

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF WATERFORD

Waterford was settled in 1733 by Amos Janney, a Quaker from Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Janney was soon

followed by others and Waterford became the thriving center of a community of small farms. Because the Quakers were cereal farmers, a grist mill was very important to them, and the first settlement included a mill near the site of the present structure with a few houses clustered nearby. The settlement that would become Waterford grew around Janney's Mill.

The Quakers were joined by Scotch-Irish craftsmen from Pennsylvania who were responsible for much of the construction of the village. Some earlier residents were slaveholders, and there may have been some free blacks in the village as well.

A few residents took part in the Revolutionary War; surprisingly, not all Quakers who saw service contrary to the Quaker principles on non-violence were read out of Meeting. After the Revolution Waterford grew rapidly with a wide variety of businesses taking care of the needs of the farms around the village. Many of the buildings standing today date from this period.

The fact that Waterford had a thriving antebellum free black community was unusual for pre-Civil War Virginia. In general, whites saw free blacks as a threat to slavery. Waterford's Quaker roots and the abolitionist sentiments of most Quakers may have encouraged black settlement here.

By the time of the Civil War the Quakers were strongly abolitionist. The Quaker population of Waterford supported the Union, an extremely unpopular stand in Loudoun County. During the war Waterford was harassed by Union forces because of its location and by Confederate forces because of its beliefs. As a result of Confederate harassment the miller Samuel Means formed the Independent Loudoun Rangers, the only organized troop in Virginia to fight for the Union.

In 1871, the railroad was extended from Leesburg to Clarke's Gap (where Routes 7 and 9 meet) thus bypassing Waterford. The philosophical isolation so obvious during the war was succeeded by a geographic isolation as commercial centers easily reached by rail took business away from Waterford. By the time of the Depression many of the buildings had deteriorated badly. In the late 1930s brothers Edward and Leroy Chamberlin, descendants of several old Waterford families, began to restore buildings in town and, in 1943, the Waterford Foundation was formed. This provided an impetus for residents, old and new, to work to preserve the village.

Today, Waterford's buildings and rolling fields look much as they did 100 years ago. The village is a Loudoun County Historic and Cultural Site. In 1970 the entire village with the farmland surrounding it was designated a National Historic Landmark.



## The Dormers

40174 Main Street

*No. 1 on the map*

The Dormers was the second house erected on this property. The first was a log house located close to the road almost at the corner. Mahlon Janney built it in 1803 along with the saw and grist mill he operated behind it. After his



death, the mill operations were carried on by his nephew Mahlon Janney, Jr.

Since both Mahlon Janneys had married women named Sarah, the younger Mrs. Janney was known as Sarah Janney, Jr. It was this lady who, in 1816, bought the land where The Dormers now stands. The house was built soon after.

Initially quite spacious, this house was expanded further in the 1940s when the north wing was added along with a sunroom on the south side. A second floor was added to the north wing in the 1960s by the present owner who has protected the house in perpetuity from inappropriate change through the grant of an easement to The National Trust for Historic Preservation.

An extensive third addition affords the convenience of modern living combined with the warmth of a fine old house. All changes to existing homes and structures, as well as all new homes and structures must be approved by the Loudoun County Historic District Review Committee. The owner and her architect worked with the easement holder, the National Trust, to develop a design which would meet its rigorous requirements, and which was then approved by the Historic District Review Committee.

15580 Second Street  
*No. 2 on the map*

## Samuel Steer House

The lot on which this house was built appears to have remained vacant until Robert W. Thomas bought it from Waterford mill owner and businessman Samuel Means. Thomas was a Waterford area blacksmith in the 1850s and by 1860 he was also running the Waterford Hotel on Main Street. He and his wife had eight children. Thomas immediately built this house, but his timing was bad. By September 1861 the war had come to Waterford. Confederate troops were bivouacked at the Quaker meeting house in the village and the new house was taken for a hospital, where household members cared for the sick.

