

Roots Run Deep

African American History Tours in the Shenandoah Valley



Page County and Shenandoah County, Virginia

Much of the African American history in the Shenandoah Valley has perished. Historic churches, schools, business, and homes were erased due to the 1960s Urban Renewal efforts. Early communities lost their homes and financial stability due to unjust laws and economic despair that impacted African American communities. African American farmers and business owners were unable to receive the same treatment from the federal government as their white counterparts. Many of the locations on this tour are not active, are now on private property, are no longer standing and/or the original structures that have undergone major renovations. This tour reflects these losses.

This booklet of the Page County and Shenandoah County, Virginia tour provides addresses, directions, maps, images and descriptions for individuals to drive from site to site. There is additional information on each site on the website at www.rootsrundeep.org and on the Traipse app.



Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project
425 Hill Street, Harrisonburg, VA, 22802
www.valleyblackheritage.org

Notes and Acknowledgements

There is a separate driving tour for the town of Luray. The Luray tour can be accessed digitally on the free download smartphone application Traipse, in addition to all Roots Run Deep tours and at www.rootsrundeep.org.



Each tour has a brochure with a map and addresses of every site and a booklet with directions between sites, photographs, and historical information. Physical copies of both can be obtained at the local Historical Societies, tourism offices and the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project Center at 425 Hill Street, Harrisonburg, Virginia 22802. They can also be downloaded digitally from the official tours website at www.rootsrundeep.org.

Contributors to the tour include: Author William A. Good and his book, *Slavery, When Humans Were Sold As Chattel*; Shenandoah County Library and their Shenandoah Stories project and Truban Archives and Shenandoah Room. Special thanks to researchers: archivist Zach Hottel, Robin Lyttle, local historian Nancey Branner Stewart, executive director Monica Robinson, local historian DeLois Warr, and Taya Whitley for their research.

Taya Whitley is the author and editor of the Page County and Shenandoah County, Virginia tour booklet. Photos courtesy of Robin Lyttle unless otherwise stated in photo caption.

Donations to active sites is encouraged. Please support Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project's projects by donating today: <https://valleyblackheritage.org/donate.html>. Thank you for the consideration!

Notes and Acknowledgements

The tour begins at Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Naked Creek Colored School in Page County, Virginia. The directions to the are from Elk Run Cemetery which is the final site in the Roots Run Deep Rockingham County, Virginia tour. However, this tour does not required for the completion of the Rockingham County, Virginia tour and this tour can be done in sections depending on what part of the counties you wish to explore.

This is the first edition of the Roots Run Deep Page Country and Shenandoah County, Virginia tour. Feedback on how this tour can be improved and any additional sites is greatly appreciated by the Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project. The goal of these tours in the Shenandoah Valley is to document history and not to erase or rewrite narratives. Any history not included in the initial tour will be consider, researched and added on the website rootsrundeeep.org.

The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project thanks all participants for their interest and their time for exploring the African American history in the Shenandoah Valley and assisting on bring these buried stories the surface.

Before beginning, please keep in mind that many sites are no longer standing and/or are on private land. In all instances we ask that all sites are respected and all state and local trespassing rules obeyed.

List of all Tour Sites

Site 1: Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Naked Creek Colored School; 2860 Fleeburg Rd, Shenandoah, VA 22849; 38.46252 N, 78.60617; Historic active church

Site 2: Catherine Furnace; George Washington and Jefferson National Forest, Cub Run Rd, Newport, VA 22849; 38.55779N, 78.63583 W

Site 3: Stony Man; Intersection of 100 Printz Mill Rd and Lake Arrowhead Rd, Luray, VA 22835, 38.63602 N, 78.39210 W; The area where formerly enslaved woman Bethany Veney lived in the 1850's before going North; Read her narrative at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/veney/veney.html>

Site 4: Pass Run; Intersection of Whispering Hill Rd and Kimball Rd, Luray, VA 22835; 38.69453 N, 78.41895 W; The area where Bethany Veney lived in her early life in the early 1800's.

Site 5: Hamburg African American Regular School; 102 Cave Hill Rd, Luray, VA 22835; 38.66633 N, 78.48319W; The school is a part of the Luray Caverns Museum and there is fee for touring the museum.

Site 6: Saint John's Baptist Church; 154 St John's Rd, Luray, VA 22835; 38.64429 N, 78.544850 N; Historic active church.

Site 7: Bronze Turkey Statue; Intersection of N Valley Pike and Newdale School Rd, 13101-13319 N Valley Pike, Timberville, VA 22853; 38.59076 N, 78.71786 W; There is an area where you can pull off next to the statue.

Site 8: "French's" Fence line burials; 15314 N Valley Pike, Timberville, VA 22844; 38.61743 N, 78.69512 W; Burial site of enslaved individuals from a nearby plantation and there is no stopping at this site.

Site 9: Southern Kitchen; 9576 S Congress St, New Market, VA, 22844; 38.64304 N, 78.67463 W; Open restaurant.

Site 10: Steptoe Barber Shop; 9418 S Congress St, New Market, VA 22844; 38.64694 N, 78.67213 W; Closed in 2014 and now is private property.

Site 11: Jessie Rupert Schoolhouse; 9401 S Congress St, New Market, VA 22844; 38.64737 N, 78.67222 W; Private property

Site 12: Zion Baptist Church and School; 9463 John Sevier Rd, New Market, VA 22844; 38.645705 N, 78.672228 W; Private property.

Site 13: Durrett's Cleaners; 141 Confederate St, New Market, VA 22844; 38.64439 N, 78.67557 W; Now is an empty lot on private property.

Site 14: Asbury Memorial Methodist Church; 9532 Cadet Rd, New Market, VA 22844; 38.64509 N, 78.67530 W; No longer standing

Site 15: Chicken in the Rough/M & D's Restaurant; Now Steven Custer Construction; 2983 Old Valley Pike, New Market, VA, 22844; 38.67111 N, 78.65877 W

General List of all Tour Sites

Site 16: *Corhaven Graveyard*; 2883 Quicksburg Rd, Quicksburg, VA 22847; 38.70148 N, 78.68106 W; A pre Civil War African American burial grounds; To access, driving west, pass house with red roof and just past the barn with red roof, make right, open gate and drive across cow field to burial ground that is open dawn to dusk.

Site 17: *Calvary Methodist Church and School*; 278 Orkney Dr, Mount Jackson, VA 22842; 38.745861 N, 78.64596 W; Private property.

Site 18: *First Baptist Church*; 6043 Broad St, Mount Jackson, VA 22842; 38.74617 N, 78.64643 W; Private home.

Site 19: *Mt. Jackson Historic Colored Cemetery*; 205 Nelson St, Mount Jackson, VA 22842; 38.75508 N, 78.63510 W

Site 20: *Slave Cemetery Near Lantz Mill*; next to 700 Union Forge Church Rd, Edinburg, VA 22824; 38.83996 N, 78.59353 W; Private property and there is no stopping.

