



## Historic Monterey, Virginia



A guided walk featuring notable buildings and their stories



**VA250**

Created in celebration of America's 250th Birthday!

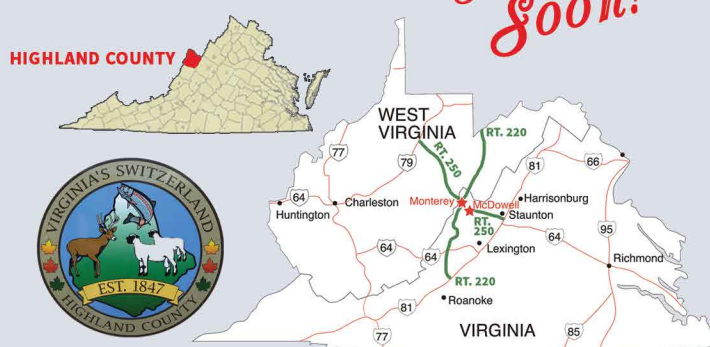
## Life is Sweet Here. So is our History!

By the late 1700s, Monterey was just a few scattered cabins known as Bell's Place. After the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike (US Route 250) was completed in 1850, a steady influx of settlers began to move into the area.

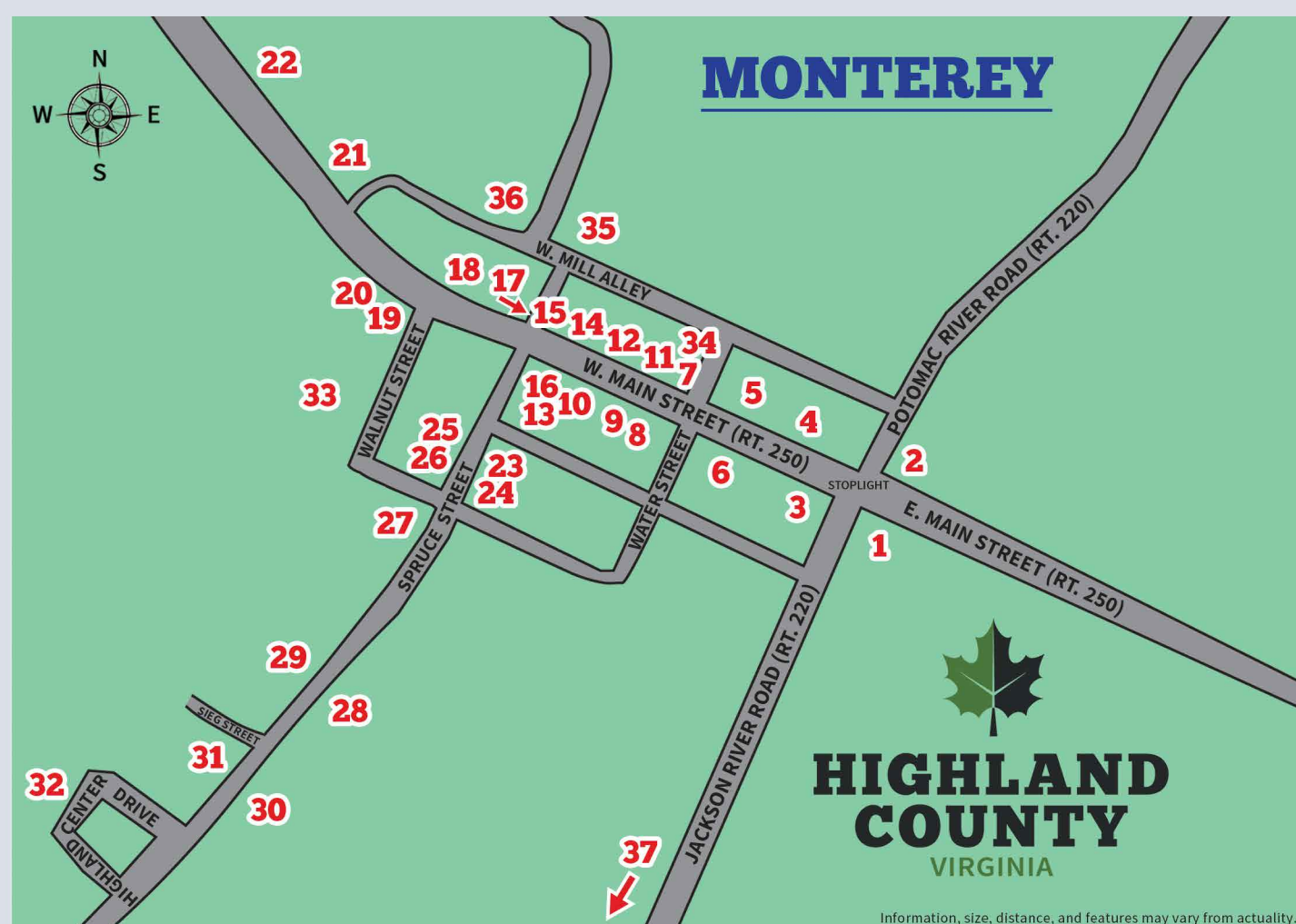
As the area grew, residents pushed for the formation of a new county, and in 1847 Highland County was created from 416 square miles of Bath and Pendleton counties. Bell's Place was renamed Monterey and declared the county seat.

