Promote & Preserve the History of Round Hill

The Value of Cultural Heritage

December 16, 2015

What is the "History of Round Hill"

Incorporated in 1900, Round Hill lies at the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains in historic and scenic western Loudoun County at the crossroads of Virginia routes 7 and 719.

Round Hill was named for a 910 foot high hill, approximately 2 miles SW of the town center, which was used by both Union and Confederate troops as a signal post during the Civil War.

Early Settlers

- 1731 - Lord Fairfax granted Benjamin Grayson 1st tract of land in "Round Hill" on west side of Main Street, north of old railroad
- *(No mention of Round Hill until 1858)* The Area's leading community at the time was Woodgrove, 2 miles North of Round Hill, for by 1777 the main road west from Leesburg intersected the present Round Hill-to-Hillsboro Road at Woodgrove
- 1832 - the building of Leesburg & Snicker's Gap Turnpike (Route 7) changed the situation, and by 1857 Guilford Gregg had opened a store at NW corner of the pike & the road to Woodgrove

ROUND HILL VA

Post Office comes to Town

March 25, 1858, the U.S. postal department opened its Round Hill Post Office, and Gregg was appointed 1st postmaster, under the Confederate States of America, but forced to relinquish on Sept. 29, 1866.

Jan. 16, 1868, under Andrew Johnson's presidency, there again was a Round Hill postmark, with a new postmaster William B. Chamblin

Guilford Gregg's Store and 1st Post Office.

The Railroad

Round Hill was changed forever in May 1875, when the Washington & Ohio railroad came to town:

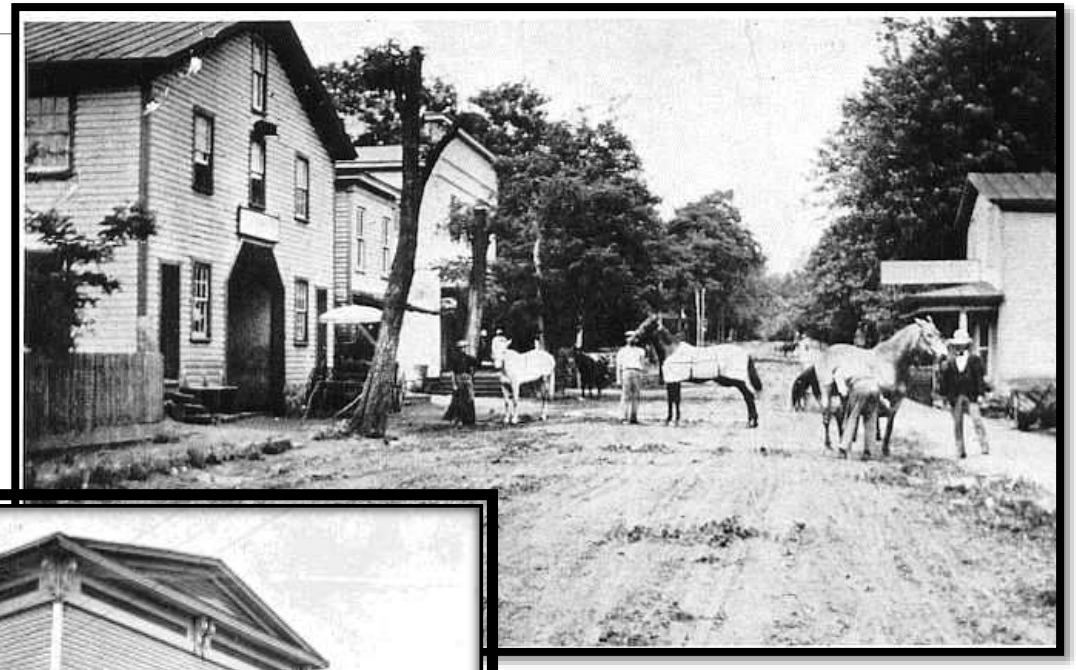
"For the next 25 years, Round Hill would be the terminus of the line that came from Washington and would become the stimulus for the tremendous growth and development of Round Hill in the period. A turntable was put in place to allow the engines to reverse direction and return to the east"

Freight Depot

Roots of a Tourist Community

- With the building of Blue Ridge Inn by Bear's Den, south of Snicker's Gap, stage wagons began the run into Snickersville by the mid-1890's, and the success of the Inn prompted the boarding-house craze in Round Hill & other Loudoun towns

- With 3 stores, the blacksmith and wheelwright shops and livery stables, Round Hill came into its own in 1900



