

While you're here...

Brighton Tannery (site of Pizza Hut and McDonald's)
The tannery business came to Petersburg in 1890. Since then, several companies ran the tannery. Petersburg Tannery purchased the site in 1950 and conducted business until 1974. For 84 years, the Tanning Business and Petersburg were linked.



Riverside Tannery before the fire of January 24, 1900. I would like to be just a tannery worker. Received good pay. Like to be just a tannery worker.
Photo Credit: <https://wvhistoryonview.org/catalog/053721>

Fort Mulligan
(100 Mulligan Drive) Federal or Confederate troops occupied this strategic hill and the surrounding area near Petersburg, West Virginia as early as August 1861. Union forces used the fort to quarter troops patrolling against Confederate raids on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad to the north, and as a "jumping-off" point for their own raids further south.

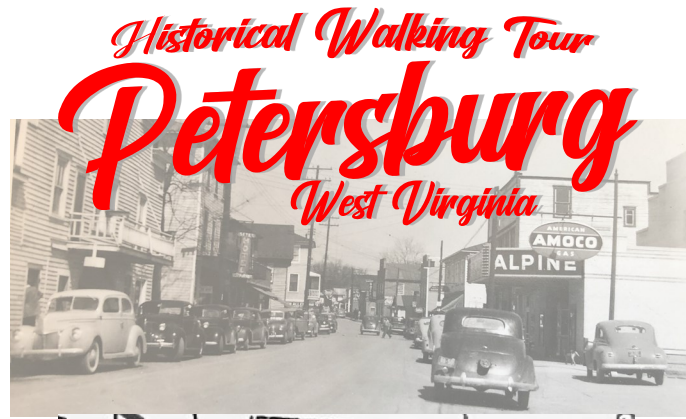


(Source: <https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/fort-mulligan>)

St. John's Academy The only remaining building from the original campus are 204 Jefferson Ave (Grant County Superintendent's office) and east of Maple Hill Cemetery which served as the academy president's house. St. John's provided a four-year high school education for students in Grant, Hardy, & Pendleton counties. The original campus opened in 1921 and closed in 1933, and an associated Junior College opened in 1931 and closed in 1933.



Photo Credit: <https://archives.lib.wvu.edu/repositories/2/>



Historical Walking Tour
Petersburg
West Virginia



Grant County
WEST VIRGINIA
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

Virginia Ave



Old Grant County Courthouse
115 Virginia Ave
The "old" portion dates to 1878. The color of the brick shows where old and "new" (1909) meet. In 1928, the WW1 monument was added. Since its listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979, the building has housed the sheriff's office, the health clinic, and Shepherd College. Now a museum coordinated by the Grant County Historical Society, the courthouse is open for tours on holidays (like July 4th and Heritage Weekend) and with advanced notice by calling 304-668-5001.



Tannery House Museum
115 Virginia Ave
Built around 1909 as worker housing for Petersburg Tannery (site of Pizza Hut), The Tannery House is the only remaining row house of the original 10. The Tannery Worker's Association and the Grant County Historical Society moved it to its current location in 2007. With a two-week notice to arrange the move and a lot of help, the house was moved from its previous location from the vacant lot beside Harper's Auto Parts in a 15-minute span. The house has been restored to its period condition-including its coat of yellow paint. Call 304-668-5001 to arrange a tour.



Hermitage Hotel
203 Virginia Ave
The hotel's rich history dates back to 1841 when it was built as a private home for Dr. & Mrs. Jacob Kenny Chambers. During the Civil War, it served as quarters for Federal officers stationed at Fort Hill. Its life as a hotel began after the Civil War. From then until 1990, nine different owners have managed its operations.



R.W. Baker House
207 Virginia Ave
This private residence dates to the pre-Civil War era and was built with bricks leftover from the Hermitage Hotel construction. Reportedly, the house served as Union General Mulligan's headquarters during the Civil War. R.W. Baker served as Petersburg's first mayor in 1910.



Duke McDaniel House
210 Virginia Ave
Built by the Snyder Brothers from Keyser for Ida Judy, this private residence features Colonial architecture.



Dr. Leslie House
202 Virginia Ave
Now a private residence, this stately Victorian features a carriage house and was built for the Judy family. Mrs. Judy was the first female pharmacist in the state, and Dr. Judy died during the Spanish flu pandemic in 1918.

FUN FACT! Notice the turrets as you pass. They were a signature of Francis A. Godlove's designs, and no two in town are the same! How many did you find?



Joy House/ Reid House
105 Virginia Ave
This house was built by Frank Godlove in 1893 as a wedding present for his daughter and her husband, J.N. McMullen, a local lawyer. In the 1920s it was home to J.M.K. Reid who was part owner in Central Tie and Lumber. The property then included an orchard, barn, chicken house and outside three-seat toilet. Plumbing and electricity was added in the 1920s. Since 1978, it has been apartments for seniors.



Harness House
101 Virginia Ave
This private residence was built in 1872 and occupied by George & Kate Harness and their 7 children. It features a Federal style with Victorian trim work. It was owned by Harness family until May of 1945 when it was sold at auction.



Bernard Baker House
25 Virginia Ave
Privately owned, it was built in 1860 with Federal & Greek Revival features. At one time, it was owned by Bernard Baker, state senator (1897-1899), local merchant, and father of R.W. Baker. The three-side bay was added in 1911 when the house was remodeled.



Grove St Methodist Church

Grove St. & Myrtle Ave.

