



BACKROADS OF
SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

GET OFF THE INTERSTATE
and really experience Virginia!

POINTS OF INTEREST

Lost Communities of Virginia Driving Tours are envisioned as loops through multi-county areas. Travelers can begin and end the tour anywhere along the route and travel in either direction. The main route connects many of the communities and points of interest featured on the tour. Alternate routes are side trips to other interesting locations. The route follows scenic roads with beautiful landscapes and vernacular buildings that may pique your curiosity as well. You can find more information about places highlighted on the map in the brochure. Completing the entire route will take several days, but feel free to sample parts of the route as you have time. Main highways are shown on the map to show easy access to and from the tour route.

For more information and an online version of the map visit the Community Design Assistance Center's website at cdac.arch.vt.edu. Use the following information and key to find suggested stops and hidden places along your driving tour. Refer to the icons to get the most out of each stop.

CARROLL	FRESH PRODUCE	OVERNIGHT STAY
MONTGOMERY	HISTORY & CULTURE	PHOTOS ONLY
PULASKI	INFORMATION	PICNIC AREA
WYTHE	IRON FURNACE	DINING
ANTIQUES	LOST COMMUNITY	SHOPPING
FEE CHARGED	MUSIC	TRAIL/WALKING TOUR

CARROLL COUNTY

Formed in 1842 from Grayson County. Named for Charles Carroll, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. Later grew to include part of Patrick County. | pickplaystay.com

BYLLESBY | D7

1. Buck Dam | D6

Buck Dam Road/Route 737 | Note: gravel road | Appalachian Power hydroelectric dam. The New River Trail passes through here.

2. Byllesby Dam | D7

Byllesby Road/Route 602 | Appalachian Power hydroelectric dam and recreation area. The New River Trail passes through here.

CANA | F9

3. Flower Gap Road/Route 691 | F8, F9

Oldest road in the county dating to before 1731. May have been named for Flower Swift, a traveler leaking flour, or the route for hauling flour from North Carolina.

4. Lovill's Creek Lake | G9

Entrance off Epworth Road/Route 686 | (276) 730-3100 | dgif.virginia.gov/waterbody/lovills-creek-lake | Man-made 55-acre lake favored by local fishermen. Boating, fishing, hiking, picnicking, restrooms, and swimming.

COONRIDGE | F6

Historically African American community that once had iron mines, a smelter, and hammer mill.

DUGSPUR | G6

5. Blacksnake Meadery | G7

605 Buffalo Road/Route 628 | Note: gravel road | (540) 834-6172 | Open Sat-Sun, Apr-Nov | Tasting fee | blacksnakemead.com | Locally produced honey and fruit are used to make mead, an ancient fermented drink. Tastings and events.

6. Buffalo Mountain Presbyterian Church | H7

2102 Childress Road/Route 626 | (540) 745-3411 | Constructed in 1929. The first of 6 rock-faced churches Rev. Robert Childress established in the area and his first pastorate. Childress is buried in the cemetery here. On the National Register.

7. Foggy Ridge Cidery | H7

1328 Pineview Road/Route 656 | (276) 398-4041 | Open Sat-Sun, Apr-Dec | Tasting fee | foggyridgecidery.com | Over 30 apple varieties blended here to create a traditional hard cider crafted with modern techniques. Tastings and events.

8. Kanawha Valley Arena | G7

121 Kanawha Ridge Road/Off Route 638 | (540) 789-2084 | kanawhavalleyarenaresort.com | Equestrian rodeos, Carriage House Museum with over 30 carriages & wagons on display, hotel, restaurant and truck, ATV, and motorcycle events.

FANCY GAP | F8

fancygaptourism.com | May have been called Foggy Camp by Native Americans. Legend says this better route through the mountains was called a "Fancy Road".

9. Devil's Den Nature Preserve | F8

80 Cemetery Road/Off Route 608 | Note: gravel road | (276) 730-3100 | May-Oct | dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/sites/devils-den-nature-preserve | Early tourist attraction. Possible hideout after the 1912 courthouse shooting. Natural caves, 40-60 foot rock, 19th century Good Samaritan Road, 1880s barnstead, picnic

17. Hillsville Diner | F7 🍴

525 North Main Street/US 52 | (276) 728-7681 | Open Mon–Fri 4:45am–2pm, Sat 4:45am–10am | Oldest continuously operating streetcar diner in Virginia. Built in the 1920s. Moved here in 1946. Specialties are stewed beef, gravy biscuits, and buttermilk pancakes. On the National Register.

Hillsville Flea Market | F7 🛒

Throughout town | Memorial & Labor Day Weekends, Fri–Mon | (276) 728-2778 | hillsvilleflea.com | Since the 1960s. One of the largest flea markets in VA.

18. Mayetta's Market at the Hale-Wilkinson-Carter Home | F7 🏠 🛒

405 North Main Street/US 52 | (276) 728-5600 | Open Thurs–Sun or by appointment | Local arts, crafts, books, and recordings in a 5-story, 1845 home.

19. Red Hill General Store | F7 🛒

1035 Sylvatus Highway/Route 100 | (800) 251-8824 | Daily | redhillgeneralstore.com | Modern country store. Hard-to-find items. Old-fashioned brands.

20. Sunnyside General Store | F7 🛒

2788 Fancy Gap Highway/US 52 | (276) 728-2031 | Mon–Sat | Century-old store featuring general merchandise. Cash and checks only.

LAMBSBURG | F9 🍷

Originally called Rocksburg. Named for Jehu Cameron Lamb, a Confederate Army gunsmith working nearby. Was to become a railroad hub in the 1900s, but tracks were never built, creating a hub at Galax instead.

LAUREL FORK | H7

Crossroads community previously called Bolt Town and Little Cincinnati. Post office established in 1851. Bank built in 1917 failed in 1932. The old bank and store are at the intersection of US 58 and Route 638.

21. Bluemont Presbyterian Church | G8 🏠 📷

47 Hiram Stanley Lane/BRP Milepost 192 | (276) 398-2772 | One of 6 rock-faced churches established by Rev. Robert Childress, "The Man Who Moved a Mountain". Built in 1919. Rock faced in 1946. On the National Register.

22. Groundhog Mountain Picnic Area | H8 🏠

BRP Milepost 188.8 | (828) 298-0398 | May–Oct | Picnic tables, grills, and a log lookout tower built to resemble an old tobacco barn.

23. Point Pleasant School | G7 🏠 📷

Laurel Fork Road/Route 654 | Not open to the public | One room school built in 1911 for grades 1-7. Closed in the late 1940s when schools were consolidated.

24. Puckett Cabin | G8 🏠 📷

BRP Milepost 170 | www.nps.gov/blri/learn/historyculture/orlean-puckett.htm | Home of mountain midwife Orlean Puckett who helped with over 1,000 births beginning in 1889. Pregnant 24 times, none of her own live births survived infancy.



MITCHELL CROSSROADS | F6

25. Dinwiddie Presbyterian Church & Cemetery | F6 🏠 📷

2698 Homestead Road/Route 750 | One of 6 rock-faced churches built by Rev. Robert Childress. Constructed of fieldstone in 1948. Farthest from the mother church at Buffalo Mountain. On the National Register.

SYLVATUS | F6

Once known as Shades of Death. Renamed for prominent citizen Sylvatus Smith. Lead and iron mined nearby was shipped out by train. Tracks were removed in 1941.