T 13
APPALACHIAN TRAIL
AND BEARS DEN
This 2,100-mile-long hiking path passes through 14 states from Mount Katahdin, Me., to Springer Mountain, Ga., along the ridges of the Appalachian Mountains. Conceived in 1921 by Benton MacKaye, the trail was completed in 1937. It was designated a National Scenic Trail in 1968. One half mile to the south along the trail is Bears Den, a unique rock formation. The nearby stone mansion of the same name, constructed in 1933, is one of several summerhouses built along the Blue Ridge for wealthy Washingtonians between 1880 and 1940. It has been a hostel and lodge since 1986.
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES, 1999
© 2010 MarkerHistor

Round Hill & the Vacation Industry

Writing in the book Edge of the South: Life in Nineteenth-Century Virginia, Elizabeth Atwood in her essay entitled "Saratoga of the South: Tourism in Luray, Virginia, 1878-1905," declares that "…a railroad held the key to prosperity in the new order of things." That held particularly true when considering what happened to Round Hill in the last quarter of the 19th century. Part of the "new order" to which Ms. Atwood alludes was the early growth of the tourism, leisure travel, and vacation industry in America. "Railroads fed the vacation industry…" in the twenty five years following the Civil War. Residents promoted their towns for what the New York Times referred to as "hay fever sufferers and exhausted brain workers." Round Hill certainly filled the bill, now being within easy reach of Washington, D. C. whose summer climate and large population of government and office workers provided a rich market for Round Hill in its cool and beautiful mountain setting.

Round Hill Incorporated

- Southern Railroad took over in 1900 and added trains on weekends bringing more boarders

- On Feb. 5, 1900, Virginia's General Assembly incorporated the Town of Round Hill, appointing Johnson Taylor, Troy C. Ballenger, and William R. Jones the town commissioners.

Commercial District

Boarding Houses & Inns

Today - surviving historic architecture within Round Hill - was built in late 19th & early 20th centuries when the railroad was still operational.

Many of the residences from that time period are fairly large & architecturally sophisticated, reflecting their use as boarding houses catering to summer travelers.

The largest of the boarding houses stands at 30 West Loudoun Street, a 20-room building built in 1893 by William D. Kuhlman

Sagamore Hall

Began in the late 1700's as a small stone and log cabin. Today the cabin's sleeping loft is a modern kitchen, but the log walls have been exposed for guests to see and enjoy.

Sagamore Hall was built in 1900 over the existing log structure. It served as a hotel until about 1938, when the railroad stopped its passenger line.

Much of the history is unknown for the next 56 years until 1994, when purchased by present owners, the Barkers. Since that date, they have been lovingly restoring & improving the house and grounds of Sagamore Hall

Thompson/Elser Home

Built by Archie Simpson in 1905

Architectural Classifications

Late Victorian: Queen Anne; Italianate

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival; Late Gothic Revival

Late 19th & Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Modern Movement: Ranch; Minimal Traditional

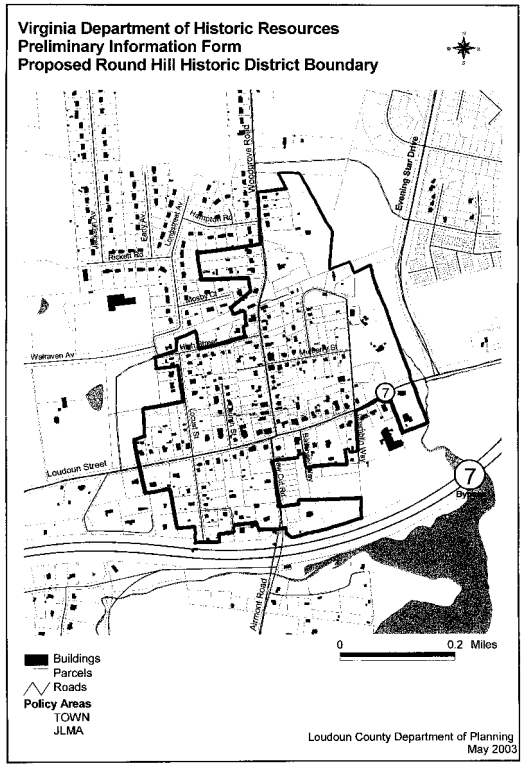
Other: Vernacular; Vernacular I-house; Folk Victorian