Site 21: *Columbia Furnace*; 19048 Senedo Rd, Edinburg, VA 22824; 38.874951 N, 78.627315 W; Private property.

Site 22: *Liberty Furnace*; 2316-2376 State Route/717 Liberty Furnace Rd, Edinburg, VA 22824; 38.885403 N, 78.701327 W; Private property and this is no stopping.

Site 23: *Wolfs Gap CCC Camp*; Today Wolf Gap Campground; George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, Wolf Gap Rd, Maurertown, VA 22644; 38.92355 N, 78.68942 W

Site 24: *Riverview Cemetery*; 300-394 French Woods Rd, Woodstock, VA 22664; 38.874615 N, 78.491966 W; Active cemetery.

Site 25: *Creekside School*, 128 S Water Street, Woodstock, Virginia 22664; 38.87983 N, 78.50312 W

Site 26: *Mt. Zion Methodist Church*; 158 North Church St, Woodstock, VA 22664; 38.88248 N, 78.50243 W; Active historic church.

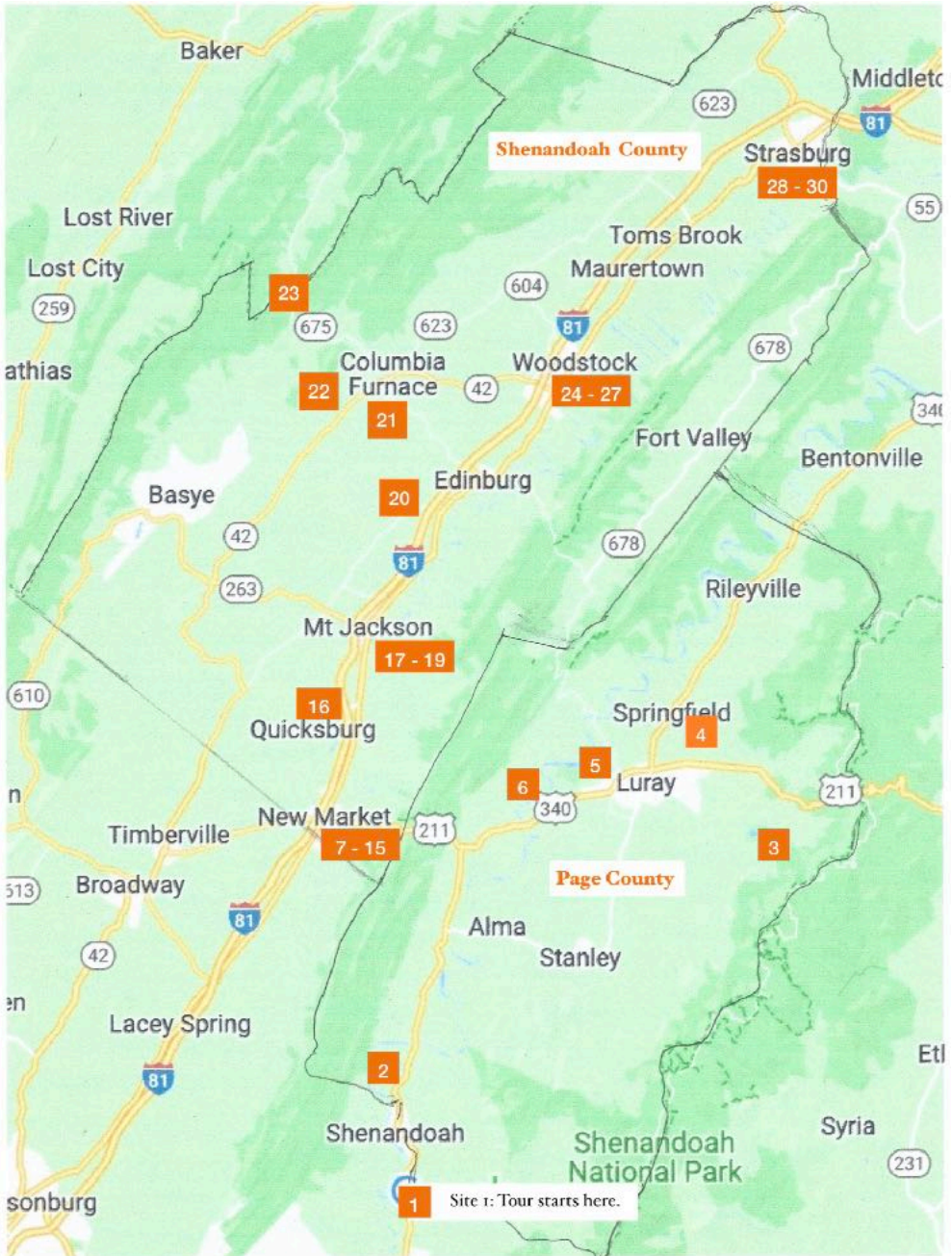
Site 27: *Woodstock "Colored School," 1867-1937*; Part of Mt Zion Methodist Church, 158 North Church St, Woodstock, VA, 22664; 38.88248 N, 78.50243 W; Active historic church.

Site 28: *Spengler Home*; 31507 Old Valley Pike, Strasburg, VA 22657; 38.990021 N, 78.373793 W; Private property .

Site 29: *Sunset Hill School*; 348 Sunset St, Strasburg, VA 22657; 38.993563 N, 78.365365; Private property and there is a historic marker.

Site 30: *Esbie Baptist Church*; 611 Ash St, Strasburg, VA, 22657; 38.993650 N, 78.371685 W; Active historic church

Visual Map of all Tour Sites



Site 1: Mt. Zion Baptist Church and Naked Creek Colored School
2860 Fleeburg Road, Page County, Virginia 22849; 38.46252 N,
78.60617 W

Directions from Elk Run Cemetery, Elk Run Drive:

Roots Run Deep Rockingham County tour site #34

- In 100' turn right onto North St
- In 0.7 miles turn left onto Hillside Ave
- In 100' turn right onto N East Side Hwy
- Continue for 3.8 mi then turn right onto Naked Creek Rd
- In 0.7 mi, turn left onto Fleeburg Rd
- In 300' take the first left
- In 300', the church and school are straight ahead



The Mt. Zion Baptist Church is a historically black congregation, organized in 1873 and is still active today. The nearby historic Naked Creek School was connected to the church and it provided education to African Americans in the community. There is an intensive records of the attendance and class grades for the kept by the African American teachers dating by to 1921 that the church keeps reserved today.