The property was sold after the war for \$700. The new owner, Samuel Steer, had rented the house during the war, where he moved his family from the country for safety. Steer was a member of an old Waterford Quaker family, relatively well off and well educated, and he took an early interest in politics. He spent time in a Confederate prison because of his Union sympathies. During the war, his daughter Sarah co-edited the fervently pro-Union *Waterford News* with her young neighbors Lida and Lizzie Dutton. Later Sarah Ann Steer was the first teacher at the new school for black children just down Second Street. Her sister taught at the first public school for whites, the Waterford Academy.

After the war, Samuel Steer was an assistant assessor for the IRS, then a director of Waterford's Mutual Fire Insurance Co. of Loudoun County, whose offices on High Street behind the house are open for the Fair this year.

The 1980s owners enclosed a porch. The present owners have remodeled and enlarged the kitchen, added a patio and designed and put in a garden with stone walls and a pond in the middle garden. They have also added an outbuilding.



## Mahlon Schooley House

15555 Second Street  
*No. 3 on the map*

Mahlon Schooley (b. 1788), who later helped establish a Quaker community in Iowa, built this brick dwelling in 1817 as

part of the "New Town" development along Second Street. The original portion is a three-bay brick building with a metal gable roof and a dogtooth cornice. The house retains an architectural integrity that belies the changes that have taken place within. The large west wing was added before 1854.

In the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the south wall of the home was rebuilt and the present longer windows installed. The space to the right of the front hall was the dining room. Two of its interior walls were removed in the 1920s. The present owners have restored a number of interior details. The unusually wide nine-panel front door is a replica of the first entrance door which the owners found in the basement, cut down to two-thirds of its size. (The traces of an earlier mantelpiece were found under the 1920s wallpaper in the dining was made following the traces revealed in the plaster and the wooden side pieces.)

In the 1920s the James Carr family replaced an earlier front porch with a large wrap-around version which was removed in the 1960s by the present owners. The foundations of the present brick stoop at the front door were part of the first porch.

In a field directly behind the house, study revealed the existence of a brick kiln, where much of the soft brick used in village buildings was made. The pond at the bottom of the field was installed in the late 1960s. The small white frame building at the far corner of the field adjacent to the mill race was built in the 1920s as the village slaughter house.

## Trouble Enough Indeed

15552 Second Street

*No. 4 on the map*

**T**rouble Enough Indeed was brought to Waterford and reconstructed from 1970 to 1980 by William and Carol Hunley.

Visitors to the Waterford Fair in the early 1970s enjoyed watching Trouble Enough Indeed take shape from the components of two log houses ca. 1850 and 1886 from Lewisdale in Montgomery County, Maryland, and an 1876 frame house from Mathews County, Virginia. Located about three miles apart at Lewisdale, the log houses were tobacco farm houses. The name comes from the registration of the front wing of the house in the Montgomery County deed book.

The house has been featured in *Parade Magazine*, in the *Washington Post* and on National Public Television. It has been a frequent subject for painters and passing photographers.

The log houses were dismantled and every log, stick, stone and brick from each was moved to Waterford, cleaned and returned to its original place in the house. Even the nails were reused. The log construction is German "V" notch and the logs were stacked one on the other with no fastenings except in the top ring of logs on which the roof rests. In addition to the log houses and the frame house, artifacts from many well known buildings are built into the fabric.

The dining room fireplace contains the brick from the log house, and on one side there is a brick from the old church at Jamestown. On the other side there is a brick from Bruton Parish Church in Williamsburg. The handmade bricks each show the print of the brick maker's thumb from being turned when drying, and several contain cat and deer tracks made while the bricks were still soft.

The long-leaf pine heart flooring and the dining room ceiling beams were salvaged from the Carlyle Apartments built in 1819. Many of the doors, windows and replacement timbers were salvaged from the house built in 1876 by William S. Hunley, shipwright, farmer and oysterman, at Retz, in the Kingston Parrish Glebe in Mathews County, Virginia. Several of the doors were made in the family shipyard and are fastened with boat nails.



## Braden House

15512 Second Street

*No. 5 on the map*



**L**oudoun entrepreneur, miller and banker Robert Braden (1765-1827) appears to have

purchased the lot on which this house stands about 1820; the house was built soon afterward of brick fired across the street.