THE BRIDGE/BIG BRIDGE | G7 🏠 📷

In the *Lost Communities of Virginia* book. A covered bridge once spanned Big Reed Island Creek. New Hope Primitive Baptist Church was home to an August Meeting that drew church goers and friends from miles around, many just for the fellowship.



35. Heritage Community Park & Natural Area | H2 🏠 🧑🏿

2300 Glade Road/Route 655 | (540) 961-1135 | blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/54/78 | 169 acre former dairy farm with wetlands, picnic shelter, bird watching and trails that connect to #37 Huckleberry Trail and #39 Pandapas Pond.

36. Historic Smithfield Plantation | H2 🏠 💰 🛒

1000 Smithfield Plantation Road | (540) 231-3947 | Open Mar–Nov, closed Wed | Admission charged | smithfieldplantation.org | 1774 home of Col. William Preston, member of Virginia House of Burgesses, built on the Western frontier. House museum with costumed interpreters opened in 1964. Museum shop.

37. Huckleberry Trail | H2, H3, I2, I3 🧑🏿

201 Clay Street SW to Christiansburg Recreation Center | huckleberrytrail.org | Rail trail on the former railbed of the Virginia Anthracite Coal and Rail Company. Tracks to Cambria existed from 1904-1960s. Depot was near Blacksburg Library.

38. Lyric Theatre | I2 💰

135 College Avenue | (540) 951-0604 | thelyric.com | Restored Art Deco and Spanish Colonial Revival now non-profit theatre first opened in 1930. Nightly independent and foreign films, live music, and theater performances.

39. Pandapas Pond | H1 🧑🏿 🏠

3151 Pandapas Pond Road/US 460 | www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gwj/recreation/recarea/?recid=73877 | 1-mile wheelchair accessible walking trail circles an 8-acre man-made pond with turtles, waterfowl, and beavers. 17-mile Poverty Creek Trail system access here.

40. St. Luke & Odd Fellows Hall | I2 🏠

203 Gilbert Street | (540) 558-0746 | Thurs–Fri, 2–5 | blacksburgmuseum.org/about/st-luke-and-old-fellows-hall | Local African American history museum in the 1905 building that was the heart of the former New Town community.

41. Solitude | H2 🏠 📷

705 West Campus Drive | (540) 231-6551 | Note: requires VT parking pass | vt.edu/about/buildings/Solitude.html | Oldest structure on the VT campus. Home of Col. Robert Preston who expanded the 1700s log house in 1851. Now houses the VT Appalachian Studies Center.

42. Stadium Woods | I2 🧑🏿

Can be accessed from 417 Clay Street | vt.edu/about/buildings/old-growth-forest-stadium-woods.html | 11 acre urban forest behind VT's Lane Stadium has 46 white oaks over 250 years old.

43. Virginia Tech Visitor Center | H2 📷

925 Prices Fork Road | (540) 231-3548 | Daily | VT parking passes and visitor brochures available here | visit.vt.edu/planning/see.html | Begin here to explore the Virginia Tech campus. Established as Olin and Preston Institute in 1851 then the land grant Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College in 1872.

44. Westview Cemetery | I2 🏠 🧑🏿

723 Roanoke Street | (540) 961-1142 | A park cemetery with graves of Confederate soldiers and citizens who developed Blacksburg and Virginia Tech. An African American cemetery is across Roanoke Street.

45. Virginia Tech Museum of Geosciences | H2 🏠

1405 Perry Street, 2062 Derrington Hall | (540) 231-6894 | Note: requires VT parking pass | Mon–Fri | facebook.com/Virginia-Tech-Museum-of-Geosciences-VT-MoGs-278521315975 | Exhibits include gems, minerals, rocks, fossils, the OmniGlobe, and an Allosaurus dinosaur skeleton model.

CAMBRIA | I3 🏠 🍴 🧑🏿 🛒

Became Christiansburg Depot in 1854 with the railroad's arrival. Various called Bangs possibly for shots fired on a passing train, Ronald for a Confederate hero, and Cambria for the area's geology. In 1909 residents tried to move the county seat here.

46. Cambria Toy Station | I3 🏠 🛒

630 Depot Street | (540) 382.6431 | Tues–Sun | cambriatoystation.com | In the 1868 former freight station, used until the early 1960s. Toy shop and small museum about history of Cambria, the depot restoration, and scale models.

CHILDRESS | H4

A mill village from at least the 1850s and possibly the 1700s.

CHRISTIANSBURG | I3 🏠 🍴 🧑🏿 🛒

On the 1700s Great Road path of westward migration. Called Hans Meadow until 1792 when renamed for Col. William Christian. Monuments, 1812 County Clerk's Office, and remnants of courthouse square are visible at Roanoke and Franklin Streets.

LAFAYETTE | J2

Settled in the mid-1700s. Most populated place between Salem and Christiansburg in the 1830s. Bypassed in 1846. Laid out in 6 blocks with a central muster ground.

LUSTERS GATE | I2

Marks an end of North Fork Rural Historic District on the 1745 Indian Road that follows an old Indian Trail. 200 years of agriculture are represented in the district. The brick building at the intersection of Routes 723 and 785 is a 1930s cheese factory.

MCCOY | G2 🏠

Coal mining town connected to Brush Mountain Coal mines. Early 1900s railroad flag stop. A coal miners' memorial is at the Longshop-McCoy Fire Department.

56. New River Junction at Big Falls | G2 \$ 🚶

2591 Big Falls Road | (540) 639-6633 | Weather permitting | newriverjunction.com | Tubing, camping, fishing, picnicking, and outings on the New River since 1982.

MCDONALDS MILL | J1 🏠📷

An 1850s white clapboard grist mill is here. A post office was here from 1847-1913.

MERRIMAC | H2 🏠🚶

A mining colliery here during the Civil War supplied semi-anthracite coal to the Merrimac ironclad ship. The mine closed in 1935 due to labor demands.

57. Coal Mining Heritage Park | H2 🏠🚶

751 Merrimac Road/Route 657 | (540) 382-6975 | 1.5 mile loop trail with interpretive signs about the Merrimac coal mine on #37 Huckleberry Trail. A mining tippie, hotel, general store, and coal miners' housing were here.

PIEDMONT | J3 🏠📷

Seasonal religious camp meeting grounds originally associated with the 1873 Methodist Church. The church split in 1910 with the Pentecostal Holiness Church continuing the camp meeting tradition. Both church buildings and cottages are here.

PILOT | I4

Jacksonville and Christiansburg Turnpike/Route 615 was a candidate for the main road connecting Floyd and Christiansburg in the 1920s. Today's Route 8 won out.

PRICES FORK | H2 🏠

Formed in mid-1800s by the Price family at the old Pepper's Ferry Road and Brown's Ferry Road intersection. A coal miners' memorial is at Fairview Community Church on Route 655.

RINER | H4 🏠🍴

In the *Lost Communities of Virginia* book. Formed in the 1800s as Five Forks or Five Points at the intersection of 5 roads. Later known as Auburn. Grew in the 1850s when the Christiansburg and Floyd Turnpike connected to the railroad in Christiansburg. Original intersection bypassed when Route 8 was built in the 1920s.



