

Chapter 3 – History

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the historic resources element in the Comprehensive Plan is to complement land use planning by providing guidance for the identification and protection of Staunton’s historic resources. Historic resources serve as visual reminders of Staunton’s past, providing a link to its cultural heritage and a better understanding of the people and events which shaped the patterns of its development. Preservation of these resources makes it possible for them to continue to play an integral, vital role in the City and the area.

Staunton contains a wealth of physical reminders of the past through its historic architecture. Through the efforts of the Historic Staunton Foundation (HSF), five historic districts and many individual buildings within the City have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register.

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PLAN ELEMENTS

Housing

Historic buildings can be modified for affordable housing or mixed-use opportunities.

Economy

Rehabilitated historic buildings generate new tax revenues, increase employment, and provide improved spaces for retail, offices, housing, lodging and entertainment.

Transportation

The design of road improvements and parking standards should consider the traditional, historic design of the City.

Land Use

Zoning ordinances should be compatible with and promote the protection of historic resources.

HISTORICAL ERAS

Pre-European Contact Era: 1000 B.C.E – 1492

Flourishing societies of indigenous peoples live by hunting, farming, fishing, and trading.

Evidence of a formerly robust Native American population abounds in the Augusta-Staunton area. Archaeologists have identified and excavated numerous camping, village, and burial locations and they document Native presence since at least 11,500 BC.

The road system we use today developed out of an original Indian trail system. For example, Rt. 11 closely follows what was known as the “Great Trading Path” or the “Warrior’s Path” at the time of initial European settlement.

Today’s Staunton once marked the approximate centerpoint of a mound-building culture that flourished during the 12th and 13th centuries.

Colonial Era: 1492 – 1763

Europeans explore, establish colonies, create conflict with Native Americans; European rivalries continue.

- 1732** John Lewis, an immigrant from Ireland, was the first settler in Augusta County building his home, Fort Lewis, a mile east of present-day Staunton.
- 1736** King George II issued a grant to William Beverley for 118,491 acres of land embracing a large part of what is now Augusta County.
- 1745** A courthouse was built for Augusta County, which, at that time, stretched westwards to the Mississippi River and encompassed much of what now makes up the states of Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, most of West Virginia and a portion of western Pennsylvania (including present-day Pittsburgh).
- 1747** A plan for the Town of Staunton was developed at Beverley's "Mill Place." Staunton was named after Lady Rebecca Staunton, the wife of the popular colonial Governor William Gooch (for whom Goochland County, Virginia is named).
- 1760** Staunton was considered a major trading center in the remote back country of Virginia.
- 1761** Staunton was incorporated by the Virginia General Assembly.

Revolutionary Era: 1763–1789

Maturing colonial economies; increasing tension with Great Britain leads to war and independence.

Staunton served primarily as the seat of government - the Courthouse was a primary attraction for business. Staunton lay at the intersection of the *Great Wagon Road* (later known as the *Valley Turnpike*) and early roads to the west and served as a major center for trade.

- 1781** The Virginia State Legislature met in Staunton for 17 days, after being forced by British troops to flee Richmond. Participants included Patrick Henry and Daniel Boone.

Early Republic, Westward Expansion, and Antebellum Eras: 1789–1860

New federal government; first political parties; uncertain international relations; expansion to the Mississippi.

Growth in transportation and industry; Jacksonian democracy; Manifest Destiny; removal of Native Americans.

Differences over expansion of slavery leads to increasing sectionalism; conflict with Mexico.

- 1791** *The Staunton Academy* was established as one of the first private boy's schools in the Shenandoah Valley.

- 1800** There were over 200 buildings including 8 taverns, 4 hotels, a newspaper, a firehouse, and a jail. The population of 800 was a mixture of Scotch, Irish, German, and Eastern Virginians with much of the town business connected to Richmond, Alexandria, and Fredericksburg. In the 1800s slavery did exist in Staunton and Augusta County. From the 1820s through 1860, slaves represented twenty percent of the population. Slavery was ubiquitous and systematic to the economy and society.