Map of Historic Buildings
PICKETT RD
JACKSON AV
EARLY AV
LONGSTREET AV
MOSBY CT
MILL WY
HIGH ST
WALRAVEN WY
CEDAR ST
BRIDGE ST
MULBERRY ST
CHURCH ST
MAIN ST
LOCUST ST
LOUDOUN ST
NEW CUT RD
BALLENGER WY
CHAMBLIN WY
MCCAULEY LA
BROOKVILLE CT
FALLS PL
HARRY BYRD HWY
RAMP
BRISTOL TE
EVENING STAR DR
CLOVER TE
LEASIDE TE
CARRIAGE HILL DR
LEGACY TE
AVION SQ
KENTSDALE SQ
ARROWOOD PL
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27

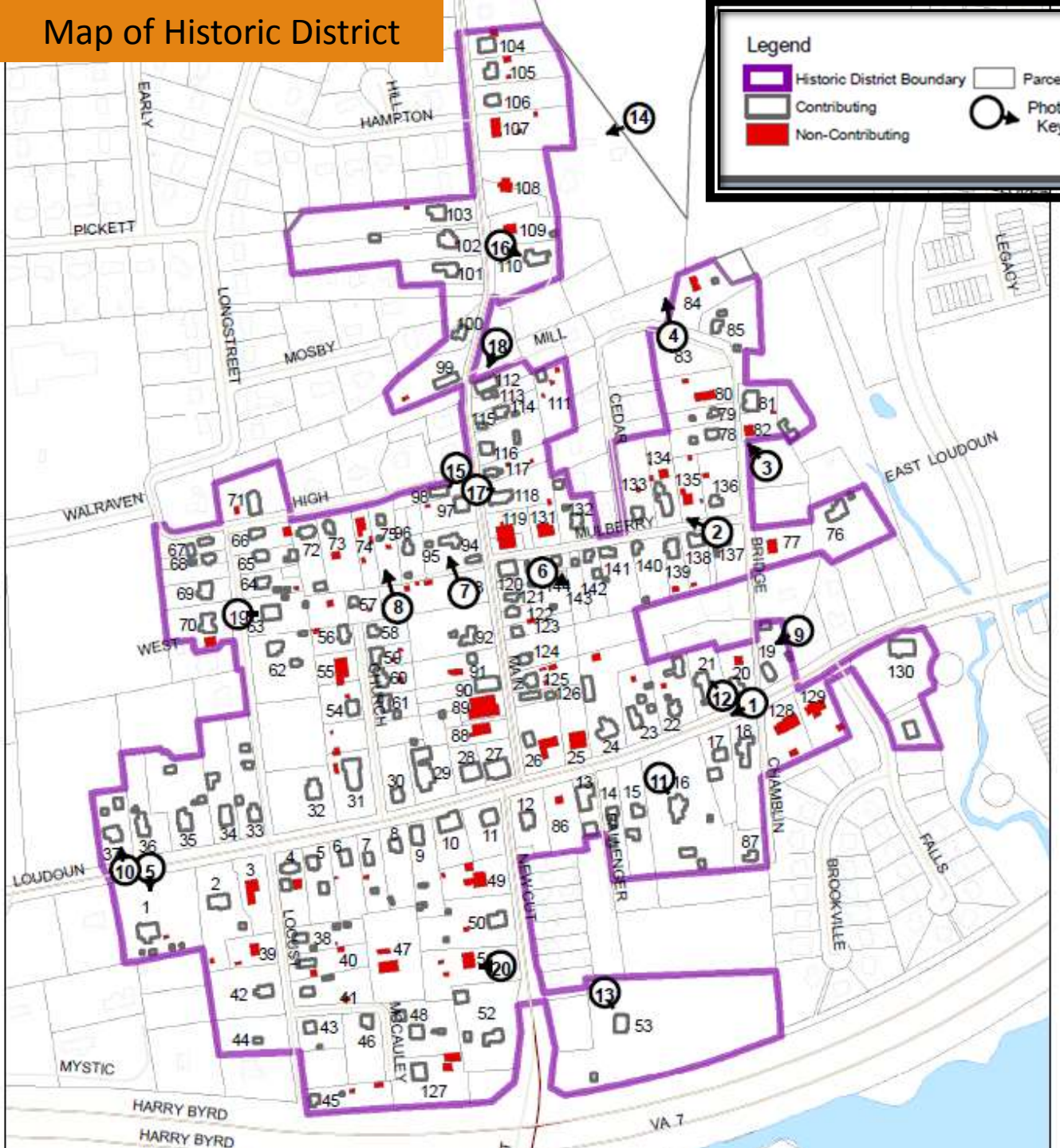
National Register of Historic Places

The Round Hill Historic District encompasses approximately 96 acres that make up the core of the town

More than 60% of the historic buildings within the district date to the years between 1880 and 1920, with 36% having been constructed between 1880 and 1900 and 30% between 1900 and 1920.