Site 2: Catherine Furnace

Cub Run Road/Catherine Furnace Road, Newport, Virginia 22849;
38.55779 N, 78.63583 W

Directions from site 1 to site 2:

- Exit the church parking lot and turn left to return to Fleebrug Rd
- In 300 ft, turn right onto Naked Creek Rd
- In 0.7 mi, turn right onto N East Side Hwy
- Continue for 7.2 mi then turn left onto Newport Rd
- In 1.3 mi, turn left onto Cub Run Rd/Katherine Furnace Rd
- In 0.4 mi is the furnace is on the right
- There is an area for parking



The stone ruins of the Catherine Furnace stand in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest in Page County Virginia. The furnace was built and came into operation in the late 1830s and early 1840s. It was built by the Forrer men and was later owned and functioned under several other owners until it was abandoned in the late 1880s. Catherine Furnace produced pig iron for weapons and equipment during the American Civil War. It employed freed and enslaved African American workers from the surrounding areas who worked long and tired hours to make a living.

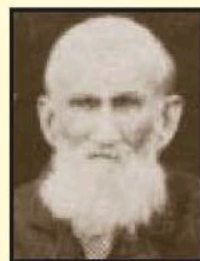
Site 2: cont.

This furnace's history is interesting. Depending on what resource you use, the furnace was built early 1830's to 1840's, 1840 or 1846.

Going there, you can imagine the workers coming and going.

Photos indicate the area was cleared in the immediate area around the furnace which was true at other furnaces in the area.

Built in 1846, Catherine Furnace was one of three Page County furnaces in operation during the Civil War. The 30-foot-tall main stack is nearly all that remains of the cold-blast furnace and once-huge operation here, when 22,500 acres supplied wood for charcoal, iron ore and limestone, and food. With labor scarce, local whites, free blacks and slaves worked here to furnish the Confederacy with pig iron.

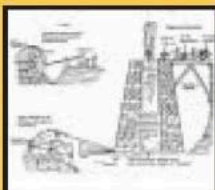


Ironmaster Noah Foltz

Wagons transported the pig iron to the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond, the "Ironmaker to the Confederacy" and largest such operation in the South. The furnace also produced solid cannon shot and perhaps a few cannon tubes. Furnace #2 on Naked Creek made cannonballs as well.

Ironmaster Noah Foltz, a secret Union sympathizer, helped Federal soldiers escape from Page Valley across Massanutten Mountain to Fort Valley. After he mistakenly helped Confederates disguised as Union soldiers "escape," however, Foltz was arrested but soon released on bond to continue work at the furnace. The 1st Vermont Cavalry made the only known attempt to destroy the furnace on May 7, 1862. However, because of the ensuing engagement at Somerville Heights, the cavalry contingent never reached here.

The furnace was charged with charcoal, limestone, and iron ore to produce molten iron, which flowed into channels or "pigs" in the casting bed, or into molds to make products such as cooking pots. Pigs were hammered into iron bars at a forge.



Site 3: Stony Man

Intersection of 100 Printz Mill Road and Lake Arrowhead Road,
Luray, Virginia 22835; 38.63602 N, 78.39210 W

Directions from site 2 to site 3:

- Exit the parking lot and turn left onto Cub Run Rd, then turn left onto Newport Rd
- In 2.3 mi, turn left onto US-340 N
- In 0.9 mi, turn right onto BUS US-340/Main St
- Continue for 5.6 mi, then take a slight right onto Chapel Rd
- Keep right onto Marksville Rd and continue for 1.4 mi
- Turn left onto Ida Rd and in 4.2 mi, turn right onto Valley Burg Rd
- Continue for 2.5 mi and turn right onto Lake Arrowhead Rd
- Continue for 600 ft onto Printz Mill Rd until it intersects with Lake Arrowhead Rd

The mountain spur of Stony Man is where, at the time an enslaved woman, Bethany Veney lived and cared for her son for a period of time in her life before she was sold north. Bethany Veney was born enslaved on a plantation near the town of Luray. Veney moved to Stony Man after being bought by John Printz and rented a home while she worked. She was later sold again to David McCoy then George J. Adams, who then moved her north to Providence, Rhode Island.

Learn more about Bethany Veney through her autobiography, *The Narrative of Bethany Veney, a Slave Woman*, detailing her life at <https://docsouth.unc.edu/fpn/veney/veney.html>. The Shenandoah Valley Black Heritage Project held a program in Luray, Virginia in 2022, where the descendants of Bethany Veney gathered to read aloud her narrative. The 4 four-part video series can be found at valleyblackheritage.org.

Site 4: Pass Run

Intersection of Whispering Hill Road and Kimball Road, Luray, Virginia 22835; 38.69453 N, 78.41895 W

Directions from site 3 to site 4:

- Turn around and go back northwest on Lake Arrowhead Rd
- Continue north for 1.4 mil on Valley Burg Rd
- Turn right onto Brookstone Rd
- Turn left onto Dry Run Rd
- In 1.7 mi, turn left onto E Main St then turn right onto Wallace Ave
- Continue north for 2 miles on same road
- Pass Run includes general area at the intersection of Whispering Hill Rd and Kimball Rd
- There is no stopping at this site and continue to site 5



The grounds of Pass Run, near Luray, is where Bethany Veney was born. Her parents and four other siblings lived and were enslaved on this farm owned by James Fletcher. After the death of Fletcher, Bethany Veney was split from her family and sold to the daughter of Fletcher along with her sister.



Pictured above are aerial map views of Stony Man and Pass Run.

Site 5: Hamburg African American Regular School

102 Cave Hill Road, Luray, Virginia 22835; 38.39988 N, 78.28976 W

Directions from site 4 to site 5:

- Turn left onto Kimball Rd
- Continue for on Kimball Rd/Pass Run Rd for 1 mi
- Turn left on to US-340
- In 2.2 mi, turn right onto US-211
- In 1.7 mi, turn right onto Cave Hill Rd
- In 0.2 mi, the destination is on the right
- This site is part of the Luray Caverns Museum and there is a charge to enter



Originally located at Pine and Chestnut in Hamburg, Virginia, the Hamburg African American Regular School dates to 1885. The school provided education to African American children and adults in the Hamburg community. Although its construction is one of the oldest one room schoolhouses in Virginia, its physical body stands at the Luray Valley Museum and the original interior including the walls and furniture remain. To access the Hamburg African American Regular School, a fee is required by the museum, however the building can be seen from the road without payment.

Site 6: Saint John's Baptist Church

154 St. John's Road, Luray, Virginia 22835; 38.64429 N, 78.54850 W

Directions from site 5 to site. 6:

- Continue northwest on Cave Hill Rd
- In 0.6 mi, turn left onto Airport Rd
- In 0.8 mi, turn right onto US-211
- Go west for 2.5 mi, keep right onto St Johns Rd
- In 200 ft, the church is on the right



The St. Johns Baptist Church is located in what was Salem, a small African American community.. The structure was built in 1882 and is the possible site of Colored School #7. Salem was founded by six African American families: Broaddus, Bundy, Cyrus, Johnson, Tyree, and Veney. The area was inhabited around 1804 and still is today. Each family had a variety of jobs such as producing materials for building such as lime and rayon, skilled carpenters, furnaces workers, and farmers. They also owned their own land and buried their dead in family cemeteries.

Information provided by Del Price.