- 1828** *Western State Lunatic Asylum* (now known as *Western State Hospital*) was established in Staunton as one of the earliest institutions of its kind in the nation.



Original Western State - Source: CSPDC

- 1830s** The population had grown to 2,000. During this time the Valley Pike (present day U.S. Route 11) was constructed between Staunton and Winchester, following the early Wagon Road, that followed the Path of the Iroquois.
- 1840s** The construction of the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike (now West Beverley Street), made Staunton the gateway to the frontier and a market center for goods returning from the newly developed areas. During this period, the Augusta Female Seminary (now Mary Baldwin University), the Virginia Female Institute (now Stuart Hall), and the Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind were founded in Staunton. All three schools are still operating. The Gospel Hill section of the City was developed after Beverley Street was extended and the Winchester Road (now known as Coalter Street) was paved. Growth also occurred in the Newtown and Stuart Addition neighborhoods.
- 1847** Staunton's first bank, the Valley Bank of Staunton opened and served as the only bank in the town until after the Civil War.
- 1848** Water system improvements were made when running water was pumped into Staunton from Buttermilk Springs.
- 1849** Thornrose Cemetery, Staunton's first municipal cemetery was created.
- 1850s** Staunton was the largest town in the upper Shenandoah Valley, with an excellent transportation network including a major railroad running directly to the State capital, five stagecoach lines, and good roads. A telegraph line to Richmond was installed; Gas lines were placed that provided the ability to light the streets and homes.
- 1854** The *Virginia Central Railroad* arrived. The introduction of railroads led to Staunton's further development as the commercial center for the agricultural products of Augusta County and neighboring Highland County.
- 1855** President Franklin Pierce visited Staunton and gave a speech at the Virginia Hotel, which was located at the present day location of the New Street Parking Garage.
- 1856** The twenty-eighth President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson, was born in Staunton. In 1912, as President-Elect, he visited Staunton and spent the night in the room in which he had been born. Wilson served as President from 1913 to 1921.

Civil War and Reconstruction Era: 1860 – 1877

War over states' rights to secede and emancipation; union preserved; new rights for African Americans.

1860s When the Civil War began, Staunton became a strategic point of interest for both the Confederate and Union militaries. Staunton's location at the intersection of the Valley Turnpike, the Staunton Parkersburg Turnpike, and the Virginia Central Railroad made it an important supply hub for the Confederate forces in Virginia as well as a target for invading Union forces. An arsenal, commissary, workshops, and warehouses were constructed in the City. Some of the military companies formed in Staunton were attached to the Fifth Virginia Regiment, part of the Stonewall Brigade commanded by Thomas Jonathan "Stonewall" Jackson. Five men in the Fifth Virginia regiment were members of Staunton's Mountain Sax Horn Band. The Stonewall Brigade Band was formed around these men. Today, the Stonewall Brigade Band is the oldest, continuous, community supported band in America.

Staunton was a hub of Southern military activity during the Civil War, serving as a supply depot for the Army of Northern Virginia, and as the headquarters of Stonewall Jackson's army during the Valley campaign. Some notable Confederate officers from Staunton include: William S. Baylor, John D. Imboden, and Jedediah Hotchkiss, who was the chief cartographer and topographer who worked for Stonewall Jackson, Jubal Early, and General Robert E. Lee.

1862 In May, General Stonewall Jackson and the Army of the Valley arrive in Staunton after conducting a diversionary march from Conrad's Store (present day Elkton) to Mitchum Station, just west of Charlottesville. After their stay in Staunton they engage Union forces at the Battle of McDowell in Highland County.

1864 Following the Confederate defeat at the Battle of Piedmont, Union forces under the command of Major General David H. Hunter took control of Staunton, which until that point had been controlled by the Confederate army. Union soldiers destroyed the railroad station and industries and confiscated usable supplies throughout the town. In August, Hunter was replaced by Major General Philip H. Sheridan. Union troops, under Philip Sheridan, occupied Staunton once again and laid waste to the Valley of Virginia, including Augusta County. Staunton escaped the brunt of destruction, losing only its industries and public buildings. The fall of 1864 would come to be known as "The Burning". Over the winter of 1864 - 65, Confederate Generals, Jubal Early and Fitzhugh Lee used Staunton as their headquarters. Sheridan's men drove them out leaving Staunton in the hands of the Union for the remainder of the war.

