

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

TIME: 1 TO 1-1/2 HOURS

DISTANCE: 1.6 MILES

**The Historic Strasburg Walking Trail begins at the Strasburg Museum.
Stop 1 is located on the eastern side of the building.
440 E. King Street**

A BRIEF HISTORY

German settlers traveling south from Pennsylvania along the Great Wagon Road settled in this area in the 1740s. In contrast to the English culture found east of the Blue Ridge where large plantations were often established, here settlers founded small towns and family farms and brought Germanic language, religions, architecture, and decorative arts to this part of the Shenandoah Valley. Strasburg grew out of these early settlements, and the town was chartered in 1761.

This thriving agricultural community in the fertile bottomland along the banks of the Shenandoah River has scenic views of the Massanutten Mountains, rolling pastures, and historic battlefields. Later nicknamed "Pot Town", Strasburg also became a center for the production of both utilitarian and fancy earthenware and stoneware pottery. During the 19th and 20th centuries, many residents worked in the railroad industry and at limestone quarries; after World War II, other industries came to Strasburg, including paper and auto parts manufacturing. Today, Strasburg boasts a growing service economy, museums, charming eateries, numerous antique stores, and other shops. But despite its location only 80 miles from Metro D.C., Strasburg has maintained its welcoming small-town charm.

Located at the intersection of major roads and rail lines, Strasburg was also at the crossroads of history. The town played a substantial role in the colonial history of Virginia's Great Valley and found itself in the thick of the Civil War Battles of Fishers Hill and Cedar Creek. Discover this history along our walking trail.

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HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 1

Strasburg Steam Flouring Mills

On the south side of King Street, Strasburg Steam Flouring Mills occupied the area at 390 E. King St. Original mill buildings stood at the back of the parking lot until destroyed by fire in early 2008. James Hickerson used nearby 342 E. King as a pottery during the 2nd half of the 19th century. William H. Lehw also made pottery there.



*Strasburg Steam Flouring Mills
Photo Courtesy C. Douglas Cooley,
Strasburg Community Memories*

The Colonial Inn

The building on the southwest corner of the intersection of Massanutten and King Streets at 282 E. King Street was operated as the Colonial Inn for many years, including during the Civil War when the Byers sisters served their delicious pies to soldiers marching along the Valley Pike. It is said that an exhausted Stonewall Jackson reviewed his troops from a chair on the sidewalk in front of the hotel, his passing soldiers shushing each other when their beloved General fell asleep.



This photo depicts World War I Red Cross nurses lined up for a parade in the 1920s. The Strasburg Steam Flouring Mills stands in the background. Photo Courtesy C. Douglas Cooley, Strasburg Community Memories

The Strasburg Emporium

The Strasburg Emporium is located across King Street on the northwest corner of King and Massanutten Streets. First operated as Strasburg Textile Manufacturing Company beginning in 1907, and eventually becoming Strasburg's largest employer at the time, the building now houses a renowned variety of antiques, memorabilia, and collectibles. Visit shenandoahstories.org to learn more about the occupants of the building through its history.

After reading the marker at Stop 1, turn left on King Street toward Town Hall, and cross King Street at the crosswalk after Town Run.

Stop 2 is just past the Fire Department.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 2

Strasburg's Town Hall and Fire Department were once housed in the same building known to some locals as the "Sheep Shed" because of its lack of architectural finesse. The building was demolished in 1951 to construct the more modern facility that now stands on the site. The photo (right) depicts the department in 1932. The second photo below shows Town Manager Tim Guthrie and Chief of Police Paul Neal at the entrance of the town office portion of the "Sheep Shed."



Commerce on Early East King Street

Joe Wolfson's clothing store was located at 183 East King. In the rear, he operated a steam iron and dry cleaning shop, while his family lived in the apartment above. This common pattern of apartments above retail establishments often provided spacious and comfortable living spaces for business owners or tenants. Across the street, Brill's Grocery once stood in the location of the Market Pavilion at Strasburg Square. The original sign for the grocery is on exhibit at the Strasburg Museum.