Later in the nineteenth century, the house was bought by Decatur H. "Dick" Vandevanter who was mayor of Waterford from 1891-1892. Vandevanter was a son-in-law of Lewis Neal Hough, and inherited his chair manufactory and undertaking establishment across Church Street. Dick was a forward-thinking man. He owned one of the first automobiles in Waterford and in August 1903 caught the notice of Leesburg's *Washingtonian-Mirror* when he had "fixtures placed in his residence for heating the same with hot water."

The house today reflects a variety of architectural styles from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The Federal style house with brick on stone foundation, Flemish bond and closers on the front façade and five-course common bond on all other sides is common to the area. The Victorian style wrap-around porch and the south bay window were added by local builder "Eb" Divine (see Samuel Means house) in 1913. A portion of the side porch was later enclosed and used as a medical office by Dr. Robert Caldwell, one of Waterford's country doctors. The beaded woodwork in the kitchen, random width flooring upstairs and narrow winding staircases are typical of many Waterford homes.

Typical, too, are the stories of its various residents, including Rebecca K. Williams, who acquired the house around 1842. On a Sunday in September 1863, in wartime Waterford, Quaker Williams noted in her diary, "...soldiers in all directions riding and walking, but none have been in this morn for food; to meeting (at Fairfax Meetinghouse), when we came home found the cellar had been broken open, butter & pies taken. Quite a disappointment & provocation..."

## Edith Walker House

15550 High Street  
*No. 6 on the map*

Robert Walker built this lovely Victorian home for his spinster sister, Edith, in 1897. He located the house on a portion of his property, Huntley Farm, and designed it to face his house next door instead of the street. A brick walk connected the two homes and remains to this day.

The Edith Walker House is a blend of Victorian and Colonial Revival architectural features such as the wraparound porch that serves as a spacious summer living area. There are two pedimented dormers, three gables and a sleeping porch over the front entrance, each clad with a different style shingle.

The main body of the house boasts German siding. The original cedar shingle roof was replaced with raised-seam metal, as was the fashion in the area after the turn of the century. The windows further unite the two styles with six or eight small panes at the top, recalling



colonial sash patterns, while the single large pane at the bottom incorporates the modern glass technology of the Victorian era.

Inside the home is a fine paneled Queen Anne staircase, beautiful Colonial Revival molding with bull's eyes in the top corners, and pocket doors from the foyer into the parlor. Of special note are the five fireplaces, each of a different design. The three on the first floor have mirrored overmantles.

Over the years, there have been few changes to the floor plan, which speaks highly of the home's comfort and adaptability to changing life styles. The major changes to the house were the addition of first and second floor bathrooms, and an enlargement of the kitchen accomplished by removing the wall to the butler's pantry.

The historic exterior of the house is protected from alteration in perpetuity by an easement given to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

## James Moore House

On the Big Hill  
40194 Main Street  
*No. 7 on the map*



James Moore, son of Irish immigrant Thomas Moore, built this house in about 1805. Like most Waterford houses it has undergone a number of changes over the years, most recently, the addition of a new wing. This frame addition was designed to complement the historic structure and not overwhelm it. Especially notable are the double porches on

the rear of the addition, and the cornice and segmental area over the side door.

The first floor contained a kitchen and root cellar, the two floors above each had two rooms. At one time a porch stretched across the front, much like those on the other houses on the Hill. During the 1950s a sun porch was added to the rear of the building and the front porch was removed.

On the street level, the original kitchen has brick floors, a log-beamed ceiling, and a walk-in fireplace with bake oven and cooking crane. The rubble stone exterior structure is visible as the wall of the new kitchen, with the old Dutch door and window intact. The new kitchen, dining room, and master bedroom all incorporate recycled antique building materials.

On the upper level, an exterior brick wall—now a bedroom wall—marks the return to the oldest part of the house. The formal parlor is followed by the original master bedchamber, each with intact floors, mantles and cupboards. A narrow hall with a typical short wide door leads to the side yard.

The house is protected from inappropriate change by a preservation easement granted to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.