One block north of Virginia Avenue, this building was built by Claud Bergdoll and Elijah Allen and was dedicated in June 1917 for a cost of \$10,000. The congregation members served many chicken and waffle suppers

to pay for construction. A favorite was the Penny Supper where folks paid a penny for a spoonful of vegetables and 10-15 cents for desserts and meats. The rear addition was added in 1957. Notice the stained-glass windows and rosettes in the tower.



Miss Lizzie's House

28 Virginia Ave

This Federal style house was the second house built on Virginia Avenue in 1856 for Dr. J.B. Grove. It is now home to Spectacle Family Eye Care.



The Cottage

28 Virginia Ave

Generations of doctors have hung their shingles at this quaint cottage. With the two front door options, at one time, you could pick a dentist or general practitioner. More recently, it has served as a barber shop and as the first site of the Petersburg Interfaith Pantry. It is owned by Dr. Cheryl Bennet and has been recently remodeled.



On the southeast corner of Virginia Avenue and Main Street stood the **Baker Building** which was used as prison for Confederate soldiers in the Civil War. You can find a portion of one of the walls signed by Civil War soldiers/prisoners in the museum at Old Grant County Courthouse. One room of this building also housed the first Grant County Bank from 1902-1908.

FUN FACT! Several houses in town were ordered from the Sears and Roebuck or Montgomery-Ward catalogs! One of them is 117 Highland Ave. (corner of Highland and Pine Streets).

North Main Street



Grant County Bank

1 North Main

Grant County Bank began operations in August 1902 in the Baker Building. It moved across Main Street into a new building in 1908 and eventually to the granite

and marble building you see today and remained until 1974 when it moved into its current building next door.



Teter House

21 North Main

Built by W.R. Ervin between 1903 and 1906 for Dr. Teter. It was a boarding house/apartment during World War 2 and was purchased

by Myrtle K Park in 1951 as tourist home. Today, it is a privately owned.

FUN FACT! At one time, there were four tourist homes from the Teter House to the Virginia Avenue stoplight. Seems like a lot for a small town!



Petersburg Presbyterian Church

20 North Main

This frame structure was built on current site in 1878 after the church moved from Cemetery Hill, with brick created on site, and dedicated in August 1879. Many

additions were made over time including stained glass windows (paid for with federal money as reparations for burning the original structure on Cemetery Hill during civil war. 1918), and a Moler Pipe Organ (installed in 1938). In 1957 the congregation remodeled the building in Georgian period architecture adding columns on the front, the vestibule, the fellowship hall, antique windows and spire.



The Davis House

105 North Main

Built before 1840, it was the Methodist church parsonage for its traveling pastors. Until 1974, it was owned by the Davis family. It was a bookstore in the early 2000s. In 2011, it sold to the Grant County

Historical Society for restoration and is now a local history museum— open the first Saturday (May-October) and by advance appointment by calling 304-668-5001.



Francis Godlove/May King House

218 North Main

Francis Godlove, a well-known carpenter of his day, built this house at end of 19th century for his family. Locals suspect that it was

built with materials leftover from other building projects. Water from 2 cisterns provided indoor plumbing and by 1919 the house had running water in the kitchen and electricity. The house was sold to Henry Alt in 1919, and, in 1945, he transferred ownership to his daughter, Mrs. May King who resided there for the next 45 years. The house was refurbished recently by Kent Hudgins. Notice the ornamentation: sawtooth molding & sunburst carving on front gable, finial atop the dome.



Maple Hill Cemetery

North Main (at the top of the hill)

The cemetery sits on about 6.7 acres and is named for the maple trees that once lined the hill. It was established in 1838 as the

site for Mt. Zion Presbyterian church. During Civil War, it was protected by order of the commanding general. In 1907, the church turned over care and keeping of the City of Petersburg. It features a mini-garden outside the main entrance, an arched entry and brick columns and iron gates. Interred here are those who have built our city... and fought our battles.

FUN FACT! Petersburg's first city laws were adopted in 1910 and included fines of up to \$10 (about \$274 in today's value) for fighting, quarrelling, swearing or recklessly operating horse-drawn vehicles. So, keep your horses under control here!

South Main Street



Mill Race Bridge (South of light at Main & Water Streets)

Stand on the bridge and look west for the site of the last mill in town. This area under the bridge was the mill race (a current of water that turns a

water wheel) that provided waterpower for the Petersburg Roller Mills (built 1827). In 1910, Grant County' passed its first environmental legislation which required up to \$25 (today's value = \$688) fines for anyone polluting the mill race.



Hiser House

105 South Main

This private residence was built around 1913 using railroad ties, from the neighboring tie yard, which were stacked horizontally

and spiked together. The Hiser family purchased in early 1920's and added the front porch, wiring and plumbing. The structure was condemned after 1985 flood, but condemnation was lifted. Jeff Barger purchased the home in December 1985 and gradually restored the house.



Peddlers Crossing

122 South Main

This building was built in 1911 and has housed multiple businesses in its time. Among them were Grove's Auto Parts store and a skating rink

upstairs.



V & W Electrical Supply 123 South Main

It was originally Mathias wholesale grocery owned by Ross Irvin and a tannery for hides brought in by train (for

Keystone Tanning).



Southside Depot

126 South Main

Built in 1911 just a year after the railroad came to town, it was originally a general store that offered merchandise and feed supplies. Today the store boasts handmade WV items and is home to Grant County's Convention and Visitors' Bureau.

Thank you to our resources and partners for their help and willingness to share Petersburg's history.

- ~ Grant County Historical Society
- ~ Kent Hudgins
- ~ Tim Park
- ~ Kenneth Shobe
- ~ Our Homeowners
- ~ THE HUB, WV Communities of Achievement Program
- ~ MonForest Town Partnership
- ~ Melissa Collins