Before it was Brill's Grocery, the town tinner, C.F. Funk, had his shop on the ground floor of the building. The second floor was home to Verna Updikes Millinery (hat shop - lower left), and later became the site of Morrison's photo studio. Many of the photos featured on this page were taken by Morrison Studios.

The Virginia Restaurant was first located at today's First Bank parking lot in the 1920s and eventually moved to the southeast corner of Holliday and King. The restaurant was cherished among locals, as the place to see and be seen. Following its closure, the restaurant's recipe for homemade ketchup circulated throughout the community for years.



To reach Stop 3 go left on King Street, turn right on N. Holliday Street, and continue to the sign at the end of the block.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 3

Banks' Fort Switches Hands

In early 1862, US Army Captain Edward Hunt, an engineer, constructed a fortification on the hill where the Strasburg water tower now stands. Hunt selected the hill "because it had an effective command over the roads, the railroad, and the town." By May 15, 1862, the fort was manned and named "Banks' Fort" for Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, commander of the Union army here. Banks' army began operating in the Shenandoah Valley to prevent an attack on Washington by Confederate Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's army. Jackson sought to defeat Banks and lure Union forces away from Richmond.

After several engagements in March and April, Jackson's outnumbered army marched east as though it was en route to Richmond, to deceive Banks. Jackson turned his men around and slipped back into the Valley, stealing a march north past Luray to Front Royal, which he attacked and occupied on May 23. When Jackson turned toward Strasburg and the fort, Banks retreated to Winchester, where Jackson defeated him on May 25. Banks then withdrew across the Potomac River. Federals and Confederates each briefly occupied Banks' Fort throughout the rest of the war.

Shenandoah Publishing House

Some of the books published through the years

- 1927 - A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia, by John Wayland
- 1929 - The Swamps: A Record of Pioneer Days in the Middle West, by Sigel Roush
- 1929 - The Shenandoah Pottery, by A. H. Rice and John Baer Stoudt
- 1930 - Virginia Valley Records: Genealogical and Historical Records of Rockingham County, Virginia and Related Regions, by John Wayland
- 1930 - History of the descendants of John Hottel, by William David Huddle
- 1931 - The Story of Gatlinburg (White Oak Flats), by Jeanette S. Greve
- 1961 - The Story of Strasburg, by Virginia Lewis Cadden
- 1975 - Genealogy, by Rual Purcell Anderson

To reach Stop 4 turn right on Washington Street
and go one-half block to the log cabin.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

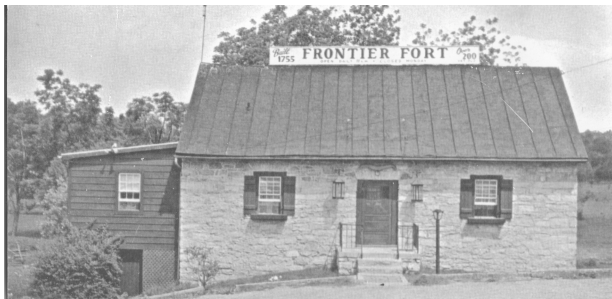
STOP 4

The Dosh House

The “Dosh House,” one of the oldest structures in Strasburg, sits on Lot 27 of the original plat of the town of Strasburg. That lot and the adjoining Lot 28 were sold by Peter Stover, the founder of the town, to Philip Huffman on April 20, 1778, with Huffman’s pledge that one house would be constructed thereon within one year. It is generally assumed that the rear wing or “ell” was constructed first, dating to approximately 1779. Huffmans resided there while the main residence was constructed sometime prior to 1800. Later the two structures were joined for the convenience of the occupants.