Site 7: Rockingham County Bronze Turkey Statue
US Highway 11; Timberville, Virginia 22853; 38.59076 N,
78.71786 W

Directions from site 6 to site 7:

- Continue on St. Johns Rd then turn at the first left
- Turn right on US-211/N Valley Pike
- In 8.5 mi, turn left onto N Congress St
- In 4.9 mi, turn right onto Newdale School Rd
- The statue is on the right before the intersection of US-211 and Newdale School Rd
- There is area to pull over at to see the statue up close



Library of Congress.

At the north end and south end of US Hwy 211, also known as N Valley Pike and Lee Jackson Hwy in Rockingham County, Virginia, there are two identical statues that stand tall. They are the Rockingham County Bronze Turkey Statues. These statues reflect the history of Rockingham County as the “Turkey Capital of the World” where the majority of the poultry is produced. Mounted on a stone pedestal and sculpted from copper, the statues were installed in 1955. The statues came about through the vision of a 10-year-old African American boy in 1951. As a student at Lucy F. Simms, located in what was known as Newtown, a local African American community in Harrisonburg, Virginia; Gerald Harris submitted the idea of a statue of a turkey in a contest and was awarded first place. The success of the statues was accomplished due to the young Gerald Harris’ bright idea and contributors J. Noorwood Bosserman and Carl A. Roseburg.

Information gathered from the Society of Architectural Historians.

Site 8: French's Fence line Burials

US-11, 15314 N Valley Pike, Timberville, Virginia 22844; 38.61743 N,
78.69512 W

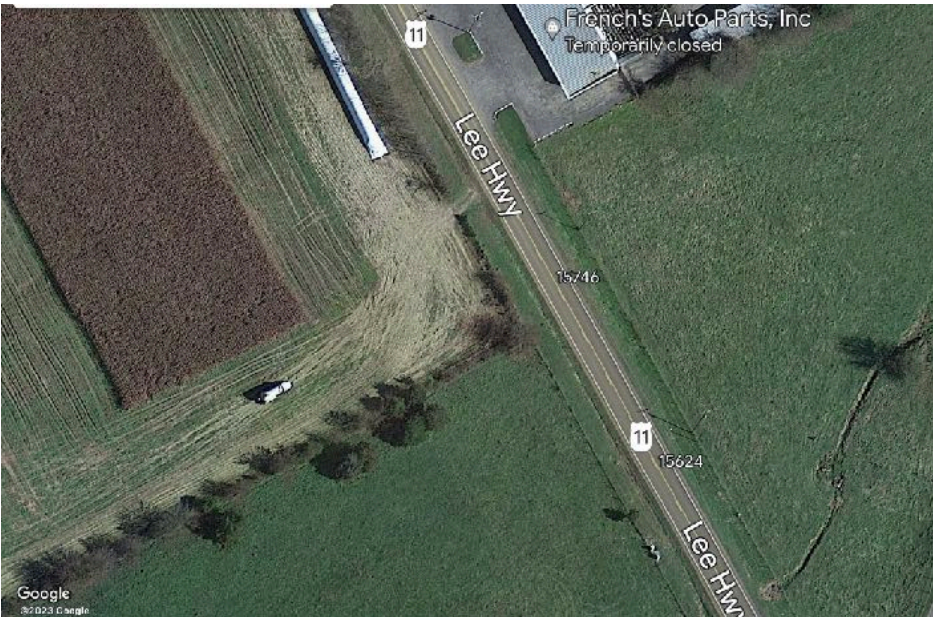
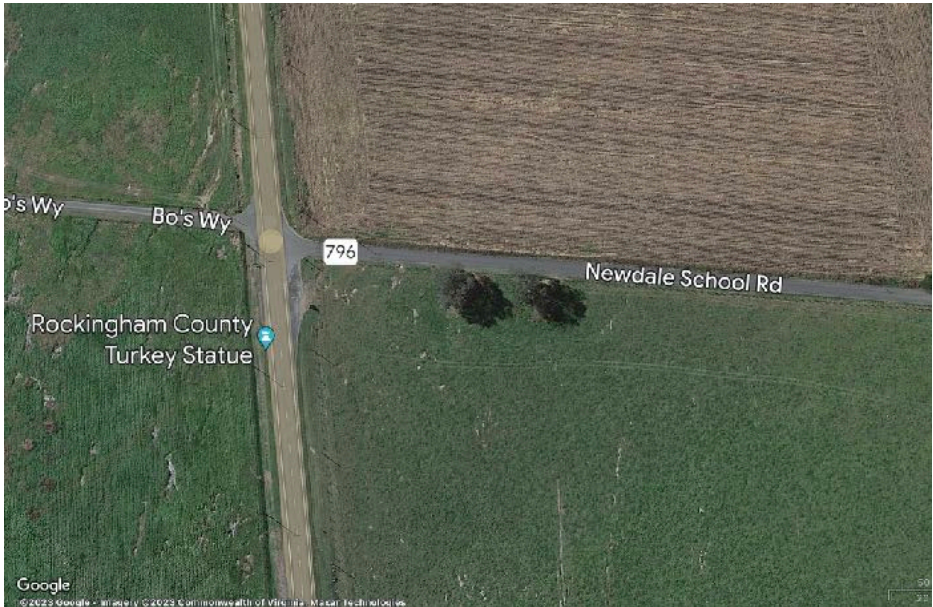
Directions from site 7 to site 8:

- Turn left back onto US-211/ N Valley Pike going north
- In 2.2 mi, the destination is on your right
- This private property and there is no stopping at this site



There are two known burials south of where the West and Williamson fence line stood. One is of a young boy named Samuel who died in April 1862 at age 2 and 6 months. The second is of an unknown named baby boy who died in August 1862 at the tender age of 3 months. Both of the children were born in Shenandoah country under the slave owner, Madison West. There are a dozen or more unidentified enslaved individuals buried here.

*Information provided by William A. Good, *Slavery: When Humans Were Sold as Chattel*, 105.*



Aerial map views of the Rockingham County Turkey Statue and area of the French's Fence line Burials on US-211

Site 9: Southern Kitchen Restaurant

9576 S Congress Street, New Market, Virginia 22844; 38.64304 N,
78.67463 W

Directions from site 8 and site 9:

- Continue north in US-211/ N Valley Market towards New Market for 2.1 mi and the restaurant is on the right



Southern Kitchen is a popular local restaurant that was opened in 1955 by the Newland family. This family-style restaurant has served traditional southern cuisine to the town of New Market for over 65 years. Over the years, there were notable black cooks who worked at the establishment such as Durrett and Rankins.

Information provided by Delois Warr and gathered from the Southern Kitchen website where time of operation and their menu can also be found.

Site 10: Steptoe Barber Shop

9418 South Congress Street, New Market, Virginia 22844;
38.64694 N, 78.67213 W

Directions from site 9 to site 10:

- Just north of Southern Kitchen, in 0.3 mil, is where the Steptoe Barber Shop was on the right
- This is private property and there is not stopping at this site



Photograph of James Steptoe Jr from the Steptoe Barber Shop Facebook page.