Montgomery County
Historic Smithfield Planation

SHAWSVILLE | J3 🏠🍴

Fort Vause located here in the 1750s. Named for Charles Shaw, Virginia's Chief Engineer when the Southwestern Turnpike was built here in 1847. Railroad stop for Alleghany Springs resort and local area. Bypassed in 1850. Depot closed in 1970s. Farmers' Market Sat, May-Oct at the Meadowbrook Center.

VICKER | H3 🏠📷

Settled in 1834. Known as Vicker's Switch. Late 1800s railroad stop between Cambria and Radford. Vicker Roller Mill was here. 1910 Hornbarger Store is here.

WHITETHORNE | G2 🏠📷

1834 Kentland Plantation had 123 slaves to farm corn, wheat, hay, and livestock. The house, several outbuildings, and a slave cemetery are here. VT's dairy, Dining Services, and agricultural experimentation farms are located here today.



Pulaski County
Allisonia

66. Jackson Park Inn & AI's on First | E4 🏠🍴

68 First Street NW | (540) 509-5164 | www.jacksonparkinn.com | Hotel and restaurant in a renovated 1920's grocery warehouse.

67. Pulaski Theatre | E4 \$

14 West Main Street | (540) 994-9555 | pulaskitheatre.com | Movies, music, and live theater in a renovated 1911 theater.

68. Raymond F. Ratcliffe Memorial Transportation Museum | E4 🏠

51 Commerce Street | (540) 980-2307 | Tues, Fri-Sun | theratcliffemuseum.com | O-Gauge model train layout, fire engines, artifacts, exhibits, and photographs.

SNOWVILLE | G4

Founded in the 1830s by Asiel Snow, who assembled metal workers, coopers, millwrights, tanners, shoemakers, and textile workers to create a New England mill town on Little River. An 1850s county manufacturing center bypassed by the railroad.

WYTHE COUNTY

Formed in 1790 from Montgomery County. Named for George Wythe, signer of the Declaration of Independence. A double wrong way concurrency is here: you can simultaneously go north on I-77 and US 52 and south on I-81 and US 11. | visitwytheville.com

AUSTINVILLE | D6

Lead mines discovered in 1756 by Col. John Chiswell supplied ammunition for the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Named for Stephen Austin, Father of Texas, born nearby. A memorial to him is near the Route 636 bridge over the New River.

CRIPPLE CREEK | C6 🏠

Company town built around iron deposits mined by Virginia Iron, Coal, & Coke Company. Noble Furnace is nearby. Train tracks removed when mining stopped.

69. Cripple Creek Grocery | C6 🏠

248 Francis Mill Road/Route 779 | (276) 621-5482

70. Mule Hell Trading Company | C6 🏠

134 Francis Mill Road/Route 779 | (276) 621-4741 | Wed-Sat | mulehelltradingco.com | Hand-made natural soaps, lotions, lip balm, etc.

CROCKETT | B6

Shipping point for iron manufactured nearby and cabbage, sauerkraut, and bottled water from Crockett-Wyrick Spring.

71. Stoots Corner Convenience Store | B6 🏠🍴

4274 Grayson Turnpike/Rt 21 | (276) 686-4016 | Daily | facebook.com/StootsCorner | Locally owned corner convenience store in circa 1930 gas station.

CROCKETTS COVE | C4 🏠

Crockett family home for over 200 years. An 1864 Civil War skirmish between Union Brig. Gen. William Averell and Confederate Brig. Gen. William "Grumble" Jones occurred here. Church served as hospital for Union soldiers.

FORT CHISWELL | D5 🏠🍴🏠🚶

Named for the fort built in 1758 as a frontier outpost during the French and Indian War. First county seat for Montgomery and Wythe Counties.

72. Carter Memorial Wayside | E5 🏠🚶

Carters Park Lane/Route 697 | Daily in season | Opened in 1941. Named for George Carter of Hillsville who donated land to straighten the road here. Creek and picnic area.

73. Fort Chiswell Animal Park | D5 \$

569 Red Hollow Road/Route 629 | (276) 637-6754 | Daily May-Labor Day; Fri-Sun, Mar-Apr and Sept-Nov | Admission charged | fortchiswellanimalpark.com | Guided safari bus ride and petting zoo on 45-acres. Gift shop.

74. Fort Chiswell Historic Marker | D5 🏠

3116 East Lee Highway/F-044 | To the left of a private driveway. Do not block. | A stone pyramid marks the 1758 fort's site. Fort guarded against Cherokee attacks until 1776. Used as Civil War defense of Austinville's lead mines. Remnants of Fort Chiswell were lost during the construction of I-77 in the 1970s.

PULASKI COUNTY

MAX MEADOWS | D5

Named for 18th century settler William Mack. Former railroad community serviced nearby iron industry. Max Meadows Land and Improvement Company organized in 1890 to capitalize on the location, sold lots, built a hotel and water system, and planned industrial development. 1893 financial panic stopped development.

PATTERSON | E5

80. Carpenter's Grocery | E5

Castleton Road/Route 607 | (276) 766-3644 | Former company store for the local mines in a former crossroads community.

RAVEN CLIFF | C6

Furnace here produced iron for the Confederacy. Last used in the early 1900s.

81. Raven Cliff Recreation Area | C6

Raven Cliff Lane | Note: gravel road | (800) 628-7202 | Daily, campground open Apr-Oct | www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gwj/null/recarea/?recid=73909&actid=29 | 1-mile trail from a sandstone cliff to 1810 iron ore furnace along Cripple Creek. Primitive campground and picnic area.

RURAL RETREAT | A5

townofruralretreat.com | Settled in the 1700s. A railroad community since 1856 when the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railroad was built. Largest cabbage market in the world in early 1900s. Dr. Pepper was invented at a soda fountain here. Fairgrounds have tractor pulls, barrel racing, fiddler's convention, and August County Fair. Farmers' Market Wed, July-Sept at the historic depot.

82. Kimberlin Lutheran Cemetery | A5

Kimberlin Road/Route 617 | Traditional decorative gravestones from 1800-1850 reflect traditions of the early German settlers in the area.

83. Rural Retreat Lake & Campground | A6

250 Lake Road/Route 677 | (276) 686-4331 | ruralretreatlake.com | Fishing lake built in 1969 by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. County park includes picnicking, camping, hiking, swimming pool, playground, and 9-hole disc golf course.

84. Wythe Raceway | B5

164 Race Track Road/Route 679 | (276) 686-4261 | Apr-Sept, Sat 5pm | Admission charged | wytheraceway.com | Sprint, stock car, and truck short dirt-track racing since 1969.

SPEEDWELL | B6

Built around the iron industry and the Cripple Creek Extension of the railroad that arrived in 1900. Mines closed in 1930 and tracks removed soon after.

WYTHEVILLE | C5

Early crossroads community and supply center. Called Evansham until 1839. Prominent location on the Great Road drew Union troop occupation several times during the Civil War due to proximity to lead and salt mines. The Farmers' Market is Sat, May-Oct on West Spring Street.

85. Beagle Ridge Herb Farm & Flying Flowers | C6

1934 Matney Flats Road | Note: private rough gravel road | (276) 621-4511 | May-July, Sept-Oct, Thurs-Sun; Aug, Sat-Sun | beagleridgeherbfarm.com | Display gardens, hiking trails, and Southwest Virginia's only butterfly house.

86. Big Walker Lookout & General Store | B4

8711 Stoney Fork Road/US 52 | (276) 663-4016 | Daily | Fee to climb tower | scenicbeauty-va.com | Family-owned since 1947. Mountain views on the Tennessee Valley Divide. Elevation 3,405 feet. Observation tower is former fire lookout. Historic photos of site in gift shop. Music and artisans on the porch Sat-Sun, May-Oct.