On December 4, 1846, John G. and Caroline Funk Dosh purchased the property and made it their home where they raised seven children. John Dosh, (father, teacher, tanner, soldier) was born in Strasburg on April 17, 1821. He volunteered for military service as a member of Captain Joshua Stover’s “Strasburg Guards.” He later served in the 23rd Virginia Cavalry. John Dosh died on June 12, 1896, and is buried in the churchyard of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

After John’s passing in 1896, the children leased the property to “Theddy” Fleet, a notable local potter. His descendants lived here into the 1930s. The remaining Dosh heirs sold the property to Strasburg in 1940. During a portion of the ensuing years, the house was used for a Boy Scout Headquarters until its transfer to the Strasburg Guards, Sons of Confederate Veterans on August 10, 1995. The Presbyterian Church cemetery (Stop 9) contains a monument (right) erected in 1929 by the Stover Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, honoring Peter Stover (Stauffer), the founder of Strasburg (Staufferstadt, Stover Town).



Frontier Fort

About a half-mile north of this location is the Hupp Historical District. The Frontier Fort, a stone residence built ca. 1755 is located at 155 N. Massanutten street. A spring was diverted from the backyard into the basement of the building when it was constructed. The spring is the source of Town Run. Visit Shenandoah Stories for more information on Frontier Fort.

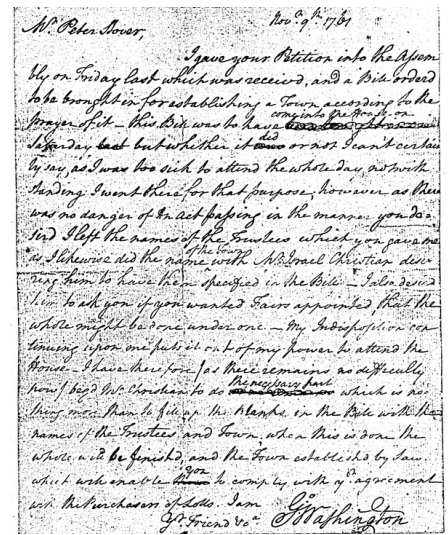
Peter Stover - Founder of Strasburg

Letter From George Washington, 9 November 1761

Mr. Peter Stover,

I gave your petition into the Assembly on Friday last which was received, and a Bill ordered to be brought in for establishing a Town according to the prayer of it—this Bill was to have come into the House on Saturday but whether it did or not I can’t certainly say, as I was too sick to attend the whole day, notwithstanding I went there for that purpose; however there was no danger of An act passing in the manner you desired I left the names of the Trustees which you gave me as I likewise did the name of the Town with Mr Isreal Christian desiring him to have them specified in the Bill—I also desired him to ask you if you wanted Fairs appointed, that the whole might be done under one. My Indisposition continuing upon me puts it out of my power to attend the House—I have therefore (as there remains no difficulty now) begged Mr Christian to do the necessary part which is nothing more that to fill up the Blanks in the Bill with the names of Trustees and Town; when this is done the whole will be finished, and the Town established by Law, which will enable you to comply with yr agreement with the Purchasers of Lotts.

I am Yr Friend &ca, Go: Washington



The letter was written to inform Stover that the petition to charter the Town had been submitted to the House of Burgesses. Washington expresses his confidence that the House will approve the petition.

To reach Stop 5 go right one-half block, cross Holliday Street, and continue one block to the sign beside the white clapboard Annex of the Lutheran Church.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 5

St. Paul Lutheran Church

The United States provided restitution to the church in the early 1900s after the trustees brought suit in the Court of Claims and provided documentation of the damage done by Federal troops during the Civil War. That payment helped finance the renovation of 1902 in which the bell tower was erected and the north and south walls of the building were reworked in the neo-Gothic style that survives to this day. (From St. Paul Lutheran Church History, "Who We Are" website.)

Strasburg Academy.

The pupils of the Strasburg Academy will have an Exhibition on the 2d and 3d days of July. A small admission fee will be charged, and the funds realized will be devoted to the Lutheran Church in that place, which had been greatly injured and defaced by the soldiers in the various armies that occupied the Valley during the war. This is a most laudable and praiseworthy object, and will doubtless, be sufficient to say nothing of the rich intellectual treat that may be expected in the exhibition.