Map of Historic District



Total 218 Housing Units:

- 202 Occupied Units
- 16 Vacant Units

Resources	Contributing	Noncontributing
Building	204	97

NOTE: Contributing can be a barn or shed, not always a dwelling

Historic Tax Credits

Old Furniture Factory

Possibilities?

Gregg-Parks-Potts House is the oldest house in town. It was built in 1775.

The Gregg Family built and owned many houses & businesses in Town.

This house served as a Wagon Stand along Snickersville Pike

With Preservation…

Everhart/Shields House

Without Preservation…

Efforts to Restore

Online Tour of Round Hill

HTTP://WWW.ROUNDHILLVA.ORG/RUNSCRIPT.ASP?PAGE=131&P=ASP\PG131.ASP

Next Steps?

2014 Community Survey

Question 9: How important is the History of Round Hill to the Town as a whole?

Very Important: 55 Important: 77 Somewhat Important: 58 Not Important: 17

Question #20: There were 50 residents that said we should focus on our History & Historic Architecture for Tourism

Question #23: To provide grants and other incentives for building façade improvements:

Very Important: 36 Important: 52 Somewhat Important: 39 Not Important: 28

Question #24: To encourage beautification of Downtown

Very Important: 69 Important: 64 Somewhat Important: 25 Not Important: 9

Question #24: To educate public on benefits of historic preservation

Very Important: 32 Important: 44 Somewhat Important: 52 Not Important: 20

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a group or society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of future generations.

Heritage Tourism

Create a sense of place rooted in the local landscape, architecture, people, artifacts, traditions, and stories that make a particular place unique.

Tourism
Destination
Management
Tour
Historic
Architecture
Heritage
Archaeology
CULTURAL
HERITAGE
Tours
EXPERT
Consultant
TOURISM
History
Cultural
Expertise
Museum
Planning
Resource

Beautiful Round Hill

Infrastructure of Tourism Communities

Communities focusing on tourism often modify structures to enhance their appeal. While the basic buildings may look the same, the community rehabilitates or remodels them to meet specific themes.

Tourism infrastructure shows up in several ways: an old Victorian Queen Anne house becomes a bed and breakfast, a former hardware storefront becomes an art gallery, the city park contains a gazebo with benches where tourists can listen to music,

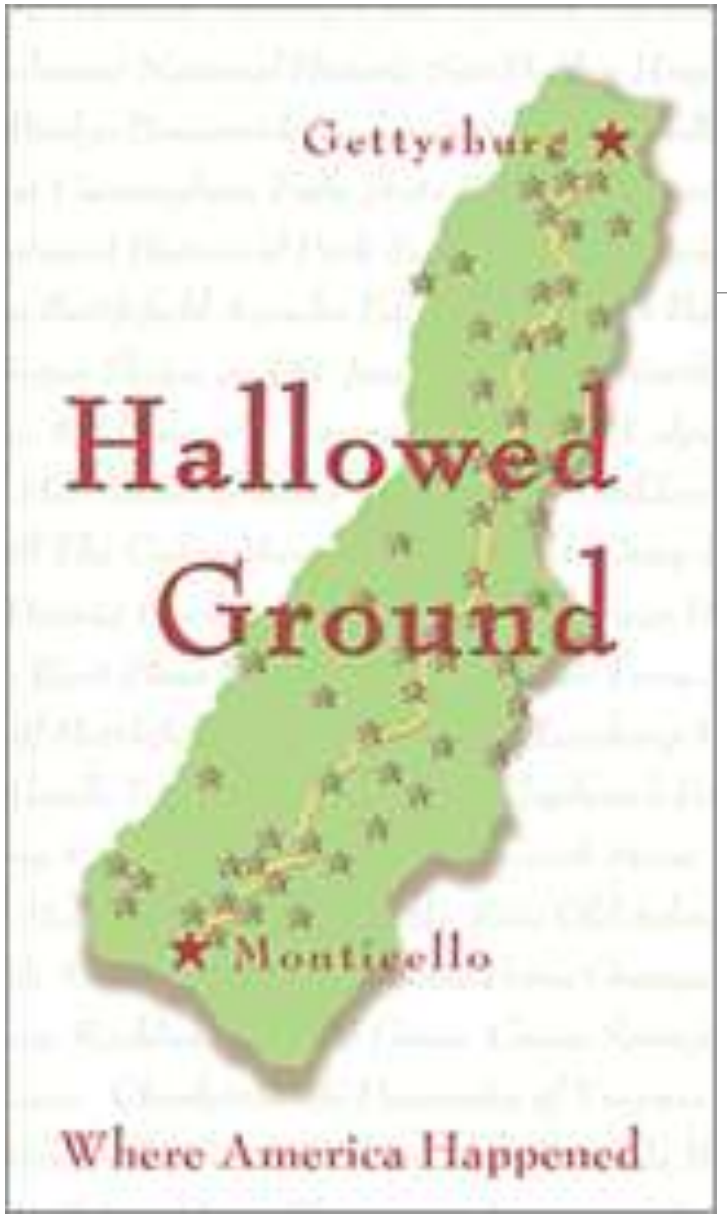
Lamp posts have banners telling tourists something important about their visit, and an empty space where a feed store once stood provides the foundation for a new theatre and arts building. New signs & street billboards point the way to local parks, wineries, historical sites, and places to eat.