87. Bolling Wilson Hotel & Graze on Main | C5

170 East Main Street/US 11 | (276) 223-2333 | bollingwilsonhotel.com | Built as George Wythe Hotel in 1927. A bank in the late 1960s until its recent restoration. Graze on Main restaurant has southern favorites with a twist.

88. Crystal Springs Recreation Area | C5

723 Pump Hollow Road/Route 684 | Note: gravel road | (276) 223-3378 | wytheville.org/recreation/crystalsprings.php | 6 hiking trails on 1800 acres in a preserved watershed. Picnicking, camping, birding, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, recreational programs, mountain streams, and a historic reservoir.

89. E. Lee Trinkle Regional Visitors Center | C5

975 Tazewell Street | (877) 347-8307 | Daily | visitwytheville.com/welcome.html | Travel information, gift shop, exhibit about former Virginia governor E. Lee Trinkle, and active bee hive visible inside. Historic Walking Tour brochure is available here.

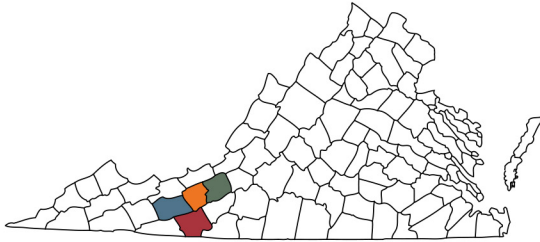
90. Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum | C5

145 East Main Street/US 11 | (276) 223-3484 | Call for hours | edithbollingwilson.org | Focus is the 35th First Lady of the United States who was a native of the area and her relationship with her husband, President Woodrow Wilson. Gift shop.

91. Great Lakes to Florida Highway Museum | C5

GET OFF THE INTERSTATE and really experience Virginia!

Lost Communities of Virginia Driving Tours guide you through communities that are off the beaten path. Discover forgotten main streets, general stores, train depots, schools, churches, banks, post offices, and farms. Visit local restaurants, family-owned businesses, small museums, and other interesting cultural sites. Experience the history, flavor, landscapes, and occasional lost communities of backroads Virginia.



The *Lost Communities of Virginia* book and continuing initiative strive to make a wide audience aware of the many small, once thriving communities in Virginia. Our back road driving tours through Virginia's small communities suggest historical points of interest, provide unique cultural experiences, and support local businesses that exemplify the ideals of the tour through their buildings, landscapes, or history.

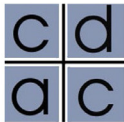
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LostCommunitiesOfVirginia

The Community Design Assistance Center is an outreach center of Virginia Tech's College of Architecture & Urban Studies. Since 1988, CDAC has assisted communities, civic groups, and nonprofit organizations in improving their natural and built environments through research, engagement, and interdisciplinary design. Students engage with communities, connecting university knowledge with real world experience.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK:
CommunityDesignAssistanceCenter

Cover photo: Wythe County - Grahams Forge.

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VirginiaTech
Invent the Future®



A different side of Virginia

FANCY GAP | F8

fancygaptourism.com | May have been called Foggy Camp by Native Americans. Legend says this better route through the mountains was called a "Fancy Road".

9. Devil's Den Nature Preserve | F8

80 Cemetery Road/Off Route 608 | Note: gravel road | (276) 730-3100 | May-Oct | dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/sites/devils-den-nature-preserve | Early tourist attraction. Possible hideout after the 1912 courthouse shooting. Natural caves, 40-50 foot rocks, 18th century Good Spur Road bed, 1880s homestead, picnic shelter, trails, mountain views. Trail is steep. Be careful at rocks and cave.

10. J. Sidna Allen Home | F8

5935 Fancy Gap Highway/US 52 | Not open to the public | facebook.com/SidnaAllenHomeFoundation | Home to a member of the Allen Gang of the 1912 Carroll County Courthouse shooting. Currently under restoration. On the National Register.



FRIES | D7

friesva.com | Note: pronounced "freeze" | Named for Col. Francis Fries who built the dam at Barlett Falls in 1901. Much of the town was built by Washington Mills Company, a textile mill operating from 1903-1989. Trailhead for the New River Trail. Farmers' Market is open Fri-Sun, May-Oct at the Town Park.

11. Fries Community Center | D7

Main Street | (276) 744-2531 | friesva.com/Fries_Community_Center.html | Historic 1910 theater, Thursday old-time and bluegrass jam, swimming, bowling, and Welcome Center. On the Crooked Road.

GALAX

12. Blue Ridge Music Center | E9

700 Foothills Road/BRP Milepost 213 | (276) 236-5309 | May-Oct | blueridgemusiccenter.org | Museum celebrating music and musicians of the Blue Ridge. Live music daily. Saturday night concerts. Hiking trails.

HILLSVILLE | F7

townofhillsville.com | Called Cranberry Plains until early 1830s when named to honor the Hill family. Became county seat in 1842. Briefly called Carrollton before reverting to Hillsville. Rebuilt with brick after a 1931 fire. A Preserve America Community.

13. Beaver Dam Creek Trail | F7

Beaver Dam Road/Route 886 | (276) 728-2128 | dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/sites/beaver-dam-creek-trail | 3/4 mile trail along a stream meandering through hardwood forest with views of open fields ends behind the courthouse.

14. Carroll County Historical Museum | F7

515 North Main Street/US 52 | (276) 728-4113 | Open Tues-Sat | carrollvamuseum.org/museum | In the historic 1873 Courthouse. Exhibits and artifacts. Tours tell the story of the 1912 Courthouse Tragedy. Museum shop.

15. Carroll County Visitor Center | F7

231 Farmers Market Drive/Route 743 | (276) 730-3100 | Daily | pickplaystay.com | Local, regional, and statewide tourism brochures. Local arts and crafts. Historic Walking Tour brochure available here.

16. Carter Pines Community Park | F7

164 Carter Pines Lane | (276) 730-3100 | Walking trail through planted pine forest. Hydraulic rams here powered George and Mayetta Carter's summer home and other town buildings from 1924-1950s.

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Lead and iron mined nearby were shipped out by train. Tracks were removed in 1941.

THE BRIDGE/BIG BRIDGE | G7

In the *Lost Communities of Virginia* book. A covered bridge once spanned Big Reed Island Creek. New Hope Primitive Baptist Church was home to an August Meeting that drew church goers and friends from miles around, many just for the fellowship.

WOODLAWN | E7

Named for James Wood who received the land as a grant in 1756. In 1917, the first county vocational agriculture program in the country was at Woodlawn High School.

26. Crooked Creek Wildlife Management Area | E8

3590 Forest Oak Road/Route 620 | Note: gravel road | (276) 730-3100 | Access permit required | dgif.virginia.gov/wma/crooked-creek | Nearly 1,800 acres of forested and open former farmland around Crooked Creek. Fishing, hiking, wildlife and wildflower viewing, picnicking.

27. Front Porch Gallery and Frame Shop | E7

99 Coulson Church Road/Route 620 | (276) 236-3034 | Mon-Sat | Pencil art by Willard Gayheart capturing local cultural heritage. The Fiddle and the Plow music show is here Friday evenings. A Crooked Road affiliate site.

