

Town of Washington

Saturday, April 29, 2017
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Photo courtesy of Catorina Tudor Erler

Nestled in the shadows of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Rappahannock County, the Town of Washington boasts being “the first Washington of them all;” it is being featured on Historic Garden Week for the first time in its 84-year history. The county seat with its historic and architecturally significant buildings was surveyed by George Washington in 1749. At age 17, Washington laid out the town’s original grid plan and named the streets. That plan remains virtually unchanged in this bucolic village that offers visitors fine dining, bed and breakfasts, art galleries, wineries and shopping within a five-block area. Four private homes with gardens, one manor home undergoing restoration, a church and the gardens of the Inn at Little Washington are located all within a three-mile radius on this driving tour.



Hosted by
Garden Club of Warren County

Chairmen

Beth DeBergh (540) 675-3236
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Ticket Chairman

Cathy Bower (540) 636-3448

Tickets and tour headquarters: \$40 pp at on tour day at Trinity Episcopal Church, 379 Gay Street, Washington, or \$15 pp per site at each location.

Advance Tickets: \$35 pp. www.vagardenweek.org.

R Complimentary light refreshments provided by the ladies of Trinity Church will be served at Trinity Episcopal Church Parish Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

L Served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in The Inn at Little Washington’s Allée, located behind the Washington U.S. Post Office. Special features include The Inn at Little Washington’s barbecue; food trucks: The Rambler from Hidden Jules Café, offering organic sandwiches and wraps; SoBo Mobile, which provides a combination of local farming with Central American cuisine and The Frenchman. Seated dining options in Washington are Tula’s Off Main and The Country Café. A picnic

area will be provided on the lawn of Avon Hall overlooking the pond encircled by native plants near the entrance of Town, 2 Avon Lane – bring a picnic blanket! There will also be tables available at Trinity Church at lunchtime.

A The Inn’s Parsonage Courtyard in the center of town will offer a variety of local artisans and garden-related vendors from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A “From Flowers to Honey,” a presentation by Rappahannock County beekeeper, Keith Rowand of Laughing Duck Gardens and Cookery, held in The Inn’s Field of Dreams, adjacent to the Garden of Eatin’, the Inn’s vegetable garden, located behind the Inn’s Shops in the Old Tavern building c. 1740, on Main Street across from the Inn at Middle and Main Streets. Keith’s presentation will be from 1 to 1:30 p.m.; also he will have a display and will be available in the area around the garden to answer questions on bees from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A Rappahannock County’s Artisan Trail, part of Virginia’s Artisan Trail Network and sponsored by Rappahannock Association for Arts and Community: Artists present original works at galleries and studios scattered throughout scenic Rappahannock County. A map and brochure of the 100+ stops are available at the county Visitors Center. artisanscenterofvirginia.org.

A Local Plein-Air Artists will be painting in the gardens from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Artists include: Armand Cabrera, Kathy Chumley, Chris Stevens, Nedra Smith, Nora Harrington, and Davette Leonard.

A Wine Tasting at Tula’s Off Main from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. followed by local Plein Air Artists’ Silent Auction at 5:30 p.m.

! This tour cannot accommodate Bus Groups due to narrow country roads.

Directions to the Tour Area:

From Washington D.C.: take I-66 West, merge onto Lee Hwy./US-29 S via Exit 43A toward Gainesville/Warrenton. Take US Bus/US-211 W ramp towards US-29 Bus/Warrenton/Luray. Merge onto Lee Hwy. becomes Broadview Ave/US-17 S/US-21 W. Turn right onto Frost Ave/US-211 W. Continue to follow US-211 W. Turn right onto Warren Ave. Tour headquarters, Trinity Church is on the left across from the Inn at Little Washington. To proceed from Trinity to The Meadows, go south on Gay St. turn right on to Mt. Salem, which becomes Porter St. and leads directly to the Meadows.

From The Meadows to Jessamine Hill start going east on Porter toward Main St. Porter St. quickly becomes Mount Salem Ave. In 0.35 miles Mount Salem becomes Tiger Valley Rd./626. Then 2.21 miles turn right onto Jessamine Ln. Jessamine Hill is on the left.

From The Meadows to Greenfield, travel east on Porter toward Main St. In a little less than a mile, turn right onto Lee Hwy./ US-522/S/US-211-W, then proceed almost a mile. Make a U-turn at School House Rd. onto Lee Hwy. Then go 0.64 miles. Take first right onto September Song Ln. Greenfield is on the right. To proceed from Trinity to The Lodge at Rush River Springs, turn onto Main St. The Country Café is on the corner. Follow Main St. Turn left onto Harris Hollow Rd. in 0.09 mi. Then 1.78 miles and turn right onto Rush River Ln. Take the first left then proceed 0.73 miles to The Lodge at Rush River Springs.

