This Gothic Revival style house was built in 1857 by Adam Hickman, who was in the tannery. Behind the house are cave entrances Boone's dogs in 1760. Boone named this area "Wolf Hills," which later became "Black's Fort" and a preservation area, and authored 1746-1786. Miss Minnie purchased the church's wood columns and used them in the home. "Though not completely finished, was beautifully decorated" for the marriage of Nannie E. Rodefer. The house descended through Valentine's son Leonidas Rodefer, who filed for bankruptcy in the early 1870s.

The Bank/Preston House

225 E. MAIN ST.

Designed as a combination bank and residence, the building was deeded to Lewis P. Summers, lawyer and author 1746-1786. The Bank is a National Historic Landmark.

The William King House

281 E. MAIN ST.

Originally two separate houses, with the western half built in 1790 by Morris Morrison, and the eastern half by the original Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church. In 1837 the building was acquired by the Sons of Temperance who hosted performances and social events, and the building became known as Temperance Hall. In 1890, the Sons of Temperance sold the church, "though not completely finished, was beautifully decorated" for the marriage of Nannie E. Rodefer. The church was converted into Abingdon's Town Hall (now Barter Theatre) in the early 1900's, Miss Minnie purchased the church's wood columns and used them in the home.

The Sawyer House

159 E. MAIN ST.

As a wealthy merchant and businessman, White built this Federal style house, with its classically symmetrical façade, in 1857. The Civil War intervened, and Mr. White filed for bankruptcy in the early 1870s.

The Martha Washington Inn & Spa

150 W. MAIN ST.

In 1832, the central building of the complex that is now the Martha Washington Inn & Spa was built in 1831 as the original Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church. In 1837 the building was acquired by the Sons of Temperance who hosted performances and social events, and the building became known as Temperance Hall. In 1890, the Sons of Temperance sold the church, "though not completely finished, was beautifully decorated" for the marriage of Nannie E. Rodefer. The church was converted into Abingdon's Town Hall (now Barter Theatre) in the early 1900's, Miss Minnie purchased the church's wood columns and used them in the home.

The Washington House/Thomas Findlay's Hotel

268 E. MAIN ST.

In 1835, Thomas Findlay built "The Washington House," a private residence, its dining room still has the original bank vault. The Bank is a National Historic Landmark.

The Dunn's Hotel/The Virginia House

208 E. MAIN ST.

1846. Known as Dunn's Hotel, the building was both a bakery, general store, cabinet shop, barber shop, private residence, post office, antique shop and restaurant. The eastern addition was built in 1835 by Ludowick C. Price, from 1849 – 1890. The house originally sat closer to Main Street, but after the 1915 addition, guests as Henry Clay and President Andrew Jackson. Abingdon's first post office was located in the addition. The Bank of Abingdon purchased the eastern half in 1873, while the Bank is a National Historic Landmark.

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Abingdon traces its roots to 1750, when Dr. Thomas Walker, who had been granted over 6,000 acres of land by King George II, explored the area. Later, Joseph Black purchased some of this land from Dr. Walker, settled on it and built a small fort. The area became known as “Black’s Tavern.”

In 1776, the Virginia Assembly created Washington County and incorporated it as the county seat. The name is thought to come from the Abingdon Parish in England. Abingdon was positioned alongside the Great Road leading down through the Valley of Virginia, and connecting to the road leading further west, soon encouraged merchants, taverns, homes, and other building. The population grew, and the number of buildings grew. The first structures were all built of logs. Only a few years later frame buildings with rock foundations were erected, and in 1803 the first brick house was built and still stands today: the William King Museum of Art.

Abingdon became a major distribution point for mail and supplies on “The Great Road.” The town also became known for its love of the arts. Concerts, operatic performances, and theatre were important in Abingdon. The area around Abingdon is now part of the Virginia Creeper Trail.

Sinking Spring Cemetery

Predating both Washington County and Abingdon, the cemetery was established as the burial ground for members of Sinking Spring Presbyterian Church, organized in 1773. Members of the congregation, led by Rev. Charles Cummings, built a log church and laid out the cemetery on 11 acres. Burials over the past 200 years reflect the long history of Washington County. On the same parcel of land, separated by Russell Road, is the burial place of the enslaved people owned by these early Presbyterians, and also free people of color.

The log house at the cemetery entrance was built circa 1773 by Reverend Cummings, the most influential leader of Presbyterians in 18th Century Southwest Virginia. It is the oldest water powered grist mill in Southwest Virginia. The mill is a Virginia Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Next door, the Mercantile sells White’s Mill grits and cornmeal, plus hand crafts and art.

White’s Mill

Originally built as Moffett’s Mill in 1790, White’s Mill was purchased by Col. James White in 1838. When White’s Mill began milling grain with its own waterwheel, waterpower provided the only stable mechanized energy. Visitors to the mill can see the old equipment, as well as contemporary upgrades. It is one of the oldest water powered grist mills in Southwest Virginia. The mill is a Virginia Historic Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Next door, the Mercantile sells White’s Mill grits and cornmeal, plus hand crafts and art.

Abingdon Visitor Center/Hassinger House

Built in 1906 for John Harvey Hassinger by his older brother William Hassinger, a master builder. The brothers founded Hassinger Lumber Company, a logging company that constructed the Virginia-Carolina railroad (now the Virginia Creeper Trail). Mr. William Hassinger was known to have been quite proud of his handbook. The foundation stones speak for themselves; the window glass is double thickness, which eliminates the need for storm windows. The exterior clapboards and interior floors and millwork are made of clear white handiwork. The foundation stones speak for themselves; the window glass is double thickness, which eliminates the need for storm windows. The exterior clapboards and interior floors and millwork are made of clear white handiwork. Even in 1824 the Abingdon Male Academy was built at the top of this 25 acre site. The Civil War took its toll on the building, and in 1872 a new brick school was erected through a legacy gift of merchant William King. The Academy closed its doors around 1905. In 1912, its trustees leased the property to the Town of Abingdon and the School District of Washington County. A new brick school building was built in 1913, using the same footprint as the Academy building. The new public school was named William King High School, operating until 1973. It now houses the museum facility.

Abingdon Muster Grounds

700 Colonial Rd.

Northern trailhead for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail, established by Congress in 1983. In 1780 militia from Washington County assembled here to begin their 330-mile march to ultimately defeat British forces at the Battle of King’s Mountain in South Carolina.

Virginia Creeper Trail Welcome Center

300 Green Spring Rd.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
VIRGINIA CREEPER TRAIL WELCOME CENTER

300 Green Spring Road, Abingdon VA 24210

For more information

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335 Cummings St. (Pictured on the cover)

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