

The Frontier Fort

The small stone Distillery is nearby. Across the Valley Pike (US 11) is the Hupp Mansion, an imposing antebellum brick residence used as the Civil War field headquarters of Confederate Generals Stonewall Jackson and Jubal Early and Union Generals Nathaniel P. Banks and James Shields. The Hupp family estate once totaled over 1,000 acres, including today's Hupp's Hill Cedar Creek Museum.

After reading the marker at Stop 4, walk west on Washington St. Cross Holliday St. and continue to N. Fort St. As you walk...

Customarily, the town's churches tolled their bells when a parishioner died, one bell for each year of the departed's age. Note the Italianate style Methodist parsonage at 132 W. Washington with its decorative porch and roof cornice trim. The Lutheran Church Annex (193 W. Washington) was Amos Keister and Samuel Sonner's pottery during the late 19th Century.

The Chalybeate Spring Hotel on the southwest corner of Washington and Fort Sts. catered to travelers from the 1890's throughout the 1930's, when it was converted into apartments.

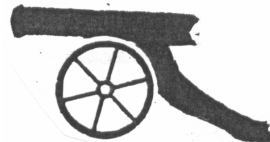
Read the marker at Stop 5. Walk south on Fort St. Cross and turn left on King St., go thru the arched gate at Strasburg Library.

The Pike provided obvious advantages over the region's dirt roads, which became axle-deep mud pits after hard rains. As Civil War armies used it to move troops and supplies, controlling the Valley Pike was strategically important.

To your right, the empty lot at the corner of W. Queen and Sharpe Streets was used as a stagecoach stop. Further west, the first African-American school was directly across from Mount Zion United Methodist Church.

Read the marker at Stop 7. Walk back to S. Fort St. Turn right, then walk south to High St. Turn left, walk to Stop 8 in the middle of the block

From the corner of S. Fort and High Sts, you can see the old Strasburg High School, now Strasburg Mennonite Church; down the hill behind the school were athletic fields, Kline Stadium (named for Freddy Kline, who was killed during the World War II Battle of the Bulge), and the site of very popular 20th century May Day celebrations.



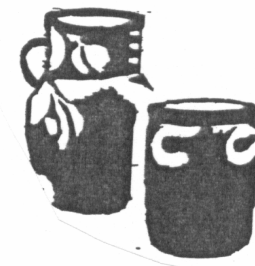
To the south, just out of sight, is the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, an important source of food, commerce, and recreation to the local community. The river winds along the undulating base of the Massanutten; to illustrate how much it curves, consider that Strasburg is just 11 miles from Woodstock by road, but 51 miles by river!

Read the marker at Stop 8. Turn left and walk to the end of the block. Turn right on S. Holliday St. Go to the top of the hill and cross the street. Read the marker at Stop 9.

On the site of today's famous Hotel Strasburg, Christopher Keister, Jr., operated an Ordinary (inn with pub) in 1782. In 1895, Dr. Mackall Bruin opened a hospital using the current Hotel Annex building and perhaps other buildings on the site; in 1902, he built a new main hospital building, which later became the three-story Hotel. About the same time, he built, south of the Annex, what is now called the Taylor House for his family residence. Sometime after 1912, the hospital was converted into a boarding house containing office space, and by the mid-1920's it was renovated as a hotel.

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

Strasburg buildings certainly tell the story of a town at the crossroads of history.



We hope you have enjoyed your walking tour of Pot Town!