- 1865** Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded. Allen Chapel is the oldest church in the City of Staunton and west of the Blue Ridge Mountains to be established by people of color.
- 1866** The last federal troops left in January.
- During reconstruction, freed African Americans moved west from eastern Virginia. In Staunton, the African American community progressed through the development of free public schools and strong churches. Two African American communities that developed during this period were Sandy Hollow and Uniontown.
- 1867** Dr. Barnas Sears, an educator and minister, who served as the General Agent for the Peabody Educational Fund that funded free public school systems in the South during Reconstruction, moved to Staunton. Dr. Sear's work dispelled much of the bitterness of reconstruction through the South.
- 1869** Fairview Cemetery was founded by Mount Zion Baptist Church and Augusta Street United Methodist Church in the Sandy Hollow community.
- 1870** Staunton's population reached 5,120.
- 1871** Staunton was incorporated as a city.
- 1870s** The *Staunton Military Academy (SMA)*, the first schools for the African American community, and the Staunton Public School system were all developed.
- 1876** Under the leadership of Major Alexander Hart, Staunton's Jewish community formed the congregation of the Temple House of Israel.

Industrial Age/Gilded Age and Progressive Era : 1877 – 1920

Immigration, industrialization, urbanization; Big business, railroads, organized labor, machine politics.

Reform-urban problems; temperance; government and business corruption; women's rights.

The majority of the present structures in the City's core area and business district were built. Coal and mineral extraction operations were developed in the Shenandoah Valley and West Virginia. While the mines themselves were located to the west and east of the City, the management constructed their headquarters in Staunton, bringing with them their families and related wealth.

1886 Temple House of Israel purchased land on present day Augusta Street to create a cemetery, that is still in use today.

1890 A streetcar system was established with five and a half miles of track and 75 mules.

A young architect, named T.J. Collins, moved from Washington, D.C. to Staunton. Over the course of the next twenty years, he designed or remodeled nearly 200 buildings in Staunton, many of which still survive and have been restored. Three generations of the Collins family operated the firm, T.J. Collins & Sons until it closed in 2006.



Damages From 1896 Flood
Source: City of Staunton—Local Citizen

1896 A major flood in the Wharf Area caused catastrophic damage to Staunton's downtown area.

20th Century

1900 The focus of commercial activity centered around the railroad, the portal for exporting and importing farm goods. Residential areas were located within walking distance of the commercial sector. As the population increased, the cost of land accessible to the Central Business District skyrocketed. As a result, housing units of the period were built in as close proximity to one another as possible. In the search for available land, the steep hillsides surrounding the City were developed. Development was able to disperse somewhat with the large number of institutions of education and rehabilitation located within the City which required large areas of land and their grounds provided open space for the rest of the community.

1902 On July 10, 1902, Staunton became an independent city.

1908 Staunton became the first city to adopt the Council-Manager form of government.

1910 - 15 Staunton transforms to an auto-centric city, people move from owning stables to house horses, to owning garages to house vehicles.

1910 Staunton's population surpassed 10,000 persons at 10,604. Staunton's most famous disaster, the sinkhole cave-ins on Baldwin Street occurred.

1911 The Staunton Fire Department purchased the first motorized fire apparatus in Virginia. ("Jumbo", as it was named by its manufacturer, has been fully restored and is on display at the Fire Department.)

Era of the World Wars, the Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression: 1914 – 1945

European conflict challenges U.S. policy of neutrality; Allied victory makes world safe for democracy. Business booms, superficial prosperity; new life styles for women; growth of mass media; Red Scare. World trade declines, banks fail, high unemployment, urban and rural poverty; New Deal expands the role of federal government. Dictators threaten world peace on 2 fronts – Europe and pacific; mobilizes U.S. economy and industry; U.S. a world leader.