Article in Shenandoah Herald, June 28, 1866



History of Strasburg Pottery by Fred Ritenour

Strasburg was the hub of pottery manufacturing in the Middle Valley due to the rich clay. Pottery production in Strasburg started as early as 1757 by the Sabbatarians, and Peter Grim started the first commercial pottery in Strasburg in 1783.

In 1843 Samuel Bell started producing pottery here. He was joined by his brother Solomon Bell who had worked in his father's shop in Winchester as a boy. The brothers formed a partnership and established the S. Bell Pottery. For upwards of 40 years they labored together making earthenware and stoneware for the people of the Shenandoah Valley.

Adam Keister, Sr., began making pottery in the 1820s. After his passing in 1847, his sons Henry and Adam Keister, Jr. continued.

Strasburg potters include Bells, Keisters, Sonners, Hickerson, Millers, Eberlys, Davison, Fleet, Kenner, Funkhouser, Lehew, as well as others. [The building adjacent to the sign for Stop 5 was once the site of the Sonner Pottery.] Today, pottery and earthenware from Strasburg is sought after by collectors as well as museums around the country. Visit the Strasburg Museum to view its collection.



Sonner Pottery. One of the five original Strasburg Pottery buildings remaining.

Prosperity Arrives By Rail

The Passenger Depot once located on what is now Fort Street was built by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in 1878 during a time of booming economic prosperity. Visit Shenandoah Stories to learn more about the Strasburg Passenger Depot.

To reach Stop 6 go left to Fort Street, turn left and continue to King Street. Cross the street and go left to the sidewalk bump-out in front of the Strasburg Library.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 6

Post Office Muralist

During the Great Depression, in an effort to give work to artists, the Works Progress Administration created a design competition intended to provide works of art to embellish federal buildings. Strasburg's post office was fortunate in being selected as a recipient of this program. Today you can still see in the post office, on the west wall, a beautiful mural of apple harvesting in the Valley, titled "Apple Orchard".

A young artist named Sarah Blakeslee, who studied at the Corcoran College of Art and Design, the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and who would become a very popular portrait painter, was chosen to create the mural. In a letter written in 1986 to thank the then postmaster, Mr. Binebrink, for his kindness to relatives of hers who visited Strasburg and the mural, she related some of her experiences during the creation of the painting in 1937.

She wrote: "I recall spending some time in the Strasburg vicinity exploring and sketching on various quiet back roads - unpaved mostly - which provided the best way to become familiar with the country. The painting itself was done in a studio ... (in) Philadelphia, which my husband and I were using at the time. When finished, the canvas was rolled and carried by car to Strasburg and put in place by two young men from Washington DC who were skilled in installing the various canvases in post offices. I felt most fortunate in having the enthusiastic help of the then postmaster (Mr. R.S. Wright). He was most kind and introduced me to the history of that beautiful country and to some of the love and character of the surroundings which was most helpful. He even insisted that I use his car (not having our car at the time) to explore and sketch. I think that, on leaving, I gave him a small oil or pastel sketch of Massanutten and the valley."

Blakeslee traveled here on several occasions to prepare her sketches and when here roomed with Mrs. Lucy Linn at her home at 425 Stover Ave. She also traveled back to Strasburg in 1938 for the installation of the mural and was said to have added a few finishing touches to it after it was mounted on the wall. She visited again in 1990. Strasburg is the only town in Shenandoah County to have such a mural; other towns in the area with these wonderful paintings representing local history are Berryville, Harrisonburg, and Luray.

The Burning of the Shenandoah Valley

President Abraham Lincoln, growing increasingly distressed by the death and destruction of the Civil War, asked the head of the Union Army, General U.S. Grant, to take measures to win the war as soon as possible.

In the autumn of 1864 Union victories in the Valley opened an opportunity for General William Sherman to launch a bold strategy to help ensure a swift victory for the North. Called "The Burning", his plan was to launch a campaign of destruction on the Shenandoah Valley, "breadbasket" of the Confederacy. Homes, mills, barns, farm animals, and food stores that could aid the Confederate effort were put under the torch or slaughtered by the Union troops under his command.



