J. Allen Patton House, 1886, Eastlake-Queen Anne.



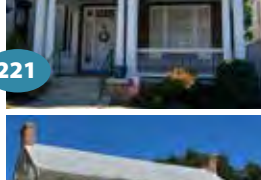
218

234, Albert Gerst House, 1885, Queen Anne.



240

238, John Green Lea House, 1891, Queen Anne.



221

240, Albert Wildman Home, 1880.



240

241, George Spec. House, 1892, Folk Victorian. 245, 249, and 253 were also built by Drs. Franklin and Sumter George.



225

Jefferson Avenue 218 to 234. Brick Queen Annes. The late 1880s development of Jefferson Avenue resulted in four elegant brick Queen Anne-style homes on land once owned by banker W. S. Patton. The 1887 Clarke House at 218, the 1890 Clarke-Yates House at 226, the J. 1886 Allen Patton House at 230, and the 1885 Albert Gerst House at 234.



241

GREEN ST.



802

802, Johnston House, 1890, Bungalow.



808

808, J. H. Griggs House, 1875, Folk Victorian.



868

820, Tredway House, 1874, Folk Victorian.

826, J. A. Yancey House, 1893, Folk Victorian.



879

830, Monk Clark House, 1900, Folk Victorian.

838, Crumpton House, 1888, Gothic.

846-848, G. K. Griggs House, 1884, Folk Victorian.



900

858-860, Watts Double House, Colonial Revival.

862-866, Read-Clarke House, Colonial Revival.



901

868, McKinney House, 1878, Italianate.

869-871, Italianate duplex.



918

875, Green Estate House, 1863, Antebellum/Victorian.

878, H. W. Brown House, 1894.



925

879, R. B. Graham House, 1885, Queen Anne.

900, Fox-Hawkins House, 1879, Italianate.



927

Green Street 802 to 852. Park Front Homes.

It was 1863 when Danville purchased the land that was called the Green Street Grove, now Doyle Thomas Park. In 1973, the Tredway family purchased a large tract of land facing the park and constructed their home at 820 Green Street. They sold parcels for more homes including the 1884 G. K. Griggs House at 846, and the 1888 Crumpton House at 838.

901, Dr. Hutchings House, 1874, French Victorian.

912, Womack/Herndon House, 1877. Folk/Victorian.

918, Ley House, 1878, Eastlake.

919-921, Herndon House, 1882.

923, Wimbish Spec House, 1904.

925, Wimbish Spec House, 1904, Folk Victorian.

927, I. S. Bendall House, Queen Anne.

931, Ayers-Perkinson House.

935, Loomis-Vicks House.

940, Carrington-Patrick House, 1920.

WINE, DINE, & STAY



1009 Main. Crema & Vine. Once an Esso filling station, this building is now a gathering spot where locals connect over steaming cups of local coffee, exquisite wines, craft beer, and artisanal crafted food.



1050 Main. King Cropp. Once a Queen Anne, the building was transformed to its bungalow appearance in 1927. It's now home to a fine dining restaurant specializing in gluten-free, dairy-free, vegetarian, and vegan options.

7 Chambers St. Midtown Market. This old-time neighborhood grocery for the Old West End has been in continuous operation since 1921. It provides the larger community with local produce and their own in-house products.



990 Main: The Holbrook Hotel. Originally built for a group of nine doctors in 1957, this colorful boutique sits at the crossroads of two historic districts—the Old West End and the historically Black professional neighborhood known as Holbrook-Ross.

MUSEUMS

975 Main Street. Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History

It was in this house that Confederate president Jefferson Davis wrote the final proclamation of the Confederacy after fleeing Richmond, days before Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse.

Today, the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History not only preserves its historic home, but also offers art galleries for permanent and changing art and history exhibits, local history programs, education

programs, and facility rentals. The museum has an extensive permanent collection of antiques, decorative objects, historic documents, and art by 19th-, 20th-, and 21st-century artists. Most noteworthy are the Camilla Williams Collection, the Kennedy-Revell Collection, the Stratford College Collection, Emma Edmunds' Civil Rights Collection, and the Wooding Collection.