- 1924** The Stonewall Jackson Hotel opens.
- 1938** Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation was established.
- 1941** Charles Catlett donates a 50-acre park, Betsy Bell and Mary Gray Park to the City. (An additional 20 acres was acquired in 1995 by the City through a donation from CSC Associates.)

Cold War Era: 1945 – 1989

Tension between U.S. and Communist USSR; threat of nuclear war.

- 1950** Staunton's population reached nearly 20,000 at 19,927.

- 1950s** As a result of the Federal Highway Act, the Interstate highway system began to change the traditional patterns of development and led to more rapid suburban growth. Families began to move out into the countryside where there was cheaper land prices and lower taxes.



Downtown Staunton

Source : City of Staunton Public Relations Office

1950s and 1960s

Businesses began to locate along commercial strips of the major transportation corridors. Capital was not reinvested in the Central Business District.

Older structures were often allowed to deteriorate and blight developed. Many of the dilapidated structures were leveled and the property utilized for parking. Additionally, improvements in the Federal and State highway systems allowed industries to shift from railroads as a means of transporting goods to the more flexible trucking industry. Local road improvements allowed firms to locate in the county hinterland where large tracts of land were available at a lesser cost, and so, more desirable for the increasing size of manufacturing plants.

Prior to the 1970s, Staunton was able to handle the sprawling growth patterns through means of annexation of the developing areas.

- 1970** Staunton's population topped out at 24,461.
- 1970—94** The Statler Brothers host their free annual Fourth of July concert, "Happy Birthday U.S.A." in Staunton's Gypsy Hill Park.
- 1971** The Historic Staunton Foundation was established to promote preservation of the City's downtown historic districts. The Foundation is still active today.
- 1972** A moratorium on annexation was enacted by the Virginia General Assembly and temporarily prevented further expansion by the City.
- 1980** Staunton's population dipped to 21,857.
- 1983** The Historic Staunton Foundation was recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation for its historic preservation efforts.
- 1984** The City of Staunton and the County of Augusta entered into an agreement for consolidation. It was presented to the residents by means of a referendum and included a "backup" plan in the event that consolidation was not approved. There were three different areas for annexation agreed upon, depending on which jurisdiction rejected the consolidation plan. The City residents rejected the consolidation plan and the County residents voted in favor of it.
- 1986** The Frontier Culture Museum opened.
- 1987** The City of Staunton annexed 11.1 square miles and 2,752 residents from Augusta County.

End of the 20th and Beginning of the 21st Centuries

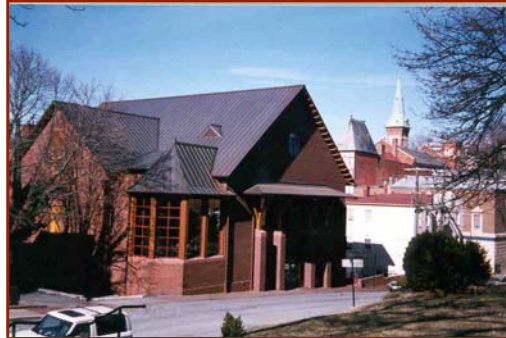
- 1990** Staunton's population moved back up to 24,461, as a result of the annexation.
- 1991** Restoration of the Wharf District / Staunton Station began.
- 1993** The *Staunton-Augusta Farmers' Market* opened and is now one of the most successful farmers' markets in Virginia.
- 1995** Staunton was named a Virginia Main Street Community. This revitalization program has the goal of stimulating long term economic growth around a traditional downtown.

1996 The Staunton Downtown Development Association (SDDA) was formed to serve as the City's designated Virginia Main Street organization.

1998 Staunton initiated the "Big Dig" project to bury utility lines and install historical lighting and brick sidewalks in the Downtown Central Business District.

2000 Staunton's population was down slightly to 23,853.

2001 Renovation of the former Eakleton Hotel building began. The building houses *The R.R. Smith Center for History and Art*, a joint project of the Historic Staunton Foundation, the Augusta County Historical Society and the Staunton-Augusta Art Center.