Beginning in Staunton in late September and ending early in October hundreds of fires lit the night sky up and down the Valley. The breadbasket was no longer able to supply Southern troops. General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse in April of 1965 was partially due to the devastation of "The Burning".

Other interesting articles about bygone King Street businesses Lloyd's Department Store, the Post Office, and Spangler Mill/ Old Mill Tavern can be found at shenandoahstories.org.

To reach Stop 7 go left on King Street a short distance to the corner of Fort Street, turn left on Fort Street and continue one block. Go right on Queen Street to the end of the block.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 7

The Bell Family Potters

Brothers Samuel and Solomon Bell opened their pottery workshop on Queen St. in Strasburg in 1834. Their father, Peter, had operated a pottery business in Hagerstown and Winchester. His sons John, Samuel, and Solomon continued the tradition which was also passed down to the third generation into the 20th century. The pair produced utilitarian ceramics as well as fanciful animals, like the colorful pot pictured here, and brightly colored vessels of all kinds. The Bell family potteries stand out among the more than 300 potteries operating in the Shenandoah Valley in the 19th century for their large output and work's artistic merit.



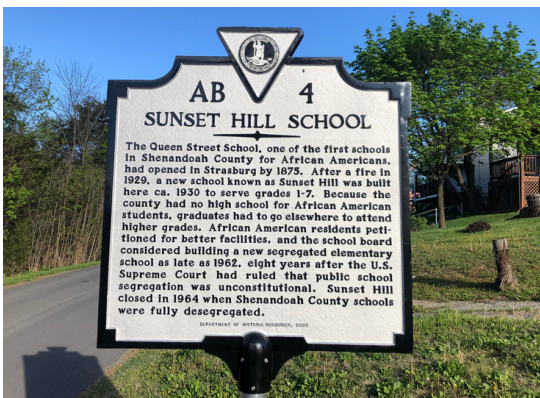
Sabbatarian Community on Sandy Hook

Brother Obediah, buried in the Old Community Cemetery, was a member of the Sabbatarian sect. Sabbatarians practiced celibacy and celebrated the Sabbath on Saturday. Sabbatarians were noted for their beautiful style of Fraktur calligraphy, their self-composed a cappella music, and their printing activities.

Some members of this group left their enclave in Ephrata, Pennsylvania (ephratacloister.org) in 1752 and traveled to Sandy Hook across the Shenandoah River from Strasburg where they established a community. Ezekiel Sangmeister and Samuel Eckerlin were noted members of this sect.



On Sandy Hook the community began the first pottery works in the area. Sangmeister was a master carpenter and scrivener (calligraphy artist), Eckerlin was an herbal medicine practitioner, and other members were weavers and basket makers. The Sabbatarian way of life was considered unorthodox by the Strasburg establishment and caused growing concern, but Native American attacks in June of 1764 led the Sabbatarians to abandon their enclave and return to Pennsylvania.



Virginia Historic Marker erected at Sunset Hill School



Sunset Hill School
After the Queen Street School for African American children burned in 1929, a school was built on Sunset Street. Black children attended this school until Shenandoah County schools were fully integrated in 1964.

To reach Stop 8 go left to Fort Street, turn right and go one block to High Street, turn left and continue to the middle of the block.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 8 (1 OF 2)

From the corner of S. Fort and High Streets, you can see the old Strasburg High School, now Strasburg Mennonite Church. Down the hill behind the school were athletic fields, Kline Stadium (named for Freddy Kline, who was killed during the World War II Battle of the Bulge), and the site of very popular 20th century May Day celebrations. The North Fork of the Shenandoah lies beyond the field. Visit Shenandoah Stories for more history on Strasburg's historic schools and May Day celebrations.



The Gundalow: Early Ingenuity Afloat

The transportation of goods on the river was a main feature of commerce in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1800s when long, narrow, flat-bottomed boats called gundalows were used to transport goods north and east to the large markets in DC and Baltimore. The gundalow was developed as a solution to a unique challenge.