Steptoe Barber Shop was a historically black-owned, family operated business in New Market. It was started by Steptoe Sr in 1921 and continued to serve the community for 93 years and closed its doors in May 2014. Steptoe Barber Shop was opened for clients, black and white, six days a week beginning at 8 AM. The well known barber of the shop was James Steptoe Jr who started working at a young age. The US Army veteran cut hair for over 70 years until the shop's closing. The Steptoe name and legacy will be not forgotten by those who routinely came in to get the hair cut at the Steptoe Barber Shop.

Information from the Northern Virginia Daily, July 2014.

Site II: Jessie Rupert Schoolhouse

9401 South Congress Street, New Market, Virginia 22844; 38.64737 N,
78.67222 W

Directions from site 10 to site 11:

- Just a short way up from the Steptoe Barber Shop, is the Jessie Rupert School, it is 200ft north and across the street on the left
- This is private property and there is not stopping at this site



Portrait of Jessie Rupert from the New Market Historical Society.

Jessie Rupert was a Scottish woman who moved to New Market, Virginia in her 30s. She was an advocate for abolition, was anti-racism and a union support. In 1869, Jessie Rupert received many to build a school called the Cottage Institute for Young Ladies. At night the school transformed to Woolworth Collage for African Americans where Rupert taught African Americans in the local community who sought education. The school eventually closed and the building remained Rupert's home until her death in 1909.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library and the New Market Historical Society.

Site 12: Zion Baptist Church and School
9463 John Sevier Road, New Market,
Virginia 22844; 38.64570 N, 78.67222 W

Directions from site 11 to site 12:

- Continue north on S Congress Street
- At the light, turn right onto E Old Cross Rd
- In 250 ft, turn right onto John Sevier Rd
- In 800 ft, the destination is on the right
- This is private property and there is not stopping at this site



The historically black Zion Baptist Church served as an African American school beginning in 1868. It was sponsored by the American Missionary Association that strived for abolition, education and racial equality while upholding Christian beliefs. Jessie Robinson of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia was brought to New Market to teach 30 students at the school. In 1870, the public school system was established and the country was given responsibility for school operations and the school was relocated. It is not known when the building became a church. It is recorded to be occupied in the year 1885, but it may have started earlier. It appears in another documentation in the 1930s and none after. It may have been closed down before the 1950s. Today, where the Zion Baptist Church and School once was located, now serves as an office building.

Images and information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.

Site 13: Durrett's Cleaners

141 Confederate St, New Market, Virginia 22844; 38.64439 N,
78.67557 W

Directions from site 12 to site 13:

- Continue south John Sevier Rd and in 800 ft, turn right onto Confederate St
- In another 800 ft, the destination is on the left near the corner of the intersection of Confederate St and Cadet Rd



Durrett's Cleaners was a black-owned and family run local business. The Durrett family lived in the same building attached to their shop. Durrett's Cleaners was active during the time prior to World War II and some time after the war before its closing. The place where it once stood is now an empty lot.



Information provided by Delois Warr.

Site 14: Asbury Memorial Methodist Church

9532 Cadet Road, New Market, Virginia 22844; 38.64509 N,
78.67530 W

Directions from site 13 to site 14:

- Turn right onto Cadet Rd and in 250 ft, the destination is on the right
- This is private property and there is not stopping at this site



Asbury Memorial
Methodist Church
photography in
1994 by Nancy
Branner Stewart.

Although the building that housed the Asbury Memorial Methodist Church on Cadet Road is no longer standing, its history left a mark in its community. Organized in 1873, Asbury Memorial Methodist Church was the center for the local African American community in New Market. It held service until 1965 when it closed its doors for the congregation had dwindled over time and was too small to continue on. The land where the church once stood is now a private home.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.

Site 15: Chicken in the Rough

US Highway 11; 2983 Old Valley Pike, New Market Virginia, 22844;
38.67111 N, 78.65877 W

Directions from site 14 to site 15:

- Continue north on Cadet Road
- In 0.2 mi, turn left at the stop light onto W Old Cross Road
- At the next light, turn left onto N Congress Street
- In 1.8 mi, the destination is on the left
- This is private property and there is not stopping at this site



Library of Congress.

Located on US Highway 211, north of New Market, was the MD's Restaurant and Cabins. The local popular, family-style restaurant was called Chicken in the Rough, a restaurant chain from Oklahoma. It was known for not having silverware, but finger bowls to eat and its short and simplistic menu that included fried unjointed half chickens, hot buttered biscuits with honey, and shoestring potatoes. In the numerous years of service, African American cooks worked at the restaurant and fed the town of New Market and those passing on Route 11 delicious meals. Today, the location of Chicken in the Rough is now Steven Custer Construction. The original sign is still at the site.

Information provided by Jackie Wells.

Site 16: Corhaven Graveyard

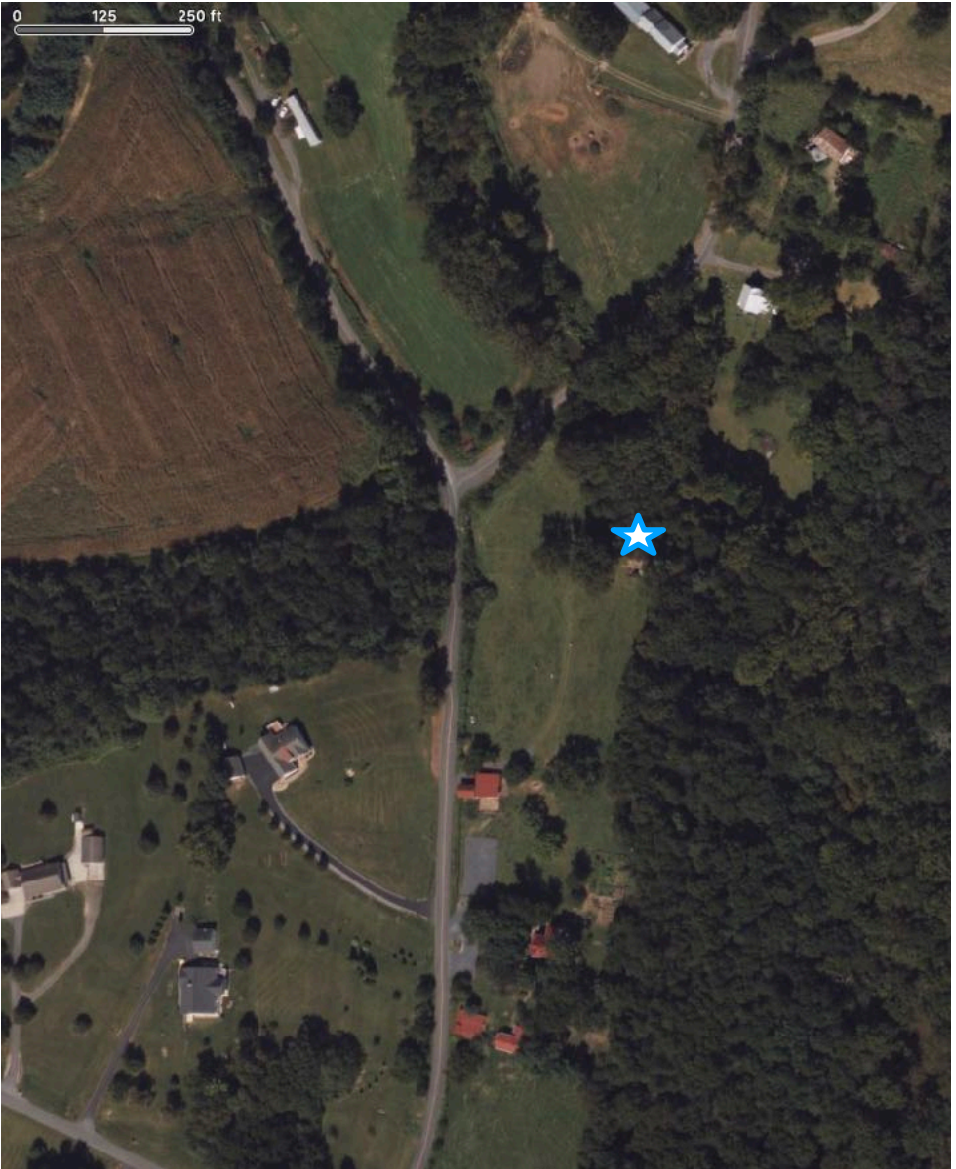
2883 Quicksburg Road, Quicksburg, Virginia 22847; 38.70148 N,
78.68106 W

