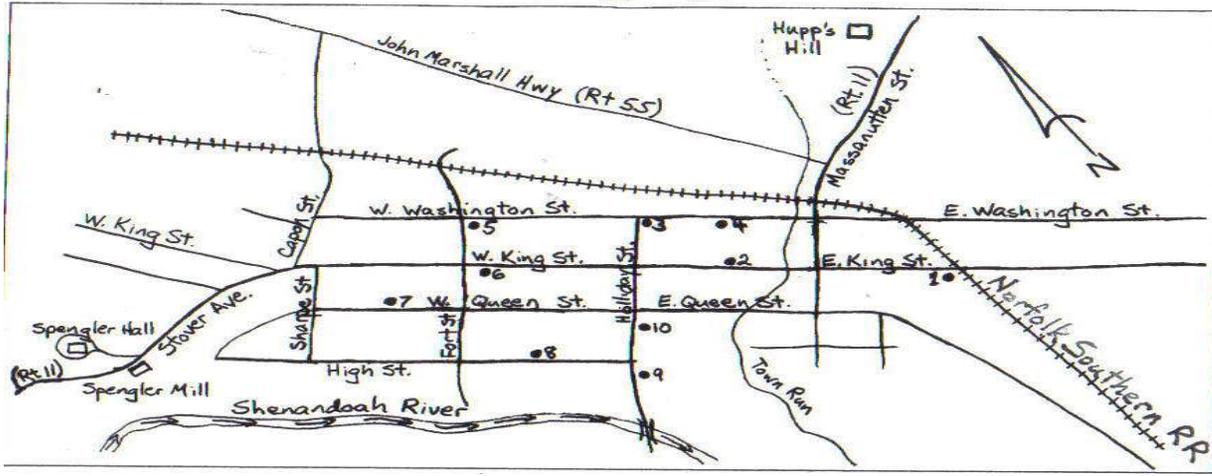


Strasburg, Virginia



Time: 1 to 1-1/2 hours
Distance: 1.6 miles

Begin your walking tour in front of Strasburg Museum, 440 E. King Street

The railroad played an important role in the life and economy of Strasburg from 1854, providing regular passenger service and transporting local agricultural products, including grain and fruit crops, to eastern markets. Rail transportation suffered extensive damage during the Civil War, but was operational again by 1868.

Across from the Strasburg Museum, the area now used by Southern States Co-op was known as **Frogtown** during the 1920's and 1930's. After a heavy rain, the lot provided an excellent wading area for neighborhood children, while W. Washington St. was nicknamed Mud Lane. Frogtown occasionally hosted a one-man traveling show, using a truck bed as a stage for enacting plays and hawking herb tonics.

After reading the marker at Stop 1, walk west on King Street towards Stop 2

On the south side of King Street, Strasburg Steam Flouring Mills occupied the area at 390 E. King St. and its parking lot. Original mill buildings stood at the back of the parking lot until destroyed by fire in early 2008."

James Hickerson used 342 E. King as a pottery during the 2nd half of the 19th century; note that while 342 and 336 have 20th century facades, you can easily see the 19th century buildings behind them.



Strasburg Museum

The Strasburg Emporium now occupies the Strasburg Textile Mill, an important local employer from the early 1900's until 1977 that produced silk casket linings (silk parachutes during World War II). The Emporium's parking lot was the site of Snarr's Flour and Feed Mill.

An example of early gasoline station architecture stands on the southeast corner of King and Massanutten Streets.

Cross Massanutten Street, walk west on King Street. Cross at Town Hall to Stop 2.

The building on the southwest corner (282 E. King St.) was operated as the Colonial Inn for many years, including during the Civil War when the Byers sisters served their delicious pies to soldiers marching along the Valley Pike. It is said that an exhausted Stonewall Jackson reviewed his troops from a chair on the sidewalk in front of the hotel, his passing soldiers shushing each other when their beloved General fell asleep.

Downtown Strasburg bustled during the 1930's, when many old buildings were either adapted to new commercial uses or demolished to make room for new edifices. The residence at 280 E. King Street was Verna Funk's millinery shop; her husband's plumbing business, first called Beeler & Funk, then Funk & Crabill, was across the street in the building now occupied by Buggy B's.

At 216 East King St. was Brill's Grocery (originally Little & Larrick's), an example of the small markets that flourished when people walked to shops, before the age of the auto.

Joe Wolfson's clothing store was at 183 East King; in the rear, he operated a steam iron and dry cleaning shop, while his family lived in the apartment above. This common shared use pattern of family apartments above their retail establishments often provided spacious and comfortable living spaces.