Transporting goods by land proved too difficult because roads were too muddy and poorly constructed for wagons, and traditional boats were not able to make the return journey back upriver. Gundalows were designed as simple structures, usually 80-90 feet long and 10 feet wide, that could be built quickly and inexpensively. Once the gundalows made it to their destination, they were unloaded and then could be sold to enterprising individuals who would disassemble them and sell the used lumber at low prices. By the 1850s the rise of the railroad, improved roads, and drier weather spelled the end of the age of the gundalow.

To reach Stop 9 go left to the end of the block, turn right on Holliday Street, continue to the top of the hill, and cross the street.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 8 CONTINUED

Strasburg Water Tunnel

The Shenandoah River was a primary source of transportation and commerce for Strasburg's early inhabitants, and today, the river remains vital to Strasburg as its main water source. However, the river was not always the town's only source of water. Notes taken from the minutes of Strasburg's Town Council in 1921 show that a committee was appointed to investigate the possibility of building a water reservoir in the little Fort Valley and bringing the water to the town via a tunnel to be built through the Massanutten Mountain.



Tunnel construction began in January 1923 above the farm of Robert Hinkins on Sandy Hook and at the same time on the Little Fort Valley side of the mountain. The tunnel is 334 feet from the top of the mountain and is 1664 feet long. The construction of the tunnel proved to be much more difficult than expected because 1625 feet of the rock of the tunnel is of an unusually hard nature called crystallized quartz. On the hardness scale of minerals, diamonds are a 10, steel a 9, and the Massanutten Mountain crystallized quartz is an 8 ½.

Consequently, the drills used there consumed a great amount of steel and work proceeded slowly. About one and a half tons of steel were used in the drilling, and two railroad cars of dynamite were required for blasting. The tunnel is approximately 5 feet wide by 6 feet high and about 2,500 tons of stone were hauled out. Much of that was used to construct the impounding reservoir dam in Little Fort Valley. The new reservoir was designed to hold 20,000,000 gallons of water.



MUNICIPAL RESERVOIR, STRASBURG, VA. Signal Knob, two miles from Strasburg and the northern base of Massanutten range, is the end of two mountains. Diverging here, the two ridges form the shallow Little Fort Valley. Within this valley during 1922-23, the town of Strasburg constructed 900,000-gallon reservoir, a portion of which is shown above, and dug a 1,700-foot tunnel through Massanutten Mountain, through which the water flows to a 1,000,000-gallon supply reservoir on the town side mountain. The water is freestone, and the system, operating by gravity, is one of the finest in the Sta-

The Strasburg News reported on December 20, 1923 that the two crews drilling the tunnels, one from Little Fort Valley, the other on the Strasburg side, broke through the last of the rock and met each other.

Today the reservoir and tunnel are no longer used; Strasburg citizens use the Shenandoah River as their water source.

There had been speculation that the two sets of workmen would miss each other, but the engineering work had been so accurate that the two sections were not as much as one foot out of line. This event was met with much celebration. A dynamite blast was set off to proclaim the news, and people soon filled the streets. Fireworks lit up the sky, and a general celebration marked the completion of the difficult task.

Visit Shenandoah Stories for more history on Strasburg Christian Church.

To reach Stop 9 go left to the end of the block, turn right on Holliday Street, continue to the top of the hill, and cross the street.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 9

10th Virginia Infantry Regiment

The 10th Virginia Infantry Regiment had its origins in volunteer militia companies organized in the late 1850s in Rockingham County. Eleven companies made up the 10th Virginia. Seven companies were drawn from Rockingham County, two from Shenandoah County, one from Page County and one from Madison County. A total of about 1,350 men served in the 10th Virginia in the time the regiment was under arms. As part of the Army of Northern Virginia, the regiment saw action in every major engagement that was fought in Virginia, Maryland (except Sharpsburg), and Pennsylvania.

Strasburg Presbyterian Church

Due to settlement, in the early days most churches, which were very important in local communities, were German churches. By the late 18th Century, English-speaking preachers from the Winchester Presbytery were sent into Shenandoah County to hold services. By 1822 Rev. William Henry Foote began preaching in Strasburg and Woodstock. Rev. Foote noted that when he first came here there was only one Presbyterian in Woodstock, two in Strasburg, and three more in the county.

