

Buchanan Downtown Walking Tour



Main Street - Buchanan Swinging Bridge – The Buchanan Swinging Bridge is the most recognized architectural structure in Buchanan. The Bridge is 366 feet long, 57.5 feet tall and the only one of its type to cross the James River. Portions of the bridge date back to 1834 and have witnessed Hunter's Civil War Raid, the rerouting of U.S. Route 11, and numerous floods.

19860 Main St. - Stevens Market - Current home to J. Jordan's Barbershop the Stevens Building was constructed in the 1940's and housed a grocery store, later becoming a barbershop. The wooden Victorian Barber Stations came from the old Rodger's Barber Shop.

19858 Main St. - Odd Fellows Lodge - Currently home to the Springwood Odd Fellows and The Looney Cottage this building was constructed in the 1881 to house the Buchanan Odd Fellows Lodge upstairs and rental property on the ground floor. The shop is best known from the early 1900's as Ralph & Carl's Hot Dogs.

19844 Main St. - Hodges Mercantile/Lapes Federated – Current home to Buchanan Antiques. The early 1900's 2-story commercial/residential building has a front parapet, inlaid terrazzo tiles at the recessed entry doors and paired windows on the upper level. The store was known for its women's clothing during the mid 1900's.

19834 Main St. - Kemble Building - Constructed in the 1840's the Greek Revival home has been used for many uses since the 1900's including a Mick or Mack Grocery, and The Main Street Diner, it is currently under renovation.

19818, 19812 Main St. - Botetourt Furniture Gallery - built on the site of the Rogers Barbershop this building started as a one-story building for TV Jones Appliances then grew to the 2 story Botetourt Galleries covering two lots. The furniture store was noted for drawing customers from throughout the valley and all the way to North Carolina to purchase furniture.

19806 Main St. - Peoples Drugs – Current home of The Frame Shop & Gallery, the early 1900's 1-story brick commercial building has multiple light transoms over front awning and recessed entry featuring original copper framing.

19800 Main St. - Buchanan Post Office – Current home to Bank of Botetourt Operations Center, the 2-story commercial/residential structure was constructed in 1903 for the first, Buchanan Post Office. The building features common-bond brick work with segmental arch windows originally with second floor apartments.

19772 Main St. - Maddison Grill – Current home to The Stylin' Shed, the 1 story brick commercial building was constructed during the Buchanan Theatre's 1940's renovation to house the Maddison Grill. The one-story commercial building features concrete art deco details and original metal awning.



19778 Main St. - Buchanan Theatre - Constructed in 1914 by Elmer Shank and his sons the theater started life as the Star Theatre until 1931 when the name was changed to the Buchanan Theatre. In 1940's the theatre was remodeled with the art deco exterior and concession stand, all still in place today.

19762 Main St. - Dodge Dealership – Current home to K C Collections II, the 1 story brick commercial building was constructed in the 1920's. The building with attached garage features decorative recessed panels and dogtooth cornice.

19758 Main St. - Ford Dealership - Constructed in the 1920's the 1-story brick building housed Buchanan's first Ford Dealership. The building features decorative recessed panels and recessed entrance.

19752 Main St. Clean Meat Market – The early 1900's brick commercial building has decorative brick, leaded glass transoms and original copper framing. The store was operated as the Clean Meat Market by 2 consecutive generations of the Barger family for more than 50 years.



19746 Main St. - Moelick Building – Current home to Our Insurance Options, the Moelick building is the oldest commercial building on Main Street. The 2-story storefront was built in 1815 by William Strickland and rented to the Moelicks for a grocery until the early 1900's. The second floor originally was a warehouse to store goods for the store. In the 1920's the original hip roof was replaced with the existing parapet and the large store windows.

19730 Main St. Buchanan Baptist Church – Constructed during Buchanan's Reconstruction period the church was completed in 187-. The Gothic Revival church features a center front Gothic steeple with wrought iron pinnacles, stained glass windows and transoms as well as double entry solid wood doors.

19698 Main St. - U.S. Post Office

19670 Main St. - Buchanan Emergency Services

19640 Main St. - Trinity Episcopal Church - Buchanan's oldest standing church was completed in 1842. The Flemish bond church features a central pavilion with wings, pilasters and wood trim pedimented entry. The church also has one of the Town's oldest cemeteries with the earliest headstone reading 1846. The cemetery contains artistic headstones by makers John B. Gaddess, J. W. Davies and Roanoke Works.

19559 Main St. - Buchanan Presbyterian Church – Constructed in 1845 the brick church features simple Flemish-bond construction gable roof with tower at center front and tri-part sash 12/12 double hung windows. The church also features additions including the Dill Building and a tri-arch cloister erected in 1926. To the side yard is the Botetourt Artillery Memorial.

19637 Main St. - Trinity United Methodist Church - The 2-story brick church was constructed in 1924 in the Gothic Revival style. The church burned in 1927 and was restored with the castellated clock tower donated by the Town Improvement Society. At this time the beautiful stained-glass windows were installed. The amber stained glass rose on the front of the ones on the backside of the church are original before the fire.