28. Harmon's Museum in Harmon's Western Wear | E7

5122 Carrollton Pike/US 58 | (276) 236-4884 | Daily | facebook.com/HarmonsWesternWear | Museum in the Boot Capital of Virginia has exhibits of Native American artifacts, Revolutionary and Civil War relics, and local history.

29. The Heritage Shoppe | E7

101 Coulson Church Road/Route 620 | (276) 236-9249 | Mon-Sat | heritageshoppe.net | Bluegrass instruments, sheet music, and recordings.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Formed in 1777 from Fincastle County. Named for Maj. Gen. Richard Montgomery. First court located in Fort Chiswell, now Wythe County, when the county extended to the Ohio River. Courthouse moved to Christiansburg in 1789 to be more centrally located as additional counties were formed. | GotoMontVA.com

ALLEGHANY SPRINGS | J3

1853 healing springs resort could accommodate 1,000 guests at the hotel and 150 cottages. Cottage row burned in 1902. Several cottages and the driveway are still visible. A spring house of twisted rhododendron roots is on Gazebo Drive/Route 817.

BENNETTS MILL | I2

Late 1800s brick mill is here. A post office was here from 1876-1906.

BLACKSBURG | H2, I2

In 1798, William Black laid out 38 acres in a 4 square block area now known as the 16 Squares. Virginia Tech is located here on land once part of Smithfield Plantation. Farmers' Market Wed and Sat, Apr-Dec at Roanoke Street and Draper Road.

30. Blacksburg Museum & Cultural Foundation | I2

204 Draper Road | (540) 558-0746 | Tues-Sat | blacksburghistory.org | Restored 1897 Queen Anne Victorian Alexander Black house built by the family who established the town. Programs, local art and history exhibits, museum shop. Information available here for the historic 16 Squares Walking Tour.

31. Drapers Meadow | H2

Smithfield Road | A monument marks a 1755 settlement attacked by Shawnee Indians. Mary Draper Ingles, the subject of the book and movie *Follow the River*, was taken to an Ohio River Shawnee settlement. She later escaped and walked home.

32. Duck Pond | H2

Duck Pond Drive | Note: requires VT parking pass | www.vtmag.vt.edu/fall14/duck-pond.html | Upper pond constructed in the 1880s as an ice pond for VT until a refrigeration plant was built in 1898. Lower pond completed in 1937 when the Drift Field was enlarged. Gazebo, benches, picnic tables.

33. Eastern Continental Divide | I2

800 Graves Avenue at the Blacksburg Municipal Golf Course | The ridgeline divides water flowing east to the Atlantic and west to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1763, King George III forbade Virginians to settle west of the Divide, hastening the American Revolution. Early settlers traversed the valley visible from the gazebo.

34. Hahn Horticulture Garden | H2

200 Garden Lane | (540) 231-5970 | Note: requires VT parking pass | www.hort.vt.edu/hhg | 6-acre landscaped teaching garden for education and enjoyment

CHRISTIANSBURG | H4

A mill village from at least the 1850s and possibly the 1700s.

CHRISTIANSBURG | I3

On the 1700s Great Road path of westward migration. Called Hans Meadow until 1792 when renamed for Col. William Christian. Monuments, 1812 County Clerk's Office, and remnants of courthouse square are visible at Roanoke and Franklin Streets. 1938 WPA mural in post office. Farmers' Market Thurs, May-Oct on Hickok Street.

47. Christiansburg Institute Edgar A Long Building | I3

140 Scattergood Drive | facebook.com/Christiansburg-Institute-Revitalizing-a-Legacy-117505064938179 | 1927 African American school building named for one of its principals. Closed in 1966 when local schools were integrated. Alumni are working to restore the building. On the National Register.

48. Montgomery Museum & Lewis Miller Regional Art Center | I3

300 South Pepper Street | (540) 382-5644 | Tues-Sat | montgomerymuseum.org | In the 1852 Presbyterian Manse once occupied by folk artist Lewis Miller. Local art and history exhibits, research library, and museum shop.

49. Starlite Drive In | I3

275 Starlight Drive | (540) 382-2202 | May-Oct, Fri-Sun at dark | Note: arrive early to avoid long lines | starlitedrivein.info | Current movies in a family atmosphere since 1953. Snack bar.

50. Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church & Christiansburg Institute Hill School | I3

570 High Street | (540) 382-0562 | schaefferbaptistchurch.org/history | 1885 African American church started in 1866 by Capt. Charles Schaeffer of the Freedman's Bureau. 1873 Hill School focused on agricultural and industrial education run by Booker T. Washington. Became an elementary school when the high school moved to #47 on Scattergood Drive. On the National Register.

CROCKETT SPRINGS | J3

Hotel opened in 1889 by the Virginia Arsenic Bromide and Lithia Springs Company. Closed by 1939. One cottage remains on the grounds of Alta Mons, a Methodist Church retreat. 3-mile hike to Stiles Falls is accessible when camp is not in session.

ELLETT | I2

A crossroads community settled on the Salem and Peppers Ferry Turnpike.

51. Ellett Valley Recreational Area | I2

1087 Jennelle Road/Route 642 | blacksburg.gov/Home/Components/FacilityDirectory/FacilityDirectory/84/78 | Vigorous 1 mile loop trail with varied terrain on 109 acres.

52. Smart Road Bridge | I3

Ellett Road/Route 723 | Built in 1998 175 feet above Wilson Creek. Tallest cast-in-place cantilever box girder bridge in Virginia. Used by the VT Transportation Institute, the bridge may one day connect Blacksburg directly to I-81.

53. Virginian Railroad Underpass | I2

Ellett Road/Route 723 at New Ellett | Note: One lane underpass. Yield to oncoming traffic. | A single circular barrel underpass of poured concrete, constructed in 1906 for the Virginian Railroad, now Norfolk Southern.

ELLISTON | J2

Settled in 1740s at Big Spring which attracted visitors until the 1930s. Became Carnegie City when the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad arrived. Until the 1893 financial panic, iron industry investors planned to create another Pittsburgh here.

54. Big Spring Mill | J2

1931 Big Spring Drive | (540) 268-2267 | Mon-Sat | Cash only | bsmill.com | Family owned feed and flour mill built in 1850 as a custom gristmill and sawmill. Gourmet quality flour and cornmeal available in their shop.

GRAYSONTOWN | G4

Known as Grayson Mills when established by the Grayson family on Little River in 1847. A plated mill village that once had a large grist and saw mill.

IRONTO | J2

Called Burket until renamed for the daughter of a citizen in 1908. Site of a railroad passing track and a flag stop in the early 1900s.

55. Falls Ridge Preserve | I2

Falls Ridge Road | Follow signs, left over railroad tracks | nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/virginia/placesweprotect/falls-ridge-preserve.xml | Owned by the Nature Conservancy. Property once had a wool carding mill, general store, post office, lumber mill, gram mill and livery. Lime kiln can still be seen on the .8 mile Bradley Trail to the 80-foot spring fed travertine waterfall.

PULASKI COUNTY

Formed from Montgomery and Wythe Counties in 1839. Named for Count Casimir Pulaski, a Polish nobleman who died in the American Revolution. | pulaskivatourism.org

ALLISONIA | F5

Established in 1872. Named for the Allison family. Railroad arrived in 1887. Had 300 people, 5 iron mining operations, 2 hotels, and 4 stores at the end of the 19th century. Community can be found just off Route 693 along #76 New River Trail.