At the eve of the Civil War, Monterey was composed of twelve houses, a brick academy, and a Methodist church. Monterey served as local headquarters for both Confederate and Union forces at different points in the war. Several homes were used as hospitals.

Around the turn-of-the-century, Monterey experienced a major growth spurt. 1920 was the year with the highest population, with a total of 313 residents. By 2010, the number of residents had dropped to 147, lower than the earliest census data of 154 in 1880. In 2020, the town saw the population climb to 165 with additional residents being added each year.



[HIGHLANDCOUNTY.ORG](http://HIGHLANDCOUNTY.ORG)



Welcome to Monterey! Use the map above to find the number of each house on the walking tour on the inside of this brochure for details about the buildings and their historic occupants. We hope you enjoy our restaurants, shops, and the locals who make up our rural mountain community!

Information in this brochure is for viewing properties from exterior public areas like sidewalks. You do NOT have permission to enter properties listed in this brochure, unless the property has open public hours of operation clearly displayed. Please respect the privacy of home and business owners. Do not knock on doors or try to enter buildings that do not have open public hours of operation clearly displayed.

VIRGINIA IS FOR MOUNTAIN LOVERS



[highlandcounty.org](http://highlandcounty.org)  
[townofmonterey.com](http://townofmonterey.com)  
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### 1 Monterey United Methodist Church - 1851 10 East Main Street

Monterey was composed of 12 houses, an academy, and a Methodist church on the eve of the Civil War. In 1851, Adam Fleisher donated land along Main Street to the Methodist congregation for a simple, one-room building. The current white frame building, with a multi-gabled roof, arched stained glass windows, and a bell tower, was built in 1898.

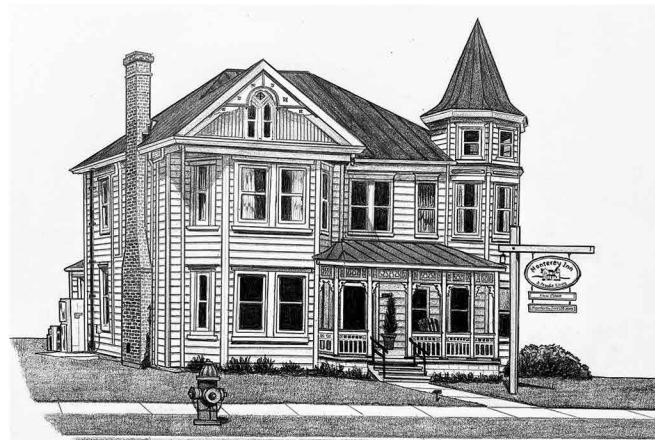


### 2 Hammer Brothers Building - 1930 11 East Main Street

The 1930s saw the opening of Hammer Brothers Filling Station and Restaurant. This building was constructed of native limestone. It later served as the home of Lightner's Electric and currently houses the Highland Roots Market, a specialty grocery store.