## The Livery Stable

15481 Second Street  
*No. 8 on the map*



The Livery Stable served the transportation needs of Waterford from at least 1851 to the mid-twentieth century, when it was converted first to an antique shop and, in the 1990s, to a residence. The 1851 deed mentions the property in conjunction with a hotel/store in the center of the village (the Pink House) suggesting it may have served customers of that enterprise.

In the early 1890s it was the site of T. C. Baker's "new and nobby livery stable", featuring "fine carriages, neat buggies, spacious wagons [and] graceful carts," not to mention "excellent horses." Those horses could be a problem: the town ordinances prohibited the keeper of livery stables from accumulating more than one cart load of manure at one time from June through November.

At the turn of the century a multi-structure fire near the Livery Stable made a hero of Albert Shawen, who "stayed on top of one of the barns until the hair on his head was burned completely off, and his face and arms scorched."

The Livery Stable's most harrowing event occurred on July 23, 1900, when a number of people gathered in the shop to wait out an evening thunderstorm. A visiting Spanish-American War veteran, Warren O'Hara, exchanged words with local farmboy Ernest Mullen, about young Nettie Rinker. The argument escalated, resulting in Mullen's killing O'Hara with a club. A local posse tracked down the shaken killer almost immediately. He was convicted of murder, but served a short sentence. (See full story on p. 50)

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Ed Beans owned the livery operation; he rented buggies, carriages, and horses to everyone from traveling salesmen to villagers needing transportation to a church picnic. One of his horses, "Old John", was a fine navigator. He was known to deliver his passengers to a favorite bar in Maryland, then when the imbibers were no longer able to "drive," deliver them home safely, often sound asleep.

## The Pink House

15635 Second Street  
*No. 9 on the map*

In 1825, Lewis Klein opened this building as a "house of entertainment" — a tavern. He had purchased the lot from Quaker William Hough about 1815 for \$80. Like many of its neighbors on Main Street, it was designed for mixed use: a store or other business below and a residence above. It therefore had no interior staircase between the first and second floors until a 1950s modernization.



The present large downstairs room was built as two rooms with a central corridor; it has seen many uses over the years. After serving as a tavern the space became variously an apothecary and hardware store. In the 1880s the building was the home and office of Dr. G. E. Connell, an enterprising physician. He introduced the telephone to the village in 1884 and charged customers ten cents to call Clark's Gap, three miles distant at the other end of the line. A side addition was used as a barbershop in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. In the early 1950s, a new owner painted the house the color "of the setting sun on Waterford brick." The paint was meant to slow weathering of the soft brick; it has been repainted in other shades since. Later The Pink House was a popular bed and breakfast destination.

The present garden area has seen a succession of buildings over the past 200 years, including blacksmith and wheelwright shops and a succession of stores. A town hall and auditorium occupied the loft area of a large stable on the site. One of these shops stood where the new stone kitchen now stands. At least one of them served briefly as a residence. During an exceptionally rainy period with water pouring down the hill, a tenant joked, "I have the most modern house in Waterford— running water in every room!"

## Francis Pierpoint House

40138 Main Street  
*No. 10 on the map*

In 1785, Quaker Joseph Janney sold several lots to Richard Richardson of Frederick County, Maryland, for ten pounds "lawful money of Virginia." The land was subsequently divided and a portion sold to Francis Pierpoint, Sr., who had married into the Richardson family. He built the existing residence, characterized by its Flemish bond brickwork sometime after 1795, as well as a neighboring two-story wood over stone building that has since vanished.

In 1809 Samuel Pierpoint purchased the house and operated a dry goods

store in the building next door. After his death three years later, his widow Margaret married cabinet maker Sanford Edmonds who used the dependency for his shop. He, in turn, died nine years later ("from eating too many cherries and swallowing the seeds," according to one account). Margaret died in 1838. Six years later, both buildings were sold at auction from the second floor porch to Quaker widow Ann Taylor Ratcliffe. During the 1840s and 1850s, her daughters taught many local children here.

Subsequent owners added an interior staircase in the 1950s and the large stone wing at the rear in the early 1970s. During the latter renovation, the living room, dining room and kitchen were moved upstairs to the second level. Other restoration work includes the second floor library, third floor living quarters in the 1990s and the stone portion at the right added by the current owners.



