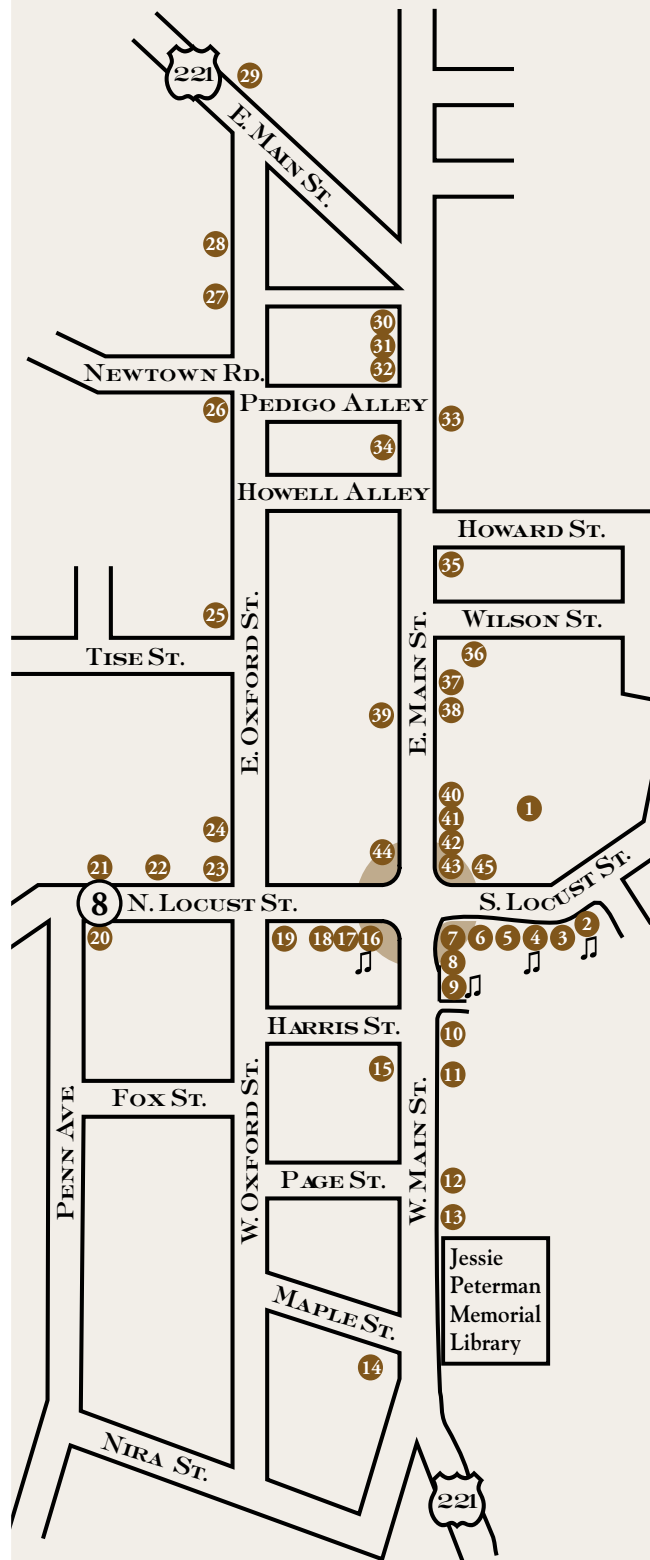


TOWN OF FLOYD, VIRGINIA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

This map can be used for walking or driving. Please watch for traffic and, whenever possible, cross on the crosswalks. Pedestrians may use any of the alleys between E. Oxford and E. Main Streets to travel between numbers 28 and 29.



Please visit other Floyd Trails: The Crooked Road Virginia Music Heritage Trail (♫ local music sites); Virginia's Civil War Heritage Trail, & the Round the Mountain Regional Artisan Trail.

FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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The Society encourages interest in the history of Floyd County through the collection, preservation, and stewardship of significant historic materials. Educational programs include lectures, publications, community outreach, and exhibits. The Society maintains a substantial archive of historic artifacts, documents, and early photographs. Membership supports our work. Annual dues are \$15.00.

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Map sites #20, #21. This view from Society image archive shows a newly constructed 1913 Floyd High School (currently Schoolhouse Fabrics) and the 1913 Ridgemont Hospital. In 2010, the former hospital became the home of the new Floyd County Historical Society Museum and Archives. IMAGE 546, ROM SUMPTER COLLECTION.