### 3 Ernie's - 1944 27 West Main Street

Built in 1944, this building housed Ernie's Market and gas station for years. After extensive renovations in 2024, the building now boasts a second-story facade and is home to The Highlander restaurant and the Highland County Visitor Center, welcoming guests with a custom-built maple syrup themed brochure display.



### 4 Chestnut House - 1903 32 West Main Street

This Colonial Revival style is a fine example of early 1900s domestic architecture and was the family home of the Chesnuts for more than 80 years. The interior was renovated and opened in 2023 as a five-room hotel known as the Monterey Inn. The Barn event space was added to the back yard in 2025.



### 5 Hotel Monterey - 1904 68 West Main Street

The Highland Inn opened as the Hotel Monterey in September 1904 by Silas W. Crummett to serve the lodging needs of tourists escaping from the summer heat from nearby cities. For its first 75 years it was known as the Hotel Monterey, and referred to as the "Pride of the Mountains." The Eastlake style porch is considered notable, making it a premiere architectural landmark in Monterey. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Virginia Historic Landmark. The Blue Grass Resource Center has obtained grants and donations to fully renovate and reopen the Inn.

### 6 Trimble's Store - 1900 73 West Main Street

This building started as Bud Trimble's General and Drug store in the early 1900s and was converted into a restaurant in the 1930s. Ethel High, formerly a Blue Grass teacher, purchased the building in 1945 and opened it as High's Restaurant.



### 7 Lunsford and Sons - ca 1900 108 West Main Street

The property began as Lunsford and Sons Store building. Later, it became Mauzy's appliance and furniture store. It would then become home to the Gallery of Mountain Secrets for 22 years until 2011 when the Evans family operated an electronics store here. The local hometown newspaper, The Recorder, moved its office into the building in 2023.



### 8 King's Log Cabin - 1983 107 West Main Street

Darwin King built this log cabin in 1983 to replace his electrical appliance store which had burned down. He later turned the shop into a video rental store. A few other enterprises took a turn in the building before Claire's Cakes & Café remodeled it in 2022.



### 9 Campbell House - 1852 115 West Main Street

This building is typical of western Virginia architecture of the period, though brick buildings were rare in Monterey due to the lack of brick-making materials nearby. It is one of only a few with four separate chimneys. From 1880 to the 1920s, this building was operated as the Cunningham Hotel. It now serves as the Monterey Town Office.

### 10 Highland Mercantile - 1909 127 West Main Street

The Highland Mercantile was a variety store opened as a partnership between Whitelaw and Peterson before being taken over by the Sullenberger brothers. Two generations of Sullenbergers ran the store. In 1969, Highland County Crafts purchased the building and opened a cooperative for local artists and craftsmen. The craft co-op closed in 2018.

### 11 Old Barber Shop - 1900 132 West Main Street

After Don and Kathy Sullenberger closed their soda fountain, Clarence Sipe ran the local barber shop and a pool hall from this building. Art on Main is a for-profit gallery opened in early 2024 under the umbrella of non-profit entity, The 3rd Space. More than two dozen local artists sell their work in the shop, which also hosts workshops and classes.





**12 Almond-Stickler House - 1850**  
144 West Main Street

An original log house of four rooms makes up the central portion of this structure. An outside staircase once reached the upper right-hand room, which served as a hospital after the Battle of McDowell. Charles Pinckney Jones added a two-story addition with dining room, kitchen, upstairs parlor, and two bedrooms. In 1911, a bay addition on the east side added two more bedrooms. A two-story porch gives the house its present-day Folk Victorian look. The property, now owned by the Highland Historical Society, was opened as the Charles Pinckney Jones House Museum in 2023. Visitors often find themselves peacefully passing the time in the front porch rocking chairs.