58. Iron Heart Winery | F5

3742 Boone Furnace Road/Route 607 | (540) 320-0203 | By appointment | iheartvirginiawine.com | On an 1882 farm with salt petre mine and iron furnace.

DRAPER | F4

Called Tate in 1887 when the railroad arrived, then Lucretia for a local landowner's daughter. Became Draper in 1900 for the valley's first settler. Decline began in 1931 when bypassed by Lee Highway (US 11).

59. Draper Mercantile & Blue Door Cafe | F4

3054 Greenbriar Road/Route 658 | (540) 994-5659 | Daily | drapermerc.com | Historic 1882 building. Restaurant, gourmet food marketplace, gifts, local arts, music, events, and garden shop. Bike rentals for #76 New River Trail.

DUBLIN | F3

Developed around the 1850s Virginia and Tennessee Railroad depot built to serve the county seat of Newbern. Named for 1769 New Dublin Presbyterian Church nearby. A Confederate military supply warehouse here was burned by Union troops after the Civil War Battle of Cloyd's Mountain in 1864.

HIWASSEE | F5

Post office here in 1906. Iron mining exposed ochre-colored clay. Pigment mining operations began in 1914. Hoover Color Corporation here provides iron oxide pigments for paint, plastics, and art supply manufacturers.

60. Windy Hill Stained Glass Studio | G4

3408 Lead Mine Road/Route 693 | (540) 980-5481 | Call for hours | windyhillglass.com | Stained glass gallery and supplies.

NEWBERN | F4

An 1810 planned community of 29 lots on the Wilderness Road. Was the county seat from 1839 until the courthouse burned in 1893. Many of the buildings are log.

61. Claytor Lake State Park | G4

6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive | (540) 643-2500 | Daily | Admission charged | dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/claytor-lake.shtml | 1939 dam built on the New River by Appalachian Power created a 4,500 acre lake and flooded the 1700s community of Dunkard's Bottom. Visitor center in 1870s Howe House has exhibits. Camping, picnicking, boating, hiking, fishing, swimming, and programs.

62. Wilderness Road Regional Museum | F4

5240 Wilderness Road/Route 611 | (540) 674-4835 | Tues-Sat | wildernessroadregionalmuseum.com | 1800s log home, outbuildings and history exhibits about the Wilderness Road and communities in the New River Valley.

PULASKI | E4, F4

pulaskitown.org | Called Martin's Tank in 1856 for the donors of land for the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad station. Became Pulaski City in 1886. Cripple Creek Branch (now #76 New River Trail accessible via the Dora Trail) connected iron industry to main railroad line in 1887. Once home to foundries, Pulaski Furniture, and other industries. Farmers' Market Tues, May-Sept at the 1886 stone railway station.

63. Calfee Park | F4

Pierce Avenue | (540) 980-1070 | Jun-Aug | pulaskiyankees.net | Built by the WPA in 1935. Now the 9th oldest professional Minor League Baseball park in use. Home to the Pulaski Yankees, the Appalachian League affiliate of the NY Yankees.

64. Draper's Valley Overlook | E4

Lee Highway/US 11 | Overlook with trails and picnic tables on both sides of US 11 built by the CCC in the 1930s at the top of Draper Mountain, elevation 3,300 feet.

65. Fine Arts Center for the New River Valley | E4

21 West Main Street | (540) 980-7363 | Mon-Fri | facebook.com/facnrv | Rotating art exhibits, classes, lectures, performances, and gift shop.

3116 East Lee Highway/F-044 | To the left of a private driveway. Do not block. | A stone pyramid marks the 1758 fort's site. Fort guarded against Cherokee attacks until 1776. Used as Civil War defense of Austinville's lead mines. Remnants of Fort Chiswell were lost during the construction of I-77 in the 1970s.



75. Fort Chiswell Mansion & Key Ingredients Restaurant | D5

325 Factory Outlet Drive/Route F-024 | (276) 637-1832 | May-Dec, Thurs-Sun | Admission charged | fortchiswellmansion.com | 1839 brick colonial house was center of McGavock plantation. House tours. Restaurant features local farms.

FOSTER FALLS | E5

Former iron mining company town now within New River Trail State Park. Iron furnace, mill, depot, and hotel have been restored.

76. New River Trail State Park | E5

176 Orphanage Drive/Route 608 | (276) 699-6778 | Daily | Parking fee | dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/new-river-trail.shtml | 57-mile New River Trail follows right-of-way of Cripple Creek branch of Norfolk & Western Railway from Pulaski to Fries and Galax. Hikers, bicyclists, horses, camping, outfitters, picnic areas.

GRAHAMS FORGE | E5

Iron furnace, iron rolling mill, and nail factory established here in the late 1700s. 5-story grist mill built in the early 1900s on the foundation of the old furnace.

77. Major Graham Mansion | E5

2115 Major Gramms Road/Route 619 | Note: gravel road | (276) 284-0006 | Oct and special events | Admission charged | majorgrammansion.com | Early 19th century brick mansion that grew to a large Italianate house. Graham family owned iron mines, furnaces, and the forge. Paranormal house tours.

78. Wytheville Trout Hatchery | D5

1260 Red Hollow Road/Route 629 | (276) 637-3212 | Daily | dgif.virginia.gov/fishing/fish-stocking/state-hatcheries | Rainbow, brook, and brown trout hatched here stock local waters. Small aquarium shows trout hatching process. Tours available.

IVANHOE | D6

Iron industry company town laid out in 1890, then sold to pay debts in 1918. Cripple Creek branch of Norfolk & Western Railway serviced the iron industry, then the National Carbide Plant until 1985. #76 New River Trail can be accessed here. Horse Show Grounds have horse, truck, and fiddler's events from May-Oct.

JACKSON FERRY | E6

Location of an early ferry across the New River.

79. Shot Tower State Park | E6

283 Pauley Flatwoods Road/Route 624 | (276) 699-6778 | Grounds open daily, tours in summer | Parking fee | dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/shot-tower.shtml | Melted lead from Austinville Mines dropped 150 feet from the early 1800s 75-foot tower into a kettle of water molding round ammunition. On the National Register. A National Historic Mechanical Engineering landmark. Access #76 New River Trail from here.

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this brochure is current at publication time, but the publisher cannot guarantee that the information will remain current and roads will be maintained. Please use contact information in the brochure to confirm location and hours of operation.

org | Focus is the 35th First Lady of the United States who was a native of the area and her relationship with her husband, President Woodrow Wilson. Gift shop.

91. Great Lakes to Florida Highway Museum | C5 🏠💰

975 Tazewell Street | (276) 223-3330 | Tues–Sat | Admission charged | museums.wytheville.org | 1926 gas station from the era when US 21 was the main route from Ohio to Florida. Memorabilia and restored gas pumps.

92. Haller-Gibboney Rock House Museum | C5 🏠💰

205 Tazewell Street | (276) 223-3330 | Tues–Sat | Admission charged | museums.wytheville.org | 1823 home of Wytheville's first resident doctor. Furnished house museum with medical history, local artifacts, and herb garden.

93. Monster Rock | B4 🧑🏻

8711 Stony Fork Road/US 11 | (877) 347-8307 | Moderate 3/4 mile hike from Big Walker Lookout parking lot to rock outcrop with farm and mountain views.