Directions from site 15 to site 16:

- Continue north on US 211/ N Valley Pike
- In 0.7 mi, turn left onto Quicksburg Rd
- In 2.3 mi, the destination will be on the right
 - Turn right just past the barn with the red roof and drive across the cow field to the cemetery.



Corhaven Graveyard is located on a former antebellum plantation along Holman's Creek in Quicksburg. This plot of land, hidden deep in the woods, served as a burial ground for enslaved African Americans from the surrounding areas. The property was settled on by a man named Danial Holman and was owned by other slaveholders throughout the 1800s. There a few identified individuals who have been named through their association with their enslaver. It is presumed the small place was used as a Hush Harbor, a secluded gathering area for those who were enslaved to meet for religious practices in secret because it was prohibited to congregate without the supervision of white people. Today, Corhaven Graveyard is on the Coracle ministry property Learn more by visiting corhavengraveyard.org.



Aerial map view of Corhaven.

Site 17: Calvary Methodist Church and School

260 Orkney Drive, Mount Jackson, Virginia 22842; 38.74586 N,
78.64596 W

Directions from site 16 to site 17:

- Return to Quicksburg Rd and turn right
- In 600 ft, turn right onto Turkey Knob Rd/Orchard Rd
- In 4.1 mi, turn right onto Bryce Blvd
- Then make a left onto Clifford Rd
- Take the first left onto Orkney Dr
- In 300 ft, turn right
- In 100 ft the destination is on your left. This is private property and there is no stopping at this site.

The historically black Calvary Methodist Church and School congregation formed around 1870. The structures for a church and school were built in 1889. Over time, the congregation declined in its members as did the local Mt. Jackson, African American population. The church ultimately merged with the Manor Memorial Methodist Church in New Market. Today, the site is a lot and private home.

Image and information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library. Photo by David Verde DV Entertainment

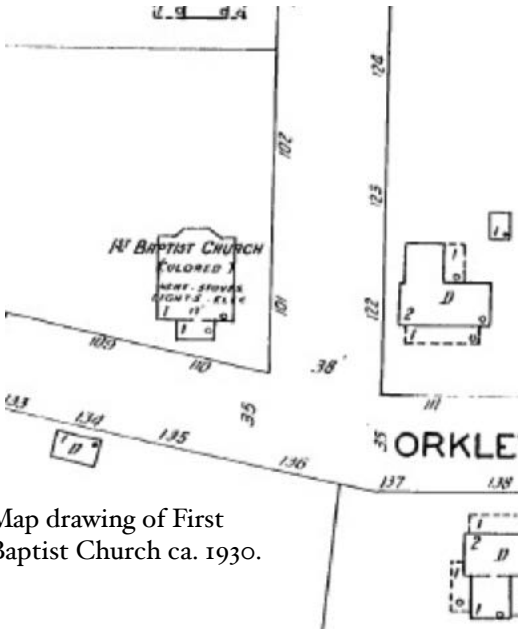


Site 18: First Baptist Church

6043 Broad St, Mount Jackson, VA 22842; 38.74617 N, 78.64643 W

Directions from site 17 and site 18:

- Continue west on Orkney Dr
- In 350ft, the destination is on the corner at the intersection of Orkney Dr and Broad St
- This is private property and there is no stopping at this site



Map drawing of First Baptist Church ca. 1930.

First Baptist Church is estimated to be founded between 1882 and the 1930s. Little is known of the church's history and its members. What is known is the important role the Scott family played in the church for Preston Scott Sr., a black resident of Woodstock, Virginia, was the last trustee. First Baptist Church on Broad Street closed sometime before 1954. The building is still standing today.



Site 19: Mount Jackson Historic Colored Cemetery

205 Nelson Street, Mount Jackson, Virginia
22842; 38.75508 N, 78.63510 W

Directions from site 18 to site 19:

- Turn right onto Broad St
- Make a right onto Tinsiger St
- Then make another right onto Gospel St
- In 300 ft, turn left onto Orkney Dr
- Keep right onto Orkney Dr
- Turn left onto Main St
- In 0.9 mi, turn left onto Nelson St
- In 400 ft, the cemetery is on the left



Years following the American Civil War, a plot of land was given to the African American community of Mount Jackson to be used as a cemetery. At this time burial grounds of African Americans and White Americans were separate. The cemetery has been used for graves of 150 years, however, many of the buried are unknown due to lack of records, tombstones and years of neglect because the African American community were disenfranchised and did not have the means to care for the grounds. Today, Mount Jackson Historic Colored Cemetery is cared for by community members such as DeLoris War who worked hard to raise funds to clean, fence, and install a monument. The stone historical monument with 74 identified individuals' names rises tall at the cemetery to honor the lives previous African Americans in the community.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.