**13 Highland County Jail - 1900**  
145 West Main Street

Finished in 1900, this brick jailhouse replaced an earlier structure and incorporated a dwelling for the jailer and his family. In 2006, a new wing was added to the east wall of the sheriff's office.

**14 C.P. Jones Law Office - 1874**  
160 West Main Street

Prosperity brought a growth in commercial building to Monterey in the late 19th century. C. P. Jones, a lawyer by profession, built a small law office at the western front of his Main Street property. Three generations of Joneses practiced law out of the original office until 1986. The building is now home to Clarkson & Wallace Real Estate.



**23 Dr. Kenton Trimble Building - ca 1891**  
59 Spruce Street

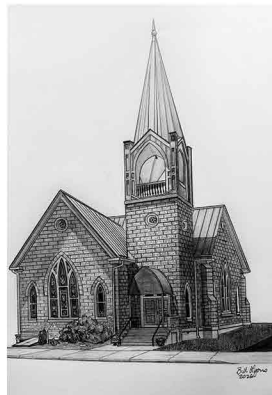
In 1891, Dr. Kenton H. Trimble built a small single-story doctor's office. Around 1895, he built a two-story pharmacy. In 1922, the Arcadia Theatre was constructed with a small restaurant and soda fountain. The neon-lit trout was placed on the roof in the 1960s to advertise a restaurant specialty. Years after the Maple Restaurant closed, Kirk Billingsley opened the aptly-named Big Fish Cider, Co. in 2016.

**24 Hitching Post - 1890**  
79 Spruce Street

Dr. Kenton H. Trimble owned this house, adjacent to the small office used for his medical practice. He obligingly provided a row of hitching posts on the side street for his patients and for visitors to the Highland County Courthouse on "Court Day."

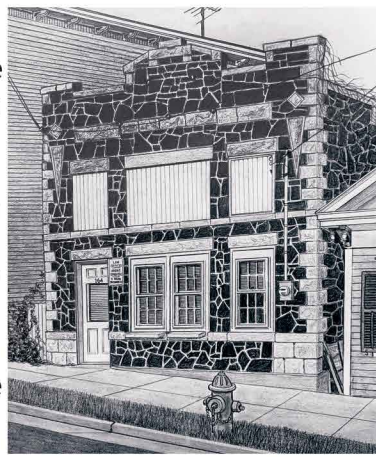
**25 Monterey Presbyterian Church - 1909**  
50 Spruce Street

Monterey Presbyterian Church was organized as a satellite church of Pisgah Presbyterian Church, located south of Hightown. Worship services took place in the courthouse until the first church was completed on this site in 1873. The current church, rebuilt in 1909, is late Victorian architecture with Gothic elements, accented by a corner bell tower. The new sanctuary was one of the first buildings in the region to be constructed of textured concrete block.



**15 Citizens Bank of Highland - 1919**  
164 West Main Street

The second Monterey bank, formed in 1908, moved into this native sandstone building in 1919 and operated there until both local banks consolidated in 1929. It subsequently became the Monterey Post Office before converting to office space, currently home to the Law Offices of John C. Singleton.



**16 Highland County Courthouse - 1948**  
165 West Main Street

Standing on the site of the original 1850 structure which burned in the fire of 1947, this Greek Revival building houses the seat of government for Highland County, as well as the courtroom. It was rebuilt within the year on the footprint of the original building, using columns that survived the fire. The statue of the Confederate soldier was erected in 1918 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. A Walk of Honor to commemorate county veterans was erected between the courthouse and sheriff's office in 2007. The exterior space is frequently photographed, acting as a centerpiece for multiple annual county events like the Hands & Harvest Festival and Highland County Maple Festival.