94. Reed Creek Mill & Iron Bridge | C5 🏠📷

1505 South Church Street | Not open to the public | 1858 mill replaced in 1902 when a concrete dam, 4-story frame mill, office, and 2 houses were added. As Wytheville Power Plant and Roller Mills it provided electricity to the town. Current 1936 mill built after a fire. An old iron bridge is located here.

95. Skeeter's in E.N. Umberger Store | C5 🍴

165 East Main Street/US 11 | (276) 228-2611 | Mon–Sat | skeetershotdogs.com | Since 1920, known for "world famous" Skeeterdog hotdogs. Building is birthplace of First Lady Edith Bolling Wilson.

96. Stony Fork Campground | B4 🛏️🧑🏻💰

Krenning Road/Route 717 | (800) 628-7202 | Apr–Nov | Fee charged | www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gwj/null/recarea/?recid=73977&actid=29 | Forested campground on Stony Fork Creek at the foot of Big Walker Mountain. 1-mile nature trail and Seven Sisters Trail head are here. Last CCC camp in Jefferson National Forest was nearby.

97. Thomas J. Boyd Museum | C5 🏠💰

295 Tazewell Street | (276) 223-3330 | Tues–Sat | Admission charged | museums.wytheville.org | Civil War and 1950 Polio Epidemic exhibits, Wytheville early history, interactive children's exhibits.

98. Wohlfahrt Haus Dinner Theatre | C5 🍴💰🍴

170 Malin Drive | (888) 950-3382 | Thurs–Sun | www.wohlfahrtHaus.com | 5-course dinner and Broadway-caliber show.

99. Wythe County Genealogical & Historical Society | C5 🏠

165 South 11th Street | (276) 228-2445 | Mon, Wed–Fri | wcgha.org | Wythe County history and genealogy research.

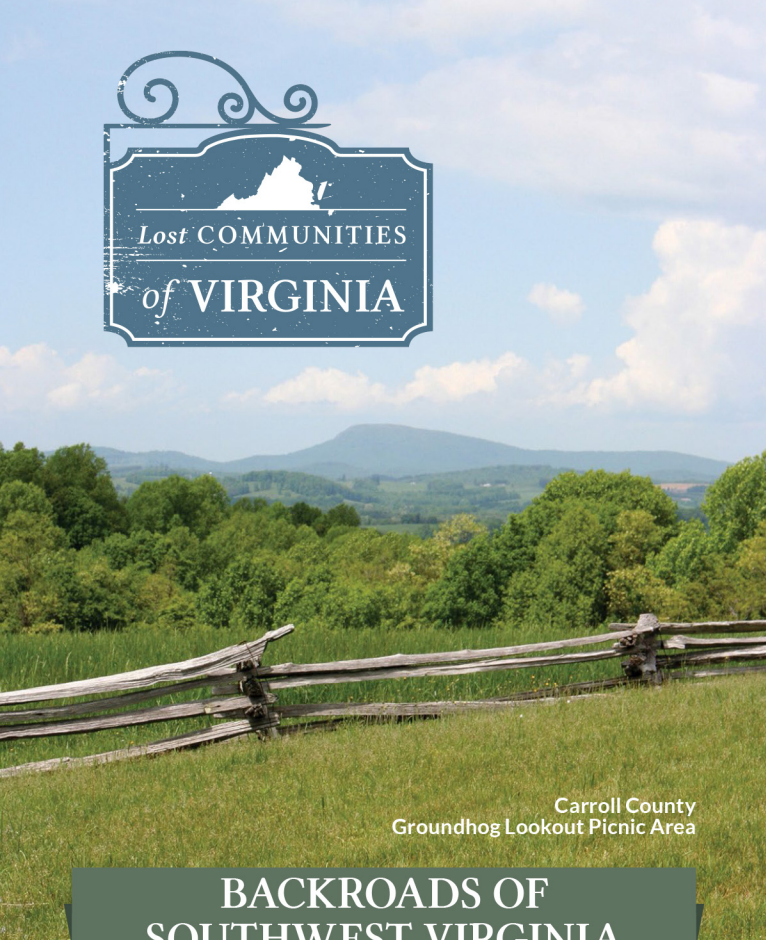
100. Wythe County Historical Society | C5 🏠

115 West Spiller Street | (276) 228-6061 | Mon–Fri | wytheville.org/museums/pubsresearch.php | Wythe County history and genealogy research.

101. Wytheville Training School Cultural Center | C5 🏠

410 East Franklin Street | (276) 625-0042 | Mon–Thurs afternoons or by appointment | wythevilletrainingschool.org | Opened in 1882 on the site of the 1867 school built by the Freedmen's Bureau. African American students from Wythe, Bland, Carroll, and Grayson Counties were taught here until 1951 when Scott Memorial High School was built. Educational and cultural center promoting understanding of Wythe County's African American education heritage.





Carroll County
Groundhog Lookout Picnic Area

BACKROADS OF SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA

The tour is a large loop over back roads in the counties of Carroll, Montgomery, Pulaski, and Wythe. You'll see working farms with animals



Wythe County
Kimberlin Lutheran Cemetery

and crops. You'll be captivated by dramatic mountain and valley views. You'll crisscross railroads and rivers that were once industrial drivers of

the region, turning natural resources to commodities and providing a way to send them to market. You'll follow roads traveled by the earliest settlers in the region and see their homes and churches.