Heritage Tourism

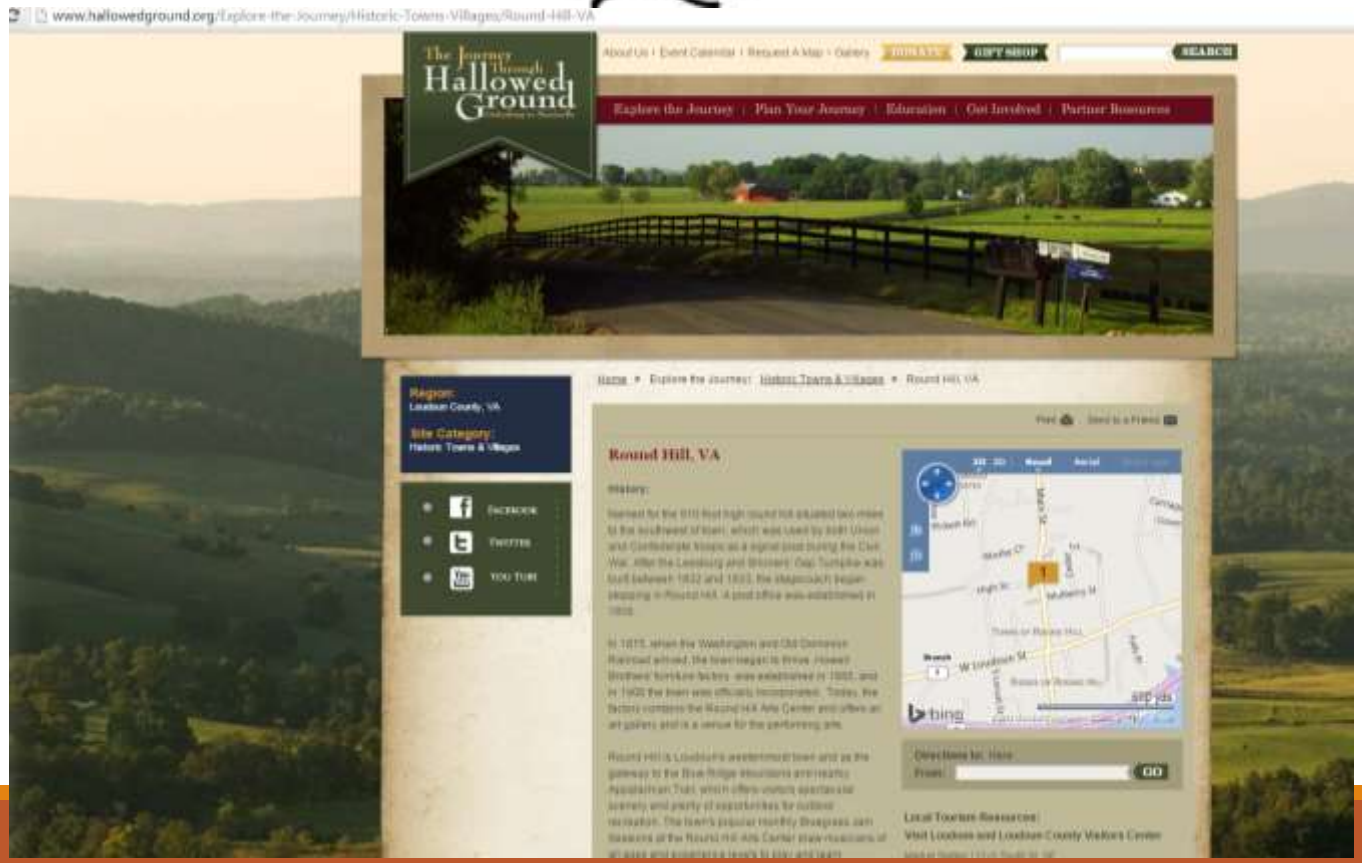
- Heritage tourism helps make historic preservation economically viable by using historic structures & landscapes to attract and serve travelers.