From Trinity Church to Avon Hall, turn right onto Warren Ave./US211 Bus. E. in 0.13 mi., turn right onto Avon Ln. Avon Hall is straight ahead.

Ticket includes admission to the following 6 properties, as well as all of the special activities and access to the gardens at The Inn at Little Washington:

Jessamine Hill 87 Jessamine Lane

 Located near Washington in the foreground of the Blue Ridge, this manor house was built in the 1830s for Thomas Fletcher by James Leake Powers, a master craftsman, who worked under Thomas Jefferson on the University of Virginia, along with Dinsmore and Neilson. Powers is credited with a number of other historic buildings in Rappahannock County. Bricks made on the property in a Flemish-bond pattern, numerous other original architectural features including the heart-pine floors and a collection of outbuildings, make it a prime example of a mid-19th-century Virginia Central Piedmont farm complex. The focal point is a three-story, five-bay, brick manor house distinguished by parapet gables with corbeled shoulders and chimneys placed on the façade rather than on the ends of the house, as is customary. The façade is dominated by a one-story porch supported by four Doric columns that covers the central three bays. The garden was originally laid out in the 19th century. Large boxwoods



The Meadows

circle the front of the house and the formal boxwood garden, including a boxwood pathway leading to a lake. Purchased in 1996 by the current owner, who meticulously restored over the next 15 years and decorated the home with period furnishings, including an original portrait of Thomas Fletcher. *John Anderson, owner.*

The Meadows 260 Porter Street

✳️ This unique home constructed in three phases during the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries reflects the style and ambiance characterizing each century. The property sits on land originally granted by the Virginia Colony to Thomas Kennelly in 1735. The original one-and-a-half-story log cabin was built prior to 1749 by Francis Browning and expanded in the 1780s. The Main House, consisting of four stories, was constructed in 1810 and now features five bedrooms, a library and dining room with original floors, window panes and fireplaces. The fourth floor was used as a surgery for the union Army after the battle of Cedar Creek during the Civil War. The living room and kitchen and ancillary rooms were added in 1990, bringing 20th-century openness and light to the home, which also features a world-re-

nowned collection of Haitian art. The house sits on 21 acres only two blocks from the center of town and is enhanced by gardens, original ice, spring and smokehouses as well as terraces, a pond, pool and views of the town and adjacent mountains. The property is on the National Historic Register under easement. *Beverly and John Fox Sullivan, owners.*

Greenfield Inn 30 September Song Lane

✳️ Centrally located on 83 acres of rolling hills, the Greenfield Inn is one of the oldest structures in Rappahannock County, built between 1767 and 1769. The original structure built in Southern Georgian Style has a central hall and parlor, two stories, and six working fireplaces. The Main House has two large pillared entrances, one on the west side of the house and another on the north side. The structure's 12-inch-thick walls are made from brick manufactured on the property; its glass window panes, horsehair plastered walls, and heart-pine floors are all original. In its early heyday, the home was known in for its well attended parties and dances, especially the Virginia reel. Home to prominent families related to presidents George Washington, James Madison and

Zachary Taylor, it was also a school and headquarters to both the North and the South during the Civil War. The two-story summer kitchen, known as Josie's Dollhouse, has the original fireplace and the iron crane. The path from this kitchen to the main house was once the "whistle walk," referring to whistling servants carrying food to the main house. The current owners spent more than three years restoring the property before turning it into a bed and breakfast. The landscaping boasts ancient specimen trees. Its gardens include plants grown in the 1700 and through the 1800s. *Audrey and Alfred Regnery, owners.*

The Lodge at Rush River Springs 133 Rush River Lane

 Built in 1992, the first owners worked with Georgetown architect Outerbridge Horsey VII, whose design was influenced by their worldwide travels. The original hardscape was designed by Georgetown's Florence Everts, architect of the gardens at the American Embassy in Baghdad. The early woodland garden was created by previous owner and horticulturist Catherine Bull of the Stark Nurseries family; her grandfather propagated the Delicious apple. In 2007, the current owners bought the Lodge, built a three-story addition, doubled the gardens, and added a swimming pool, the Carriage House Garage and Writer's Cottage. The "faux stone" interior of the garage was painted by the owner herself, using a one-inch single-edge razor blade. More hardscaping and stonework was added, including two stone waterfalls and pools, and a koi pond. The distinctive garden areas include The Secret Garden with unique shade plants, a Japanese garden, meandering decorative stone paths with a stone turret overlooking the valley, The Glade with remnants of fairy houses, a terraced perennial sun garden, cutting garden, summer sun pollinating garden, bocce ball court, and a putting green and pitching green for golfers. *Sarah and Bill Walton, owners*