The Museum and Gift Shop hours:

Tuesday-Friday, 10:00am-5:00pm

Saturday, 12:00 noon-5:00pm

Sunday, 2:00-5:00pm

Monday, Closed

The museum is housed in the former home of Major William T. and Janie Sutherlin and is designated as a Virginia Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mission of the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History is to promote history and art in the region and to be a leader for integrated awareness of history, culture, and community.



117 Broad Street. The **Langhorne House**, built in 1874 by C. D. Langhorne, was originally located at 1102 Main Street at the corner of Main and Broad, but later was moved to 117 Broad Street. The house became the property of the Lady Astor Preservation Foundation. In the Langhorne House Museum, the parlor and master bedroom have been restored and original artifacts are on display.

Open for tours Saturdays 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and other times by appointment.
Call (434) 250-2001 for more information.



Irene Langhorne Gibson
"The Gibson Girl"

From the time she was a teenager, Irene was the "belle of the ball." After declining 62 proposals of marriage, she said "yes" to the well-known artist and illustrator, Charles Dana Gibson.

Irene became Dana's inspiration for the Gibson Girl, the late 19th & early 20th century personification of the feminine ideal.



Nancy Langhorne Astor

Lady Astor was born in Danville in the Langhorne House. With her marriage to Waldorf Astor in 1906, she moved to England and into a world of love, luxury, and opportunity.

Waldorf was elected to the House of Commons, but when his father died, Waldorf had to leave the Commons and take his father's seat in the House of Lords. Nancy ran for Waldorf's seat, pledging to be an advocate for women, children, and families. Nancy was elected and became the first woman to be seated in the British Parliament. She held the seat for 25 years.

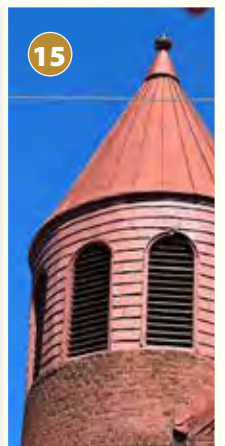
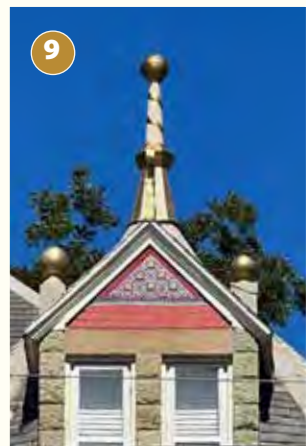
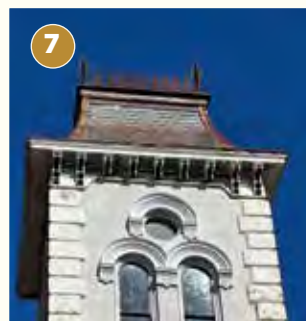
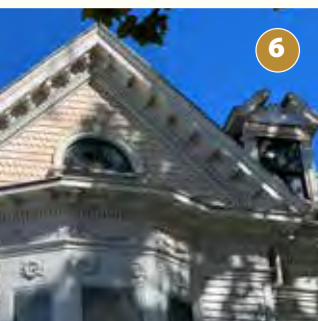
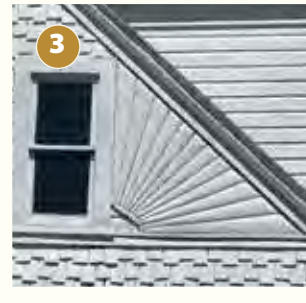
FAMOUS SISTERS



SCAVENGER

HUNT!

Can you find these architectural details?



SO, DID YOU SEE THEM ALL?

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1, 769 Main | 9, 926 Main |
| 2, 136 Chestnut | 10, 145 Holbrook |
| 3, 163 Sutherland | 11, 918 Green |
| 4, 568 Green | 12, 114 Holbrook |
| 5, 136 Chestnut | 13, 806 Main |
| 6, 1020 Main | 14, 900 Main |
| 7, 862 Main | 15, 129 Sutherland |
| 8, 862 Main | |

SO MUCH
TO DO,
SO MUCH
TO SEE.

Visit
SoSi

DANVILLE
PITTSYLVANIA CO. VA

VisitSoSi.com • @VisitSoSi

FRIENDS OF THE
OLD WEST END



VIRGINIA IS FOR
HISTORY LOVERS™