A project of the
FLOYD COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

FLOYD HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

A Virginia Crossroads Town

The Floyd Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register, includes most of the town center as established in 1831, when traffic consisted mainly of horse and wagon. Routes 221 and 8 connect most of the county's smaller rural roads and intersect at the crossroads of Main and Locust Streets in the center of Floyd. Our map covers 1.8 walking-miles and features 45 historic places. The town's buildings, constructed without access to major roads, railroads, or factories, display the character of the community: creative use of local materials, endless ingenuity, skilled craft, hard work, and pride.



#7 Peoples Bank and the Hotel Brame on the courthouse square in 1912

(1831-1860) The new county of Floyd (named for Governor John Floyd) established the village of Jacksonville (named for President Andrew Jackson) as its county seat. Building lots were laid off surrounding the 1832 courthouse. By 1835 the town had two general stores, a tavern, a blacksmith shop, a tanyard, and a saddlemaking facility. Buildings were small frame or log. With the 1846 brick Jacksonville Academy, the village flourished. By 1850 Jacksonville had 275 inhabitants (including 66 slaves), with six merchants, three physicians, and several leather and wood workers. 1860 saw high prosperity and growth.

(1866-1917) The town experienced gradual post-Civil War development, but due to major fires (in 1896 & 1912) many historic buildings date to this time. The town's name was changed to Floyd in 1896.

(1918-1945) Between World Wars I and II, the town continued to add distinctive buildings, including many fine homes. A first industry, the Freezer Shirt Factory (#2), was established in 1936.

FLOYD 2011 HISTORIC WALKING TOUR SITES

1. Old Jacksonville Cemetery

297 S. Locust St.

Circa 1827. David Kitterman's family cemetery was sold to the town in 1852 for one dollar. It holds the grave of a War of 1812 soldier, Civil War veterans, and Hervy Deskins, signer of the Articles of Secession. Henry Dillon is buried here, as is Nathaniel Henry (no marker), son of Patrick Henry. Unmarked graves hold remains of antebellum slaves. Local soapstone defines a rare 1840s tomb table and German-style grave markers.

2. Freezer Shirt Factory (Winter Sun Building)

302 S. Locust St.

1936. The site of an old livery stable, the quonset roof structure, affectionately known as the "shirt factory," held a textile factory for sixty years. Now a clothing store, restaurants, and the ♪Sun Music Hall.

3. Angels in the Attic (Old Southern States) Thrift Store

210 S. Locust St. 1920s-30s

4. Floyd Country Store

206 S. Locust St.

Early 1900s. Built as Farmers Supply Store, a Ford agency and general store followed. Now home to the famous ♪Friday Night Jamboree, where bluegrass and old-time musicians entertain crowds each Friday night.



5. C.M. Graham Building

114 S. Locust St.

1918-19. Originally built for George Slusher's roller mill, in the 1920s it held displays for undertaker C. M. Graham. W. J. Ayers' general store operated here 1938-70. Now a gift shop and specialty goods store.

6. Floyd Press Building

108 S. Locust St.

1914. Built for W. A. Sowers, owner/editor of the Floyd Press. Newspaper presses occupied the lower level. Silent movies were shown upstairs. Note the ornate articulated soapstone brick at the front parapet. The façade was restored with original balcony. Now a lawyer's office.



7. Peoples Bank

102 S. Locust St.

1911. The first local soapstone brick building, the former bank has a prefabricated metal cornice similar to others in town. The second floor held the Conduffs' dental offices. Once a Ben Franklin store, it's now a real estate office.

8. Tompkins' Law Office

111 W. Main St.

1897. First built as Tompkins' law office, a few gothic details remain on this quaint structure. Now an art gallery.

9. Floyd (Pix) Theater

115 W. Main St.

1934-36. Built as the Pix Movie Theater, it hosted performers Bill and Charlie Monroe and Roy Hall. It's now home to ♪County Sales (County Records/ Rebel Records), the world's largest distributor of bluegrass and old-time recordings; find their store down the alley.

10. Ferdinand A. Winston House

203 W. Main St.

Circa 1845. One of the oldest residences in town. Originally built for Moses Clark; later, home to Ferdinand Winston, sheriff and cabinetmaker, who was elected to the 1867 constitutional convention from Floyd.



11. Henry Dillon House (“Boxwood Gardens”)

209 W. Main St.

1851-52. Brickmason Henry Dillon’s home. Note rare period dormer, locally made brick in five-course American bond, and original doors and windows. See oak tree lady and basket chainsawed by Lenny Bean.

12. Stump House

301 W. Main St.

1916-18. Built for Howard Stump by Lather Hylton with a complex, flared eave, standing-seam roof. From 1926-56 it housed Floyd Telephone Company’s central office and was residence for switch board operator Lena Whitlock.