- Heritage tourism can be an attractive economic revitalization strategy, especially as studies have consistently shown that heritage travelers stay longer & spend more money than other kinds of travelers.

- As an added bonus, a good heritage tourism program improves the quality of life for residents as well as serving visitors.



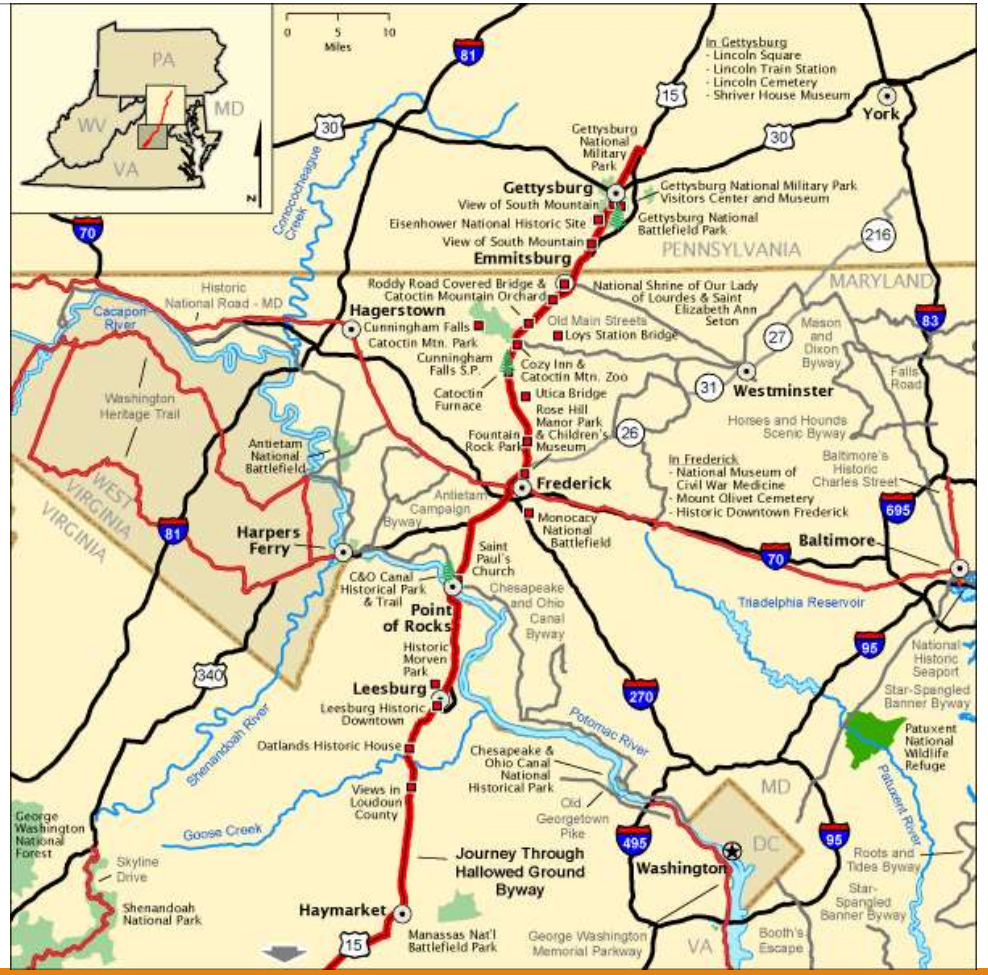
Journey Through
HALLOWED®
GROUND
GETTYSBURG TO MONTICELLO



Journey Through Hallowed Ground

Round Hill is listed as a part of the *Journey*:

- Extending from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, through Maryland and West Virginia, and ending at Thomas Jefferson's Monticello in Virginia, The Journey Through Hallowed Ground is tourism around American history, teeming with battlefields, historic sites, charming towns, and breathtaking natural beauty.



Recommendations