**26 See House - 1875**  
68 Spruce Street

Rev. Charles S. M. See, Monterey's first Presbyterian minister, was also a carpenter. In 1875 he built this house adjacent to the Monterey Presbyterian Church. In 1881, See sold the house to Lucius Stephenson, who occupied this house while his home received a kitchen addition. In 1897, Stephenson gave the house to the Presbyterian Church to be used as a manse.

**27 Kincaid House - 1858**  
104 Spruce Street

Built in 1858 by James M. Kincaid, this was the first house on Spruce Street. The house was sold to Captain Jacob Croushorn Matheny, CSA, in 1877 after Matheny became the Clerk of Court. Lloyd Sullenberger purchased it for his family in the early 20th century. The interior featured hand-carved pine doors and windows.

**28 The Brownstone - 1928**  
195 Spruce Street

This unique house may have been a Sears Craftsman House. It features beautiful oak floors.

**29 Trimble House - 1898**  
202 Spruce Street

Built by C.W. Trimble, a timber merchant, this house is distinguished by its projecting attic story and applied decorative wood pieces. Noteworthy details include exterior chimney brickwork, a wrought-iron fence, glass door panels, frosted glass transoms, and carved oak mantles.

**30 Matheny-Hansel House - 1904**  
263 Spruce Street

The house sits on a property purchased in 1882 by the Matheny family. William Matheny was a county clerk and one-time owner of The Recorder. Seybert Hansel, a local attorney, purchased the house in 1930 and lived there until his death in 1976.

**31 Sullenberger House - 1906**  
260 Spruce Street

Don and Mary Sullenberger raised eight children in this nine-room house with maple floors and handsome oak wainscoting. Mrs. Sullenberger, the first president of the Monterey Garden Club, was known for her extensive wildflower collection grown behind the front stone wall.



**17 Peterson's Store - 1903**  
174 West Main Street

Of the four stores that once stood at the intersection of Main and Spruce Streets, the only one remaining is one of the largest buildings in town. Three stories high, the well-preserved storefront was home to H&H Cash Store from 1958 to 2014. It is now home to The Curly Maple.

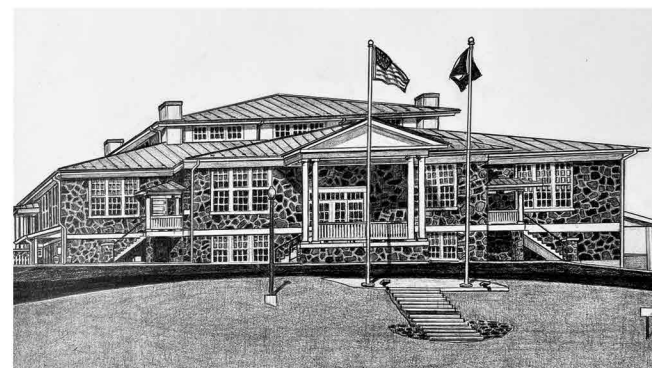


**18 Masonic Temple - 1910**  
224 West Main Street

This Masonic Temple was built by Highland Lodge No. 110 A.F. and A.M. on a lot purchased from the First National Bank of Highland. It is the tallest structure in Monterey. The building consists of three stories with a six-course American-bond facade. The building houses the office of the Highland County Chamber of Commerce.