13. Calahill M. Epperly House

305 W. Main St.

1914-19. Another constructed by Lather Hylton as his own residence. Fine workmanship with a complex roof design, curved eaves, and hipped dormers. Note the craftsman style details in the windows, chimneys, and wraparound porch.



14. The Maples

109 Maple St.

Circa 1886. Restored former home of A.T. & Minnie Howard with original well house, smokehouse, and circa 1900 silo. Note the carved fan light detail on the portico gable and Greek Revival columns.

15. Headen-Howard House

204 W. Main St.

1849. Named “Glenanna,” this Georgian Revival served as a residence and doctor’s office. After 1870, a room was used by the Masons. Constructed by Henry Dillon, an Irish-born brick mason, for Dr. Tazewell Headen, whose wife was Mary Stuart, sister to J.E.B. Stuart, the Confederate General. Another brother, Dr. John Stuart, later resided here. Note the ornate wrought iron fence, original brick well house, meat house, log stables, and separate brick kitchen. Individually listed: Virginia and National Historic Registers.



16. Brown G. Howard Law Office

110 N. Locust St.

1912-13. Built of local, sawn soapstone as a law office for Brown G. Howard and Son, with a general store to one side. The upper floor once held a Masonic Lodge. Note the articulated brick patterning and pressed glass transoms at the storefront. Currently Oddfella’s Cantina.

17. Odd Fellows Hall

112 N. Locust St.

1912. A fire destroyed four buildings, including the original Odd Fellows. Rebuilt with a unique construction of planks, 1” x 5” wide, stacked flat, to create a fireproof structure. After the fraternal secret society, this building had several commercial uses. Now an art gallery.

18. Elder Posey Lester House

126 N. Locust St.

1900. A Primitive Baptist minister, Posey G. Lester preached in twenty-one states and Canada, was Moderator of the New River Primitive Baptist Assoc., and editor for “Zions Landmark.” In 1888 he began two terms as a U.S. Congressman. This Gothic Victorian has been much altered.

19. W.H. Morgan House

132 N. Locust St.

1912. Captain Morgan’s law office, a 2-room, 2-story building once stood at the corner near this house. Now a dentist’s office.

20. Floyd High School

220 N. Locust St.

1913. Georgian Revival with soapstone quoining. Site of the 1846 Jacksonville Male Academy (Floyd Institute) constructed by Henry Dillon. Post-war, 1870-78, it was the co-ed Jacksonville Public School. Razed for construction of this 1913 Floyd High School, it’s now renowned as Schoolhouse Fabrics.

21. “The Ridgemont”

217 N. Locust St.

1913. Dr. M.L. Dalton’s Hospital, the first hospital in Floyd, held nine beds as well as a surgery room. This clipped gable Victorian vernacular was built by Lather Hylton, who never shied away from complex roofs. Home of the Floyd County Historical Society Museum.

22. Hector Williams House

209 N. Locust St.

1840s. Much altered, what remains may be the oldest existing town structure.

23. J.P. Proffit House and Store

201 N. Locust St.

Pre-1884. The former rear store section was also operated by Lather Hylton. Site features a fine quartz stone wall with very old boxwoods.

24. E.S. Salmons House

206 E. Oxford St.

1920s. Another Lather Hylton building.

25. Lawson House

302 E. Oxford St.

Circa 1870. Oral history places an 1870-72 schoolroom here. Home remodeled late 1890s for the Lawson family; now a B&B guest house.



26. D.W. Sowers House

326 E. Oxford St.

Circa 1900. Constructed for Civil War Captain Darius Sowers.

27. Presbyterian Manse

424 E. Oxford St.

1920-21. Built for Rev. Dr. R. Gamble See by Lather Hylton (as sketched by Mrs. See), this home replaced the original Manse. It used a Delco battery system. Rev. See worked with the Presbyterian Home Mission Schools, initiated a local Red Cross Chapter, and organized the Floyd Boy Scouts.

28. Oxford Academy

428 E. Oxford St.

1901. Built by the Reverend John Kellogg Harris after an 1898 fire destroyed the previous ca. 1875 log school. Oxford Academy, an important educational influence (1875-86; 1889-1904), closed in 1904 with Rev. Harris’s failing health. In the 1930s it became public



elementary classrooms. Harris’s death inspired the Presbyterian Harris Mountain (Home Mission) Schools across the region. Acquired in 2003, and later restored by the Floyd County Historical Preservation Trust, Inc.

29. James Asa Sowers House

601 E. Main St.

Circa 1879. A particularly well-kept Victorian beauty with Gothic and Italianate influence. The braced frame oak structure was commissioned by Peter Howard as the Baptist parsonage.

30. Dr. J.M. Harman Office

416A E. Main St.