19645 Main St. - McCormick/Chenault House and Store – The early 1900's Craftsman style combination commercial and domestic structure features a bay wing parapet storefront with original leaded glass transom, pressed metal ceilings and copper framing. The home features exposed beams and rafter ends.

19645 Main St. - Barger Brothers Grocery and Coal – The 1920's one story brick storefront was home to the local grocery and still retains the original poured concrete scales for weighing trucks filled with coal situated at the north side of the building.

19645 Main St. Ford Motor Co. - Current home to the Carson Memorial Rescue Squad Bld. The 1940's one story commercial structure originally housed the Ford Motor Company.

19695 Main St. - Samuel Clegg House - This early 1820's Federal/Greek Revival home attributed to Samuel Clegg features Flemish Bond construction, molded brick cornice and handsome interior detailing. The home is one of the earliest brick homes in Buchanan and must have been an impressive home set against the dirt Great Valley Road and surrounding log structures as travelers arrived to Buchanan.

19705 Main St. - H. L. Williams House – This imposing Federal Revival home was constructed for funeral director H. L. Williams in the early 1900's replacing an earlier wood home. The classical revival home of brick and frame with center front wing features a projecting pedimented portico with fanlight supported by a pair of square Greek inspired columns. A highly ornate arched door surround features fanlight transom and decorative sidelights and decorative wood trim over frame sides of the house.

19721 Main St. – Hyde House – The two-story residential and commercial structure has front facing bay wing with storefront windows and transoms. The residence features its original pressed metal roof made to look like slate and wrap around porch. The residence was home to bank president U.

H. Hyde with the storefront being home to the original Buchanan National Bank. Shadows of the original gilt bank sign can be seen in the storefront windows when steamed up.

19733 Main St. - Original Bank of Buchanan - The 2-story brick commercial building, initially housed the Bank of Buchanan on the first floor and residence on the second floor. The building features decorative windows with keystones and segmental arches, and arched transoms. The Bank moved across the street in 1924.

19747 Main St. - Bank of Buchanan – The Bank changed its name to Bank of Botetourt in 1995. Designed by Lynchburg architect Stanhope Johnston in 1924, the Colonial Revival Bank features Iconic Columns that support a prominent front pediment and entablature. Multi-paned transoms and windows decorative cornice with mutules further embellish the building.



19753 Main St. - Buchanan Town Hall - The 2-story brick Classical Revival-inspired government building features Ionic columns, entry fanlight, transom and plate glass windows. Plans were drawn by then Mayor, John F. Finch and the building constructed by noted contractor Andrew Miller. The building originally housed the Buchanan Fire Department on the righthand side and Council Chambers on the left with the Sheriff's Office and cells in the rear with a second story room used by Buchanan Elementary School for second grade classes.

19771 Main St. - Ransones Drug Store - Constructed by Hirst Carson in 1949 for his Buchanan Drug Store, he then sold in 1951 to Willie Ransone who operated the store for more than 50 years. The 2-story decorative brick commercial building features concrete corner blocks, art deco signage, recessed entry, transom and storefront windows.

19781 & 19785 Main St. - Thompson Seed Store – Currently Home to K C Collection Textiles, the 1-story brick commercial building features recessed decorative brickwork, a recessed entry, copper framing and original pressed metal ceilings.

19795 Main St. – Carson Drug Store – Current home to the Buchanan Library, the 2-story brick commercial building was constructed in 1920 by Hirst Carson for his drugstore. The building features decorative brickwork, recessed entry and one of the most ornate original pressed metal ceilings in town, often compared to a wedding cake.

19799 Main St. - Henderson Hardware – Current home to Best Place Antiques & Backdoor Market, the 1-story brick commercial building features decorative brickwork, parapet, transom, original copper framing and recessed entry as well as original pressed metal ceiling.

19817 Main St. – Texaco – Current home to Picker's Paradise, the 1-story brick commercial building is an early 20th century gas station with a brick façade with attached garage.

19827 Main St. - Masonic Lodge – Current home of James River Realty and Gallery By the James. The 2-story wood commercial building features a recessed entry and large windows. The first floor was originally used as the Town Hall with jail in the basement and beautiful Masonic Lodge Hall on the second floor retaining its original pressed metal ceilings.

19837 Main St. - Rodgers House – The 2-story Greek Revival home features a full-façade pedimented 2-story porch, prominent corbelled interior-end brick chimneys and a stone foundation. The home retains many of its ornate fireplaces and entry staircase with its signature one spindle upside down spindle.



19857 Main St. - Esso Station – Many are surprised to find out that this 1-story brick commercial building started out in life as an Esso filling station and garage. The structure features a parapeted front with gable roof with slate shingles at the entrance and a Quonset-type metal roof at the rear. The structure was used as James River Hydrate Offices for several decades.