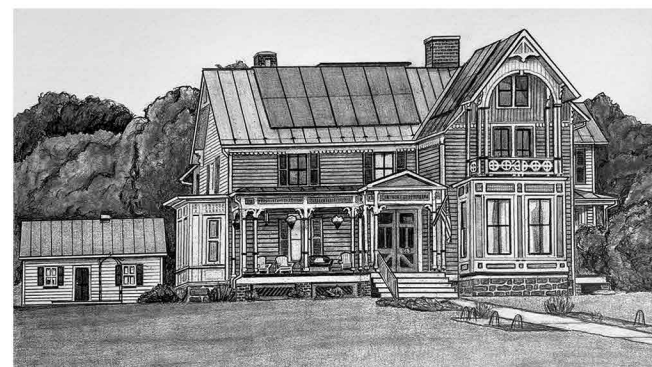
**19 Monterey School - ca 1890**  
237 West Main Street

This house served as one of Highland County's earliest private schools, teaching Latin and the classics to young men. Archie Suddarth was a photographer living in the home in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and used the upstairs for a studio because the large school window provided ample lighting.



**32 Monterey High School - 1922**  
61 Highland Center Drive

The high school was built behind a previous building that was torn down after construction was complete. Built of native limestone by local contractor L. W. Puffenbarger, it was designed with a central auditorium plan popular at the time. The school later became Highland Elementary School. When it became vacant in 1997 after a new school was built, the non-profit The Highland Center purchased the building to promote economic growth, tourism, and community events. The pavilion in front is home to the Highland Farmers' Market, started in 1998.



**33 Lucius and Mary Stephenson House - 1858**  
68 Walnut Drive

The home is an Eastlake-style Queen Anne residence. Adam Stephenson, Highland's first Clerk of Court, acquired the elevated lot on the west side of Monterey in the 1850s. The large and elaborately detailed two-story frame house was the home of Lucius H. Stephenson and his wife, Mary. Lucius and Mary's oldest son, Boyd Stephenson, inherited the property. Boyd's wife, Harriet Sommers Stephenson, operated the Maple Hill Tourist Home in the house in the 1930s.

**20 William F. Kyle House - 1909**  
261 West Main Street

William F. Kyle had this home built in Monterey and ran the Monterey Water, Light, and Plumbing Company from a small adjacent office. He also ran Kyle's Garage and owned a car dealership in town. Kyle married Rosa M. Ward in 1910.



**21 The Crow's Nest - 1883**  
306 West Main Street

Built by Dr. I. H. Trimble, this Victorian residence is in the Italianate Tuscan Villa style, complete with central hallway, cherry paneled library, and three Italian marble fireplaces. The cupola has been remodeled into a striking, functional belvedere.



**22 Arbogast House - ca 1902**  
364 West Main Street

This Queen Anne house is one of a number of Colonial Revival homes on Main Street. The foyer, stairway, and upper hall are richly paneled in oak and walnut. Charmingly restored in 1995, it is now a bed and breakfast known as the Arbogast Inn. The house's barn is listed in the Virginia Register of Historic Places.

**34 Highland County Public Library - 1982**  
31 North Water Street

Highland's first library opened in the Masonic Lodge in late 1975. In 1982, the Mountain View Extension Homemakers' Special Projects Committee started fundraising for a new library building. The building on Water Street was funded entirely by private donations and opened in 1987.

**35 Virgil Bishop House - ca 1860**  
174 West Mill Alley

The original 1860s dwelling faced an extension of the north-south Gaultown Road, also known as Vanderpool Road and later renamed to Spruce Street. It was purchased by Virgil Bishop, a local merchant, who added a number of rooms. The thick-walled outbuilding, standing on the north side of Mill Alley, was used to store apples from the orchard.

**36 Whitelaw House - 1900**  
224 West Mill Alley

This beautiful late Victorian-style home was built by prominent businessman John Whitelaw for his wife, Lizzie. Overlooking Monterey, this ornate two-story building is noted for its beautiful wrap-around porch and elaborate balustrade. The house is now known by locals and visitors as "Cherry Hill."

**37 Highland Baptist Church - 1982**  
302 Jackson River Road

In 1977, Missions for Virginia Baptists started working to plant a church in Highland. Four acres were purchased in 1980 for \$42,000. Construction on the sanctuary and classrooms were begun on July 19, 1982, and the church was built in just one week. The fellowship hall was added later.



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