The world's first re-creation of Shakespeare's indoor theater, The Blackfriars Playhouse, opened in Downtown Staunton.

Blackfriar's Playhouse Source: CSPDC

2002 The New Street Parking Garage was opened by City. Staunton received the Palladio Award for the design of the New Street Parking Garage from *Traditional Building* and *Period Homes* magazines.

Staunton received the President's Citation from Preservation Alliance of Virginia. Staunton was recognized by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a Great American Main Street Community.

2003 The City announced plans for a public-private partnership to renovate the Stonewall Jackson Hotel and construction of a new conference center.



2006 Village Associates purchased the Original Western State Hospital property located on Greenville Avenue.

Stonewall Jackson Hotel Source: CSPDC

2007 The Villages of Staunton, a housing development to be located on the original site of the Western State Hospital on Greenville Avenue, broke ground. The development will include the renovation of existing buildings and new construction. The site will host town homes, condominiums, single family dwellings, and commercial spaces.

- 2010** The City of Staunton purchased the former Western State Hospital property located near the Route 250, Interstate 81 and Interstate 64 interchange from the Commonwealth of Virginia for the development of Staunton Crossing.
- 2016** Staunton Crossing Partners purchased the front 25 acres of Staunton Crossing from the City of Staunton.

HISTORIC DISTRICTS AND INDIVIDUAL HISTORIC SITES

Table 3-1 - Staunton Historic Districts

	Beverley Historic District 150 buildings and eleven blocks of Staunton's Central Business District. Classic example of a Victorian main street.
	Wharf Historic District Approximately 25 late-19th century warehouses located between Johnson Street and the C & O Railroad.
	Stuart Addition Historic District Roughly follows a tract of land deeded to Staunton in 1803 by Judge Archibald Stuart. The area contains examples of several different types of architecture. Traditionally a racially mixed neighborhood, the area has a rich association with the City's African-American community.
	Gospel Hill Historic District Recognized at the local, state, and national level for its architectural significance. Includes the site of the founding of Staunton and the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace.
	Newtown Historic District Reflects social and cultural developments spanning over a century and a half. Is Staunton's oldest continuously occupied residential area. Includes examples of late-18th, 19th, and early 20th century architecture.

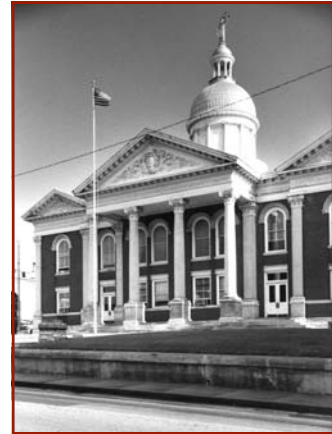
Source: Historic Staunton Foundation

Table 3-2 - Individual Historic Sites

Augusta County Courthouse

Corner of Johnson and Augusta Streets

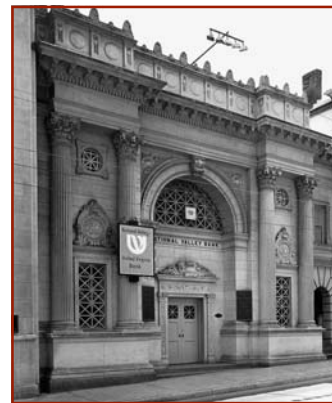
One of Staunton's most conspicuous landmarks, the Augusta County Courthouse stands on the site of all the county's Courthouses since the first one was built in 1745. Its imposing architectural design represents the prominent local architect T. J. Collins' interpretation of the florid Classicism popular at the turn of the twentieth century.



United Virginia Bank

12-14 West Beverley Street

Designed by T. J. Collins in 1902, United Virginia Bank is modeled after the Roman Arch of Titus and is one of the Shenandoah Valley's finest examples of Beaux-Arts architecture. Inside, an enormous stained glass skylight is surrounded by a delicately coffered plaster ceiling. The bank began operating in 1865 under the direction of General John Echols who solicited subscriptions from Enoch Pratt and John Hopkins. The exterior of the bank is totally original and unaltered, according to a 1906 photograph.