## Griffith-Gover House

40139 Main Street  
*No. 11 on the map*

This property backing up to the Phillips Farm comprises three of the fifteen lots in Waterford's 18th century subdivision. Quaker merchant Richard Griffith was leasing the property by 1796, and by 1799 it included a two-story log house and a store. In 1819 his son Israel sold a portion of the property to fellow Quaker Jesse Gover, who operated a store and "hat manufactory" among other enterprises. Gover bought the rest of the property in 1836.

His son Samuel, in turn, served the village for many years as storekeeper and postmaster.

Sam's Union sympathies made his store a target of Confederate raids during the Civil War. By then the current property included the house and two substantial weatherboard buildings along the street to the left, one owned by Quaker William French.

Early in the 20th century the James family acquired the land and buildings. Edgar Clayton James continued to operate a store here, and his wife Lizzie ran a boardinghouse—the Oldtown Inn. They eventually removed the decrepit store buildings along the street, built a dance pavilion and large masonry megaphone, and enlarged the adjacent millrace for canoeing. Norman Weatherholtz, a stonemason and carpenter, bought the place in the 1930s and added his own touches over the years until his death in 1998.

Cornelia Keller of nearby Hamilton purchased the house the following year. It had fallen into considerable disrepair and presented significant challenges to Ms. Keller and her rescue team.

Now, thanks to a conservation easement through the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, the house, gardens, stone wall and eclectic structures are protected in perpetuity.



## Marshall Claggett House

40125 Main Street  
*No. 12 on the map*



African-American Marshall Claggett dismantled this 18th century log cabin from an old farm, *Corby Hall*, north of Waterford and around 1870 moved it to this lot. This house typifies log construction of the time—one story, one room, V-notched logs, a stone foundation and chimney. The masonry addition was built in the 1950s.

In this small building, Claggett and his wife Angelina raised nine children. Marshall later married Frances Gaskins after Angelina's death and the house stayed in the family until 1950. It remained in black ownership until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The second Mrs. Claggett's brother and later resident Ed Gaskins, had a reputation in Waterford as an accomplished healer, a skill he was believed, erroneously, to have acquired in Africa. Recent research has shown that his grandmother Judy Gaskins purchased her freedom with the help of Loudoun Quakers in the 1840s. Around 1910, Ed's son Forest Gaskins served in the 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, one of the units popularly known as the Buffalo Soldiers. Sarah Rucker Gordon (1896-1992) recalled the pride the black community felt when he returned for a visit in his uniform.

In 1910, Loudoun Ranger widow Eliza Densmore wrote of her own military memory at the house, the passage of a Union veterans' parade—Grand Army of the Republic. "It was fine!"

## Samuel Means House

40128 Bond Street  
*No. 13 on the map*

The stone portion of the Samuel Means House is one of the oldest structures in Waterford. Tradition holds that it was built by Mahlon Janney, son of the village founder, around 1762.

An early owner, Philadelphia Quaker Asa Moore, was one of the village's wealthier men. He added the brick wing about 1800 and owned the tannery that filled most of the meadow in front of his house. On his death in 1823, his son-in-law Samuel Harris inherited the residence. A physician, he had his office in a stone wing on the north end that was later removed.

In 1850, Samuel C. Means, an enterprising young miller, bought the house from Dr. Harris. Though not a Quaker himself, Means married Quaker neighbor Rachel Bond in 1855.

Early in the Civil War, he rejected Confederate overtures to join the Cause (in which one of his brothers served and died). He was later personally commissioned a captain in the Union army by Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, and raised a cavalry company, the Independent Loudoun Rangers, one of the only organized units of Virginians

to fight for the Union and a persistent thorn in the side of the Confederacy. The war bankrupted miller Means who lies buried with other family members in Rock Creek Cemetery, Washington D.C.

A late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>- century resident, J. Elbert Divine, was the son of one of Means's Rangers and one of Waterford's most active builders in that period. "Eb's" handiwork included wraparound porches seen on a number of village houses but not this one—it was removed by a subsequent owner. More recently the house has been painstakingly restored to its early 19<sup>th</sup> century appearance.