One congregation known as the "Union Church of Shenandoah" was organized in 1824. Because of the distance and difficulty of travel between Strasburg and Woodstock, it was impossible for the congregations to continue worshipping together, so they were divided into two in 1826. The Strasburg congregation acquired property and began to make plans for construction. On May 16, 1830, the Strasburg Presbyterian Church, located on S. Holliday St., was dedicated.

Like many other buildings in Shenandoah County, this church was used as a hospital during the Civil War. William Upshaw, a Confederate doctor from Staunton, wrote in 1862 of the difficulty of finding a suitable hospital location. He is quoted as saying, "Today I've been more fortunate in discovering an excellent church, the best building in the place, and have transferred my men there to the no little annoyance of the church-going people of the place, but this I did not care for since I know I was doing my duty in taking it." The St. Paul Lutheran Church congregation was invited to worship at Strasburg Presbyterian during the war as the Lutheran church was even more damaged by military occupation and abuse than the Presbyterian building.

Historian John Wayland noted repairs to the church were complete in May 1872, but it wasn't until after 1900 that Federal payment was received for damages inflicted during the war. This money was used to construct the manse for the church's minister, completed in 1913.

In 1990, when the church celebrated 160 years, an account was recorded of an unusual visit around 1900 by an elderly man. As the story went, this distinguished gray-haired gentleman, unknown to the congregation, appeared at a morning worship service. Near the end of the service, he rose and asked if he might speak. He then recounted that as a young Yankee soldier he had been brought to this church when it was serving as a hospital. His reason for addressing the congregation was to express a belated thanks to the ladies of the Strasburg Presbyterian Church for their kindness and tender care shown to him and the other "enemy" soldiers under their care.

Originally serving a small population of English-speaking churchgoers, Strasburg Presbyterian, the oldest church building in town, still stands as a beautiful and historic place of worship.

Visit Shenandoah Stories for more history on the Strasburg Presbyterian Church.



*Civil War Obelisk 1896
"IN MEMORY OF OUR
FALLEN COMRADES
NUMBERING 136"*



*Strasburg Presbyterian Church c. late
19th - early 20th century.*

To reach Stop 10 go left on Holliday Street down the hill, cross Queen Street, then turn left and cross Holliday Street. As you walk to Stop 10, notice the large turreted brick house at 267 S. Holliday Street. When Dr. F.E. Grove built it c. 1910, it was the first Strasburg home to include electricity, indoor plumbing, and central heat.

HISTORIC STRASBURG WALKING TRAIL

STOP 10

Strasburg's Own Hospital

The building that houses the Hotel Strasburg was originally built as a private hospital in 1902, by Dr. Mackall Bruin. He made house calls on horseback in addition to attending patients at the hospital. The nurses' home was next door and a three-story carriage house was at the rear. Bruin also built the Annex building and what is now called the Taylor House for his family residence.



Dr. Mackall Bruin

The Hoover House

The residence at 148 W. Queen St. is a wonderful example of a simple early structure that was adapted and expanded through time. Balzar Huber (Hoover) built it in 1765 as a small 18x20-foot 1-1/2 story log house. By 1830, its owners had changed its east side entrance to its current southeast face, established a central hallway, raised it to two stories, and added a simple Greek Revival façade. The northwest wing was added by 1860. In 1884, tailor James Houck bought the house; during the 1947 house renovations, the owners found an account book belonging to Houck's father-in-law (tailor Isaac Hurn) that contains entries from 1849-63, and includes details of an order for regimental uniforms for the Confederate Strasburg Grays Infantry. Strasburg buildings certainly tell the story of a town at the crossroads of history.



Hospital nursing staff

Visit Shenandoah Stories for more history on the Strasburg Hotel.

We hope you have enjoyed our walking trail of Historic Strasburg and have learned a few things that make our town special! To reach Stop 1 go one block north to King Street, turn right and continue to the Strasburg Museum.