Arista Hoge House

215 Kalorama Street

The arresting façade of the Arista Hoge House survives as Staunton's only domestic example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style. Commissioned by local businessman and public servant Arista Hoge in 1891 as a new front for the house he had built ca. 1882, it is an early work of the firm of Collins and Hackett, illustrating the swing in taste during the 1880s from the delicacy of the Italianate to the solidity of the Romanesque.

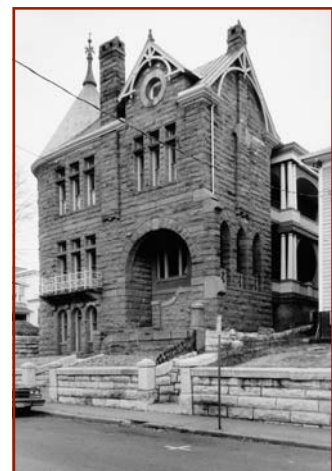


Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites - continued

Breezy Hill

1220 North Augusta Street

The prosperity of Staunton's "boom" years at the turn of the century is well reflected in Breezy Hill, one of the most ambitious of the large houses of the period scattered throughout the City. This rambling suburban villa of some 30 rooms is a knowing blending of the Queen Anne and Shingle styles, late-Victorian modes promulgated by the nation's wealthy classes. Begun ca. 1896 and completed in 1909, Breezy Hill is the work of T. J. Collins, the City's leading architect for several decades.



Catlett House

303 Berkeley Place

A classic example of the American interpretation of the Queen Anne style. Completed in 1897 for Fannie Catlett, widow of the locally prominent R. H. Catlett, the house incorporates all the elements associated with the mode: a mixture of materials, asymmetrical plan, tower, gables, Classical details, and a multiplicity of window types.



Hilltop

Mary Baldwin University Campus

The oldest building on the Mary Baldwin University campus, Hilltop, was built around 1816, according to land tax records. The simple, yet formal neo-classical style of the house is quite in keeping with the styles of that time period.



Kable House

310 Prospect Street

Kable House was built in 1873 for J. W. Alby, but was purchased by Captain William Kable in 1883 for use as the Staunton Male Academy. It is the oldest building on the former SMA campus and is one of the most elaborate Italianate houses remaining in Staunton.



Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites- continued

Mary Baldwin University Main Building

Mary Baldwin University Campus

Constructed in 1844, the Main Building of the Augusta Female Seminary (now Mary Baldwin University) was executed in the Greek Revival style and has become the architectural symbol of the school. Characteristic of this popular early 19th century style is the large triangular pediment supported by four Greek Doric columns.



J.C.M. Merrilat House

521 East Beverley Street

With its steep gables, scrolled bargeboards, board-and-batten siding, and diamond-pane windows, the J.C.M. Merrilat House presents an ideal image of a mid-19th century Gothic Revival cottage.



Thomas J. Michie House

324 East Beverley Street

Built in 1847-48 for State Delegate Thomas J. Michie, this handsome Greek Revival dwelling on Staunton's prestigious East Beverley Street has been home for several of the City's most illustrious citizens.



C.W. Miller House

210 North New Street

The former Music Building of Mary Baldwin University was designed by local architect T. J. Collins for the C. W. Miller family and was completed in 1900. It is Staunton's best example of the domestic Chateausque style and includes such characteristics as well dormers, turret, decorative chimneys and roof finials. The ornate interior of the Music Building features elaborate spindled hall arches, stained glass windows and unusual mantelpieces, all of which are in remarkable original condition.



Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites- continued

Oakdene

605 East Beverley Street

This visually arresting house represents the late 19th-century Queen Anne style at its finest and most imaginative. Its skillful, but yet unidentified, architect borrowed forms and motifs from 16th- and 17th-century European precedents and combined them into a unique structure employing outstanding craftsmanship and notably fine materials.