1904. Replaced Dr. J. M. Harman’s first (1897) medical office after a fire. Note the six-course American bond brick and the prefabricated metal cornice. Now a retail boutique.

31. Dr. J.M. Harman House

414 E. Main St.

1904. This Queen Anne Victorian was from a George Barber, mail-order house kit and used a carbide generator. Curved glass windows were added. The house features soapstone keystones and sills and first-floor interior handmade brick walls by mason Gordon Earles.



32. B.S. Pedigo House

410 E. Main St.

1908. This Victorian home was built for a former commonwealth’s attorney.

33. Lather Hylton House

413 E. Main St.

1921. Craftsman-style bungalow was Lather Hylton’s last home in Floyd.

34. Dr. C.M. Stigleman House

406 E. Main St.

Circa 1857. This brick, stucco, and wood frame residence was built for Dr. Callohill M. Stigleman, a medical doctor, first superintendent of Floyd County schools and first mayor of the town. As Captain, he raised the first Floyd Civil War regiment, Co. A, 24th VA Infantry, “The Floyd Riflemen.”

35. Edwards House

317 E. Main St.

1900-1919. Once the gambrel-roofed home of Mrs. Nan Howard, named Sunny Glenn in memory of a grandson, it had elaborate gardens beside a former public spring and branch. A two story icehouse stood nearby.

36. The Old Church Gallery (Albert Agnew House)

110 Wilson Ave.

1930s. This non-profit exhibits creative folkways, with oral history and media archives. Open Saturdays and Sundays, May to December, 745-2979.

37. Jacksonville Presbyterian Church

215 E. Main St.

October 1850. Note facade of handmade bricks in Flemish bond with five-course American bond side walls. Original columned portico was replaced. The Greek Revival church was built by Henry Dillon from the 1830s book, The Practical House Carpenter, by Asher Benjamin. Early ministers were important social forces: Rev. John Kellogg Harris 1872-82, 1889-1910, and Rev. R. Gamble See, 1912-73. Currently a Masonic Lodge. Individually listed: Virginia and National Historic Registers.



38. Nannie Harman Howard House

209 E. Main St.

1913-14. This impressive Georgian Revival was built for the widow of Judge Waller Howard. Sheriff John Brammer and Hugh Rakes also resided here. The two-story cypress Corinthian columns were manufactured in Chicago, carried to Christiansburg by train, and to Floyd by teams of oxen. The tool chest of William Sowers, carpenter’s foreman, is displayed at the Old Church Gallery. The 1846 “Aspen Hall,” the boyhood home of Rear Admiral Robley D. (Fighting Bob) Evans, Spanish-American War hero and commander-in-chief of the U.S. Atlantic Fleet, was once located on this lot.

39. Doctor E. L. Lawrence House

212 E. Main St.

Circa 1912.

40. Floyd County Bank Building (Blue Ridge Restaurant)

113 E. Main St.

1897-98. Expanded in 1904 for the Floyd County Bank and, later, the Citizen’s Bank (1920-23). The second floor held law offices for V. M. Sowder and J. E. Burwell with balcony and stairs to the sidewalk. When converted to a restaurant, the original bank vault became a walk-in cooler.



41. A.T. Howard Building

109 E. Main St.

1914. Albert Tappe Howard commissioned Floyd’s first machine-made bricks from H.H. Earles. They were fired (burned) in the present Food Lion lot. The glazed ends show as decorative headers on the facade. Housed a post office from 1915-57; Western Auto 1948-83. Now law offices.

42. Pendleton Drug Store (Hancock Hardwoods)

105 E. Main St.

1899. Was once Sowers and Woolwine Drug Store, Woolwine and Rutrough, and finally Rutrough Sundries, whose sign remains on the restored exterior. For teens, a special date once meant a cherry smash and grilled cheese sandwich at the soda fountain.

43. Horatio Howard Building (Farmers’ Supply Store)

101 E. Main St.

1897. Horatio Howard constructed this building after the great 1896 town fire. Note the cast iron “stars” capping structural tie rods, the pressed glass tile transoms on the storefront, and early painted advertising on the west wall. Originally a mercantile store for Howard and partner Thomas B. Huff, it’s been Farmers’ Supply Store for about 90 years.



44. Floyd County Courthouse

100 E. Main St.

1951. The first Floyd County Court House was erected in 1832 and replaced by Henry Dillon’s 1851-1950 courthouse. The current courthouse is a handsome Moderne style. A 1904 Monument is dedicated to Confederate veterans.

45. Hylton and Whitlow Store

117 S. Locust St.

1911. Likely constructed by Lather Hylton, who bought the lot, ran his businesses here, and later sold it at double the price, indicating a major improvement. Currently holds a second floor coffee shop, coffee roaster, and bookstore.