Site 20: Cemetery at Lantz Mill

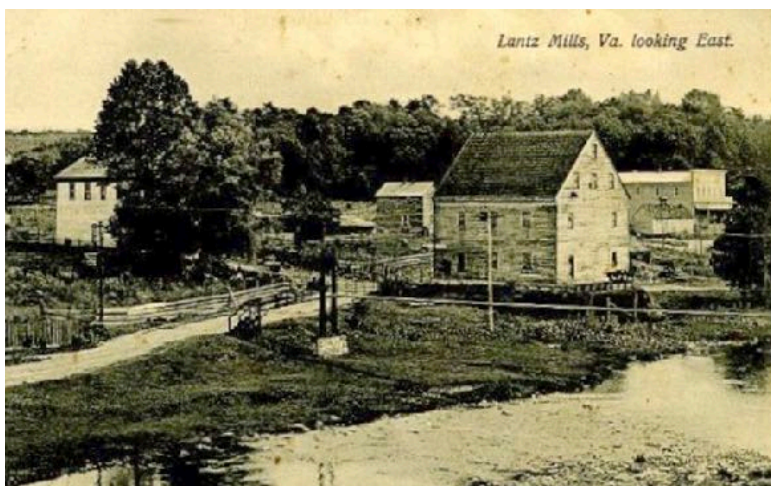
700 Union Forge Church Rd., Edinburg, Virginia 22824; 38.83978 N,
78.59342 W

Directions from site 19 to site 20:

- Go east on Nelson St to return to Main St then turn left
- In 4.5 miles turn left onto S Middle Rd
- In 0.5 mi turn right onto S Ox Rd
- In 1.9 mi, turn left onto Stoney Creek Rd
- In 0.3 mi, turn left onto Union Forge Church Rd
- In .07 miles the destination is on the right
- This is on private property and there is no stopping at this site

The Lantz Mill was built in the early 1800s. It was later sold to George Lantz whose family ran the mill for 72 years. Jacob Lantz, George Lantz's son, owned the mill and was a slave owner. There are enslaved persons' burials located on the property side of the road in the area between the street poles.

Fortunately interviews of longtime residents, Juanita Lantz Didawick by Ann Cottrell Free in 1993 and Earle Joseph Didawick in 2022 by Elissa Free confirmed this location as an African American cemetery used prior to the Civil War. The property today is private.



Site 20: Cemetery at Lantz Mill, cont.

Between 1740 and 1970, Lantz Mills, Virginia was home to many families with a mix of hearing and deaf parents and at least one or more deaf siblings. Lantz Mill descendant and author, deaf historian, Kathleen Brockway illuminates this history. A traveling exhibit of her work is traveling the state. <https://deaflibva.org/>

It is believed several deaf infants are buried in the cemetery we have noted here which is primarily thought to be a pre Civil War burial ground for enslaved African Americans.



Site 21: Columbia Furnace

19048 Senedo Road, Edinburg, Virginia 22824; 38.874951 N,
78.627315 W

Directions from site 20 to site 21:

- Head north on Union Forge Church Rd
- In 800 ft, turn right onto Stover Creek Rd
- In 400 ft, turn left onto Stoney Creek Rd
- In 3.4 miles turn right onto Senedo Rd

Columbia Furnace produced pig iron in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1800s. A small community of workers bloomed after a new ownership expanded operations in 1808. The furnace took hard hits during the American Civil War, but remained operating. This location employed both black and white workers. Local white workers of the furnace were displeased and believed only white workers should only be hired at the furnace. A two-day long racially motivated attack on black workers and the furnace's owner occurred in January 1881. In the end, there was a compromise. *The violent riot will end and the owner will fire all black workers and only employ white workers.* As a result, a major source of income was erased from local black workers and many were forced to leave the area in search of new employment. The Columbia Furnace shut down in 1886.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library. Photo below by David Verde, DV Entertainment



Site 22: Liberty Furnace

717 Liberty Furnace Road, Edinburg, Virginia
22824; 38,88540 N, 78.70132 W

Directions from site 21 to site 22:

- Take the first left on Senedo to turn onto Wolf Gap Rd
- In 800 ft, turn left to stay onto Wolf Gap Rd
- In 2.9 mi, keep left onto Liberty Furnace Rd
- In 3.9 mi, the destination is on the right
- This is private property and there is no stopping at this site



Liberty Furnace was one of many pig iron producing furnaces in the Shenandoah Valley in the 1800s. This location employed both black and white workers as well. Black workers at Liberty Furnace were subjected to the same as racially motivated attacks opposing the hiring of black workers by local racist. The same compromise was met and impacted the black furnace workers' financial stability. After the race riot, racial tension still brewed in the area and the local press supported an elimination of the entire black workforce. Numerous of black residents were were pushed out of the community in order to seek new employment. Liberty Furnace was owned and brought out by a number of people during its operation until it shut down in 1907. The main house and other structures still stand today.

Image and information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.



Liberty Furnace, photos courtesy of David Verde, DV Entertainment



Site 23: Wolf Gap Camp

George Washington & Jefferson National Forests, 6400 Wolf Gap Road, Edinburg, Virginia; 38.924229 N, 78.689065 W

Directions from site 22 to site 23:

- Back track to Wolf Gap Rd
- In 2.1 mi, turn left onto Wolf Gap Rd
- Continue for 3.3 mi then turn right onto Wolf Gap Campground
- In 200 ft turn right and in 100 ft, the destination is on the left

Wolf Gap CCC Camp, photos courtesy of David Verde, DV Entertainment



Site 23: cont.: In 1933, a Civilian Conservation Corps was established on the West Virginia-Virginia state line in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forest that would be named Camp Edinburg. This camp was implemented as part of the 1933 New Deal program to relieve young men of unemployment and stimulate the national economy during the Great Depression with employment, trading, and housing. The camp started out with only white employees, then in 1934 was categorized as “colored” camp and renamed Wolfs Gap Camp. The work by those at Wolfs Gap included: conservation of historical sites, forest protection, road construction, laying of telephone lines and road beds, and improvements of streams and state and federal parks in the Shenandoah Valley. The presence of African Americans in the area was met with racial tension by local racist white residents and some were transported south to the city of Harrisonburg that had a larger black population and had to commute to work at Wolfs Gap Camp. After its closing in 1937, the majority of the camp's infrastructure was given to the US Army. Today, the land is called Wolfs Gap Recreation Area and used as camping grounds.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library and the National Park Service.

Photo by David Verde DV Entertainment



Site 24: Riverview Cemetery

848 - 898 French Woods Road, Woodstock, Virginia 22644;

38.87461 N, 78.49196 W

Directions from site 23 to site 24:

- Exit Wolf Gap by turning left onto Wolf Gap Rd
- In 3.3 mi, take a slight left turn onto Wolf Gap Rd
- In 2.9 mi, turn left onto Back Rd
- Then turn left onto Senedo Rd
- In 5.9 mi, continue on Senedo Rd/E Reservoir Rd
- From E Reservoir Rd turn left onto S Water St
- In 0.7 mi, turn right onto Hollingsworth Rd
- In 1 mi, take a sharp left turn onto Cemetery Rd
- The cemetery is on the left



Dating back to 1906, the Riverview Cemetery was used as burial grounds for the African American community in Woodstock, Virginia. After the war, African Americans in Woodstock were still buried in cemeteries for the enslaved because they were not allowed to be laid to rest beside white Americans. Riverview Cemetery provided a separated and isolated land for graves. Unfortunately, there is scarcity of grave markers, but there are records for those buried. There are over 100 graves as of today. Currently, the Riverview Cemetery is cared for and maintained by a local group and is owned by the historically black Mount Zion Methodist Church in Woodstock.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.