The Oaks

437 East Beverley Street

The Oaks is one of the most historically and architecturally significant structures in all of Staunton. The original portion of the house was constructed prior to 1868 and the front facade, or wing, was added in 1888 under the direction of owner Major Jedediah Hotchkiss. Defying conventional styles, The Oaks' exterior displays many elements of the Shingle Style, although it is executed in brick. The somewhat restrained facade belies the richness of the interior which features magnificent mantelpieces, tongue and groove cedar paneling, stained glass windows and brass lighting fixtures.



Rose Terrace

150 North Market Street

The beautiful detailing and elaborate brick work of Rose Terrace makes it one of Staunton's most elegant late 19th century homes. Built in 1875 in the Italianate style, Rose Terrace was purchased by Mary Baldwin University in 1919 and has been used as the President's home and today, as a dormitory. A small outbuilding, known as "Little House," also remains and is used as living quarters. The exterior of this two-and-one-half story brick residence remains quite original and features delicately carved brackets and woodwork, ornate corbelled chimneys and extensive brick detailing.



Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites- continued

Sears House

400 Marquis Street

Built in 1866 by Dr. Robert Lewis Madison, the Sears House reflects the influence of the picturesque cottage and villa designs of the 19th century horticulturist, A. J. Downing. The house was constructed in the Tuscan villa style of a bracketed cottage and was later enlarged with the addition of a tower. Downing's concern for the natural landscape can be seen in the dramatic hilltop setting.



Stuart Hall Main Building

225 West Frederick Street

Stuart Hall, once named the Virginia Female Institute, is the oldest preparatory school for girls in Virginia. The main building of the school, "Old Main," was built in 1846 in the Greek Revival style of architecture.



Stuart House

120 Church Street

The Stuart House, Staunton's finest example of Jeffersonian neo-classicism, was built in 1791 for prominent lawyer Archibald Stuart. The two-story brick structure features a four-columned portico which may be the oldest such portico on a residence in the state. A two-and-one-half story brick wing fronted with a gallery was added to the main house in 1844. The Stuart House is also notable for its elaborate interior woodwork, the lattice work front gates and the very original condition of the entire house.



Cobble Hill Farm

101 Woodlee Heights Road

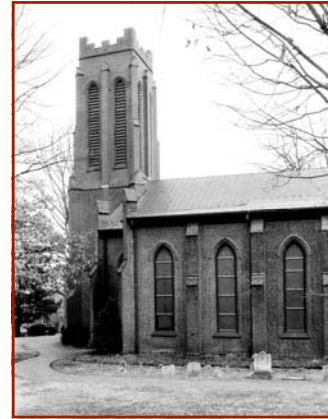
Cobble Hill Farm is an approximately 196-acre agricultural unit comprised of two tenant farms and the Cobble Hill parcel. The owner's residence, its formal gardens, and the accompanying outbuildings sit high on a knoll. Cobble Hill was designed in the Tudor Revival and French Eclectic styles by Sam Collins in 1936.



Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites- continued**Trinity Episcopal Church**

214 West Beverley Street

Trinity Episcopal Church is the direct descendent of the Augusta Parish Church, which served as the only type of government in Staunton until 1780 when the Parish Vestry was dissolved by a legislative act. The present church is the third on the site and was built in 1855. This Gothic Revival style church contains seven signed Tiffany stained glass windows. Two other buildings on the church lot, the Parish House and the Rectory, date from 1872-73. These three buildings feature some of the most decorative brick work to be found in the area.

**Virginia School for the Deaf and the Blind Main Building**

East Beverley Street

To meet the needs of the deaf and blind students in the Commonwealth, the Virginia General Assembly passed an act founding the institute in 1838. The main building of the school was completed in 1846 and stands today as one of the Country's oldest and most distinguished deaf and blind schools. The imposing Greek Revival structure, designed by prominent Baltimore architect, Robert Cary Long, features six large fluted Greek Doric columns which support a classically decorated triangular pediment.

**Waverly Hill**

3001 North Augusta Street

This elegant expression of the Georgian Revival style is the work of William Lawrence Bottomley, a prominent New York architect who maintained an extensive clientele in Virginia for his stately, richly detailed Georgian mansions. Drawing from Palladian, English, and Colonial Virginia precedents, Bottomley fashioned imaginative and functional dwellings for affluent Virginians during the 1920s and 1930s and set a standard of excellence in domestic architecture that is yet revered in the Commonwealth. The house was commissioned in 1929 by Mr. and Mrs. Herbert McKelden Smith, prominent Stauntonians.



Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites - continued**Original Site of Western State Hospital**

Greenville Avenue

The Western Lunatic Asylum, or Western State Hospital as it is known today, was founded in 1825 to offer a more conveniently located asylum for the Commonwealth's western citizens. The main building of the six-building complex was designed by William Small, a prominent Baltimore architect, who used both Greek and Roman revival elements in the building's construction. The main structure is flanked by two, two-story end pavilions that were constructed approximately ten years after the main building.

**Woodrow Wilson Birthplace**

24 North Coalter Street

Located on the corner of Frederick and Coalter Streets, the birthplace of President Woodrow Wilson was built in 1846 as the manse of the First Presbyterian Church in Staunton. Reverend Joseph R. Wilson was the minister of this church in 1856, the year his son, Thomas Woodrow Wilson, was born. The house is a simple, two-story brick structure on the Coalter Street side; but because it is built on a steep slope, the rear of the house is actually three stories and features a four-columned portico. The Woodrow Wilson Birthplace (WWBP), a National Historic Landmark, underwent an extensive academic restoration in 1979, carried out by restoration architects, Fauber Garbee, Inc., of Lynchburg.

**Steephill**

Park Boulevard

Originally built in 1877-78 in the Gothic style by Colonel John Lewis Peyton, Steephill is a brick Georgian Revival style house that was remodeled in 1926-27 by Staunton architect Sam Collins. An outstanding example of Georgian Revival in Staunton, the house sits on a steep, terraced hill near the City's Gypsy Hill Park. During the remodeling, the landscaping was redesigned to be more compatible with Steephill's new look, the grounds serving as an important extension of the house.



Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites - continued**Booker T. Washington High School**

1114 West Johnson Street

The Booker T. Washington High School was constructed in 1936 and is a notable example of the Art Deco style as designed by architect Raymond V. Long. An addition was added in 1960 to the south end of the school. The school served as the City's only African American high school from 1936 to 1966. During the era of segregation, the building also served as a public meeting space, community library, and a recreational facility for Staunton's African American community.

**Original Site of Robert E. Lee High School**

274 Churchville Avenue

Robert E. Lee High School which was built in 1926, is a Colonial Revival-style building constructed on a bluff above Gypsy Hill Park. Flanking the central part of the school are two wings added in 1954. Cut stone cornices, entrance surrounds, bas-relief panels, large arches connecting the wings, and brick quoins at the original building corners contribute to the building's stately appearance. The school located at an important crossroads of the City was designed by the local firm of T. J. Collins in association with William Butts Ittner.

**Staunton National Cemetery**

901 Richmond Avenue

The cemetery was established in 1866 and the graves were marked with headboards that were later replaced with upright marble markers. The lodge on the site was constructed in 1871 from a design by Quartermaster General Montgomery C. Meigs, and is Second Empire in style. The original internments in the cemetery were the remains of soldiers from the Battle of Piedmont that took place in Staunton on June 5, 1864, as well as soldiers that fought in Stonewall Jackson's "Valley Campaign" in places such as Cross Keys, Port Republic, and Waynesboro. Sixty-seven Union Prisoners of War are interred in this cemetery.



Table 3-2 – Individual Historic Sites- continued

Montgomery Hall Park

1000 Montgomery Avenue

Montgomery Hall Park was founded in 1946 as a recreational facility for African Americans during the Jim Crow era of racial segregation in Virginia. The 150-acre park with a swimming pool attracted visitors from other African American communities all over Virginia where there were few recreational facilities. The park was integrated in 1969. The park also contains Montgomery Hall, the residence of John Peyton Howe, a prominent Virginian. Montgomery Hall was built in 1822 and was renovated into a Colonial Revival style house in 1907 by T.J. Collins and his son Sam.



ANNEXATION HISTORY

Map 3-1 - City of Staunton, Annexation Year