Avon Hall 22 Avon Lane

 An historic manor home and a landmark in Washington, Avon Hall is currently at the beginning of a major restoration. Visitors will have the unique opportunity to see this property as its repair begins. This evolved Colonial Revival-style manor home constructed between

1796 and 1803 originally stood on Gay Street, where it thrived for many years as Thorn's Tavern before being relocated to its current plantation setting near the entrance of Town. A new foundation, chimneys, and a brick wing to accommodate modern plumbing were added in 1931 and the main house was named Avon Hall. Outbuildings include a late-19th-century cottage, meat house, second tenant house, two sheds, and a long-neglected barn. When it was the in-town estate of the civic-minded William Carrigan, Avon Hall attracted crowds every July Fourth for picnics and fireworks around its iconic pond. The town purchased the nine-acre parcel from the estate of the deceased Carrigan in 2003. A new water treatment plant was placed on a small section of the land, but the Town was unable to execute a plan to utilize the Carrigan family estate. Recently, the Mayor and the Town Council decided to sell the home. Now Avon Hall has new owners who intend to fix it up in a historically sensitive manner that is not new to them – and to live there once this extensive renovation is completed. *Bill Fischer and Drew Mitchell, owners.*

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The Inn at Little Washington's Gardens

✿ The Inn at Little Washington, the legendary Michelin 2-Star restaurant and hotel, is located at the center of town. The Inn's vegetable garden is located behind the Tavern Shops, directly across the street from the main Inn building. The area also features a walking trail, cherry orchard and sheep meadow. The Inn's Low Garden, the flower garden located on Gay Street behind the hotel, will also be open for self-guided tours.

The Trinity Episcopal Church 79 Gay Street

✿ An example of a Country or Carpenter Gothic-style church, this c.1857 structure originally had a board and batten exterior, which was covered in pebble-dash stucco in 1924. James Leake Powers, the master craftsman hired to build the church, had worked with Thomas Jefferson in building the University of Virginia. The bell tower and vestibule were added in 1905, while the beautiful stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ were added and dedicated in 1937. The windows over the altar were moved to Trinity from Emmanuel Episcopal Church in Sperryville in 1982 when that church was sold. A small memorial garden designed by Georgetown landscape architect Florence Everts under the leadership of the Garden Guild was first developed in 1990, in the garth between the church building and parish hall. In 1999, the Trinity Church Garden Guild began transforming the side of the church facing Middle Street into a beautiful new landscaped garden complete with walking paths

and benches. The church's parking lot and fountain gardens were designed and are maintained by The Inn.

Places of Interest:

Shenandoah National Park, Skyline Drive, and Visitor's Center 3655 Hwy. 211 East, Luray, VA 22835; Thornton Gap Entrance Station, accessible via 211, Luray, VA 22835 The Park encompasses the Blue Ridge Mountains along the entire western border of Rappahannock County, offers a wealth of seasonal activities. Many trails, including the main route to Old Rag Mountain, start in Rappahannock.

Washington Visitors Center, 7 Library Rd., Washington and the Rappahannock Historical Society, 328 Gay St. Rappahannock was a major thoroughfare and gateway to the Shenandoah Valley for both Union and Confederate forces. There is a map and guide to the 30 historical markers, noting the troop movements and skirmishes.

Sperryville Historic District. Another quiet village in Rappahannock listed on the Virginia Landmarks Registry and the National Register of Historic Places, this charming hamlet has much to offer. Laid out by Francis Thornton, Jr. in 1817.

Shenandoah River Raymond R. "Andy" Guest Jr. State Park is located along the Shenandoah River, near the town of Bentonville. The park is 1,604 acres with 5.6 miles of river frontage along the south fork of the Shenandoah River. The rolling, mountainous land features steep slopes and is mostly wooded. In addition to meandering river frontage, the park offers scenic vistas overlooking the Massanutten Mountains.



The Inn
at Little
Washington

*Photo courtesy of The Inn
at Little Washington / Beall*



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