Watch for the remnants of communities and



Pulaski County
Draper Mercantile

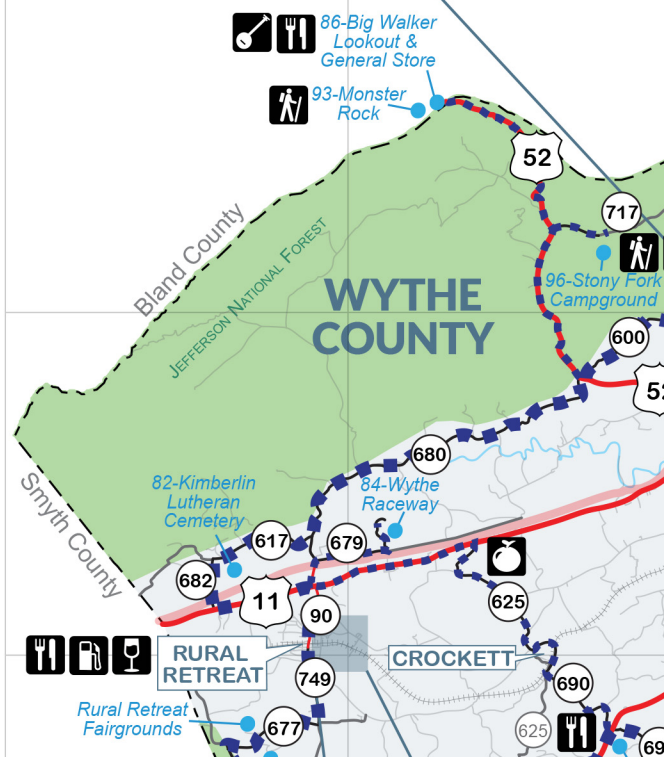
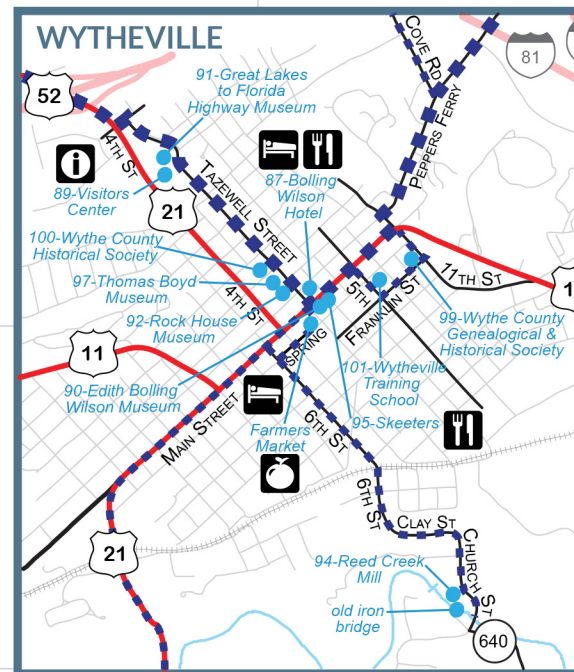
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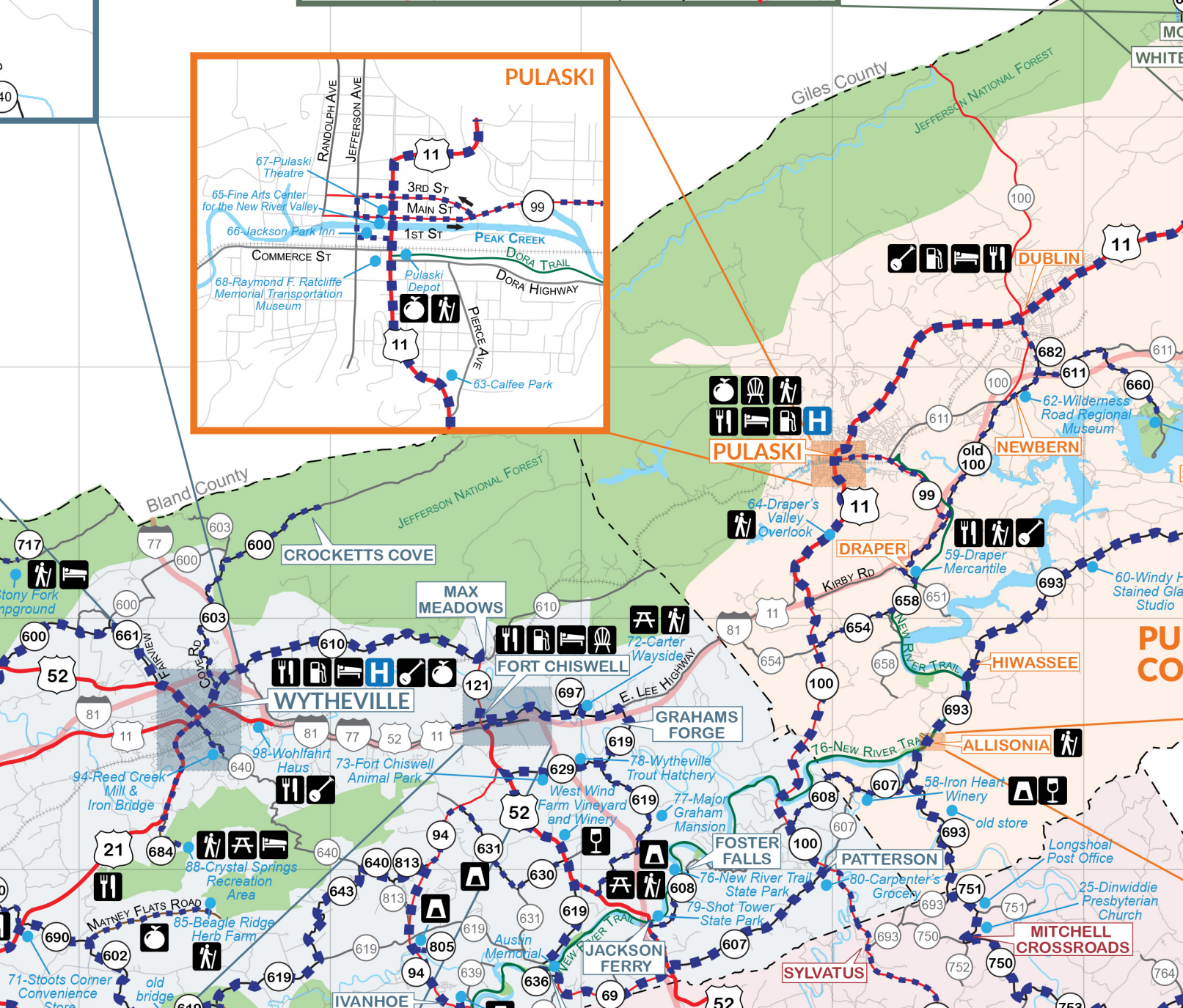
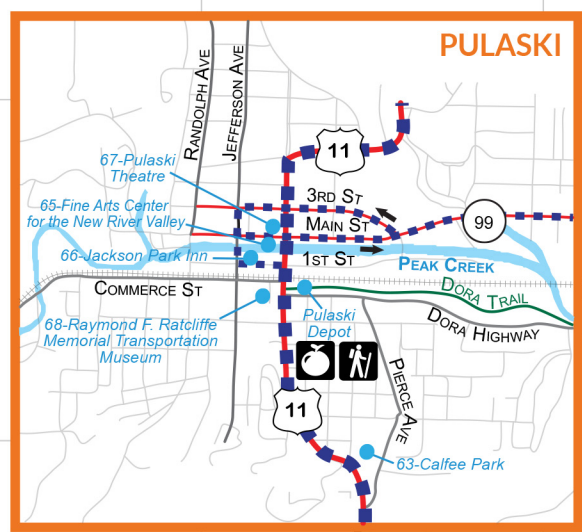
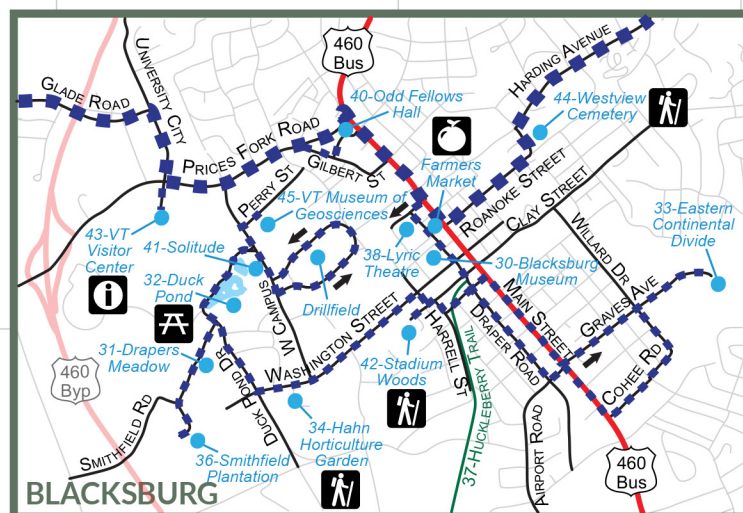
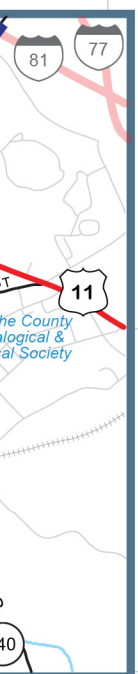
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