Site 25: Creekside Elementary School

128 S Water Street, Woodstock, Virginia 22664; 38.87983 N, 78.50312W

Directions from site 24 to site 25:

- Continue west on Cemetery Rd
- In 0.8 mi, turn left onto Water St
- The destination is on the left
- This is private property and there is no stopping at this site



Creekside Elementary School was a segregated black school built in the 1930s and closed between 1963-1964. It was one of the last two segregated elementary schools in Shenandoah County. The property is now a private home.

Photo of Creekside Elementary School.



Photography of Creekside Elementary School students.

Creekside Elementary School Classroom photo
Circa: 1954 - 1955
Students identified by Mrs. Judith Brown-on July 27, 2018

Site 26: Mt. Zion Methodist Church

158 North Church Street, Woodstock, Virginia 22664;

38.88248 N, 78.50243 W

Directions from site 25 to site 26:

- Continue on S Water St for 250 ft, then turn right onto E Hight St
- Then turn right onto S Church St
- In 0.2 mi, the church is on right on the southeast corner of N Church St and E Locust St



The Mt. Zion Methodist Church was organized in 1867. The black Methodist community raised funds to build a church that was completed in 1887. The church was central to the African American community and was used for religious, educational, political, and social events. It was also affiliated with the African Methodist Episcopal Church. Woodstock's first African American school was built on a lot of the Mt. Zion Methodist Church. They held "bush meetings" and other children's services in partnership with other local black churches in the area. Today, the church is part of the Shenandoah Valley charge with Strasburg's Mt. Zion Methodist churches and assist in the upkeep of the Riverview cemetery.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.

Site 27: Woodstock “Colored School”

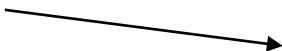
158 North Church Street, Woodstock, Virginia 22664; 38.88248 N,
78.50243 W

The Woodstock “Colored School” existed from 1867 to 1937. The school was originally opened under the Freedmen's Bureau and called the Lincoln School. After the Mt. Zion Methodist Church was established; the school was moved into the same building at the church in 1867. The school year lasted from January to May or June and enrolled an estimated 15 to 60 students. The teachers taught their students a varsity of subjects for quality education. Only grades 1-7 were available and those she sought higher education had to travel to attend school.

In 1870, the responsibility of school fell under the church after the public school system was implemented and it became a serrated black public school. The school received insignificant funding; therefore, the African American community united to raise money and advocated for a schoolhouse. After long years of lobbying, the city council gave funds for a one-room school that was built behind the church on its property. There was a stark difference in the Woodstock “Colored School” compared to white schools in the area who were much bigger and much better funded and provided education for grades 1-12. The school closed in 1937 and the property was sold and demolished.

Image and information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.

Mt. Zion Methodist Church and Woodstock Colored School in 1921 was the small building pictured here behind the church sanctuary.



Site 28: Spengler Home

31507 Old Valley Pike, Strasburg, VA 22657; 38.990021 N, 78.373793 W

Directions from site 26 to site 28:

- Turn left onto E Locust St
- In 500 ft, turn right onto N Main St/ Old Valley Pike
- Continue for 11 mi on Old Valley Pike/US-211 then take a left turn onto Stover Ave
- Keep left onto Old Valley Pike and in 700 ft, the destination is on the right
- This is private property and there is no stopping at this site



Spengler Hall photographed by Nancy Branner Stewart.

The Spengler Hall was built in the early 1800s most likely by the enslaved African Americans who lived there. The property was owned by Anthony Spengler and 14 enslaved individuals lived on the property. There were nine enslaved males and five enslaved females. Four individuals were under Philip S. Spengler Jr and 7 were under Anthony Spengler. The names of the 7 people were Jim, Joe, Betsy, Charlotte, Peter and Sarah. Upon Anthony Spengler's death all were sold at an auction. On the property of the Spengler Hall, those who were enslaved were given multiple tasks that included property constructions, maintaining and cleaning the home, cooking for the Spengler family and guests, manual farm labor, production of items for the come and clothing for the family and for themselves. Some enslaved individuals lived in a rear reserved wing in the house or in shacks or cabins near the fields.

Information provided by the Shenandoah County Library.

Site 29: Esbie Baptist Church

611 Ash Street, Strasburg, Virginia 22657; 38.993650 N, 78.371685 W

Directions from site 28 to site 29:

- Continue on the same road, keep left until a circle is completed
- Take a slight right to return to Old Valley Pike/US-211
- Continue onto Stover Ave for 0.3 mi then turn left onto Capon St
- In 350 ft, turn left onto Ash St
- In 0.4 mi, the church is on the left on the northwest corner of Ash St and Cardinal St



The Esbie Baptist Church was organized in the 1910s. The African American Baptist community raised funding to build a church for their congregation. The church provided programs and events for the African American in Strasburg and is open to all. It is still an active church today.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.

Site 30: Sunset Hill School

348 Sunset Street, Strasburg, Virginia 22657; 38.993563 N, 78.365365 W

Directions from site 29 to site 30:

- Turn left on Cardinal St
- In 300 ft, turn onto Branch St
- In 0.2 mi, turn right onto beach street
- In 300 ft, turn right onto Sunset St
- In 300 ft, the destination is on the left

Sunset Hill School was built after the first African American school in Strasburg burned down in 1929. The African American community came together to acquire the necessities for the school to be possible. The school taught elementary education, grades one through seven. Students who sought to continue their education were bused to Frederick Douglass School in Winchester, however, the trip was not free and hindered many from attending.

The Sunset Hill School did not have the same luxuries as the white schools did in the area. There were no indoor restrooms or water fountains, no cafeteria, no heating unless it was from the stove and books were hard to come by or second-hand from white schools. These setbacks did not discourage the teachers or the community from supporting and providing a good education for the students in order for them to be successful and prove African American students can too achieve what white students could.

Shenandoah County was segregated until 1964 and students at Sunset Hill School were granted permission to attend white schools. Sunset Hill School closed in 1964 and the building is used as storage today.

Information gathered from the Shenandoah County Library.



Roots Run Deep

African American History Tours in the Shenandoah Valley



Physical maps and brochures about our tours can be found at the following locations:

- SVBHP Heritage Center, 425 Hill St, Harrisonburg, VA 22802
- Shenandoah County Library, 514 Stoney Creek Blvd, Edinburg, VA 22824
- Shenandoah County Tourism and Economic Development, 600 N Main St, Suite 101, Woodstock, VA 22664
- Historic Andrew Jackson School Museum, 630 W Main St, Luray, VA 22835

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