## WATERFORD'S CHURCHES

### WATERFORD BAPTIST CHURCH: 15545 High Street

The Sanctuary was completed on this site in 1853. The Baptists of Waterford had been gathering in local homes since early in the 19th century. The Civil War disrupted services on this site as described on the historical marker on the church:



At dawn on August 27th, 1862, Captain E. V. White's 60 man company, nucleus of the 35th Battalion Virginia Calvary, attacked 28 men of Captain Samuel C. Means' Union company of Independent Loudoun Rangers encamped here in this church. After three hours of hard fighting the besieged Union forces surrendered and were paroled. In this engagement both the Union and Confederate forces were from Loudoun County, and in this incident actual brothers were engaged on opposing sides.

The structure was so severely damaged that it was not until 1876 that the reorganized congregation was able to restore the building. In 1981 the building was damaged by fire. The sanctuary was rebuilt retaining the original design.

### CATOCTIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

15565 High Street

Catoctin Presbyterian Church invites you to rest in its air conditioned sanctuary of Friday and Saturday anytime between the hours of 10 am and 5 pm.

Now past its bicentennial year, the Kittocktin Presbyterian Church, as it then was called, was founded in 1765 by a group of Scotch-Irish from Pennsylvania who brought their religion with them in their southward migration. The first log building stood about two miles south of

Waterford. The land on which the present church stands was conveyed to the Presbyterian Organization in 1814. A brick church was built and used intermittently until it was destroyed by fire in 1878. Using the same bricks, the church was rebuilt in 1882.

Sunday service will take place at 11 am.

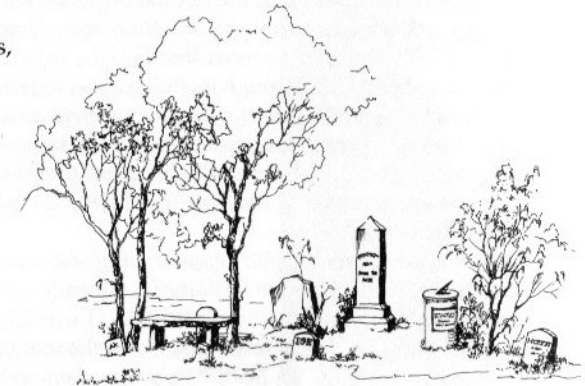
### THE METHODIST CHURCH

This church on High Street was built in 1877-1879, was closed for lack of members in 1966. In 1971 it was purchased by the Waterford Foundation which placed an easement on the building to protect it from inappropriate change. For years it housed the Art Mart. The building is now privately owned and has been sensitively remodeled inside for use as an office and guest quarters.



## WATERFORD UNION CEMETERY

Since you have no doubt donned your most comfortable walking shoes for the Fair, put them to use by taking a pleasant stroll down Fairfax Street where you will find, nestled in the trees, the Waterford Union Cemetery. Founded in the early 1800s, the cemetery takes its name from the collective of local churches that utilized the burying ground. With the exception of the Quakers, whose burying ground is visible from Union's gate, nearly all other denominations are represented here. Whites were buried in the western half of the yard while African-American citizens rest in the eastern portion.



Although not a military graveyard, history buffs will find at least twelve white Union veterans (including members of Waterford's own Loudoun Rangers), three black Civil War soldiers, at least five Confederates, and one veteran of the Spanish-American War. Flags will respectfully adorn those graves.

Cemetery enthusiast and longtime Loudoun resident Jeffrey G. Ball will be your "Earthly Host" (as George Bentley, whose sundial tombstone is visible in the drawing, was fond of saying). He will recount the history and assist you in locating the oldest and most interesting stones in the yard, and will be eager to discuss this or any other Loudoun burying ground.

For a serene and beautiful break from the bustle of town, Waterford Union Cemetery will reward your efforts.

The bench near the cemetery gate is a gift of the Waterford Book Club in memory of George Bentley, a longtime resident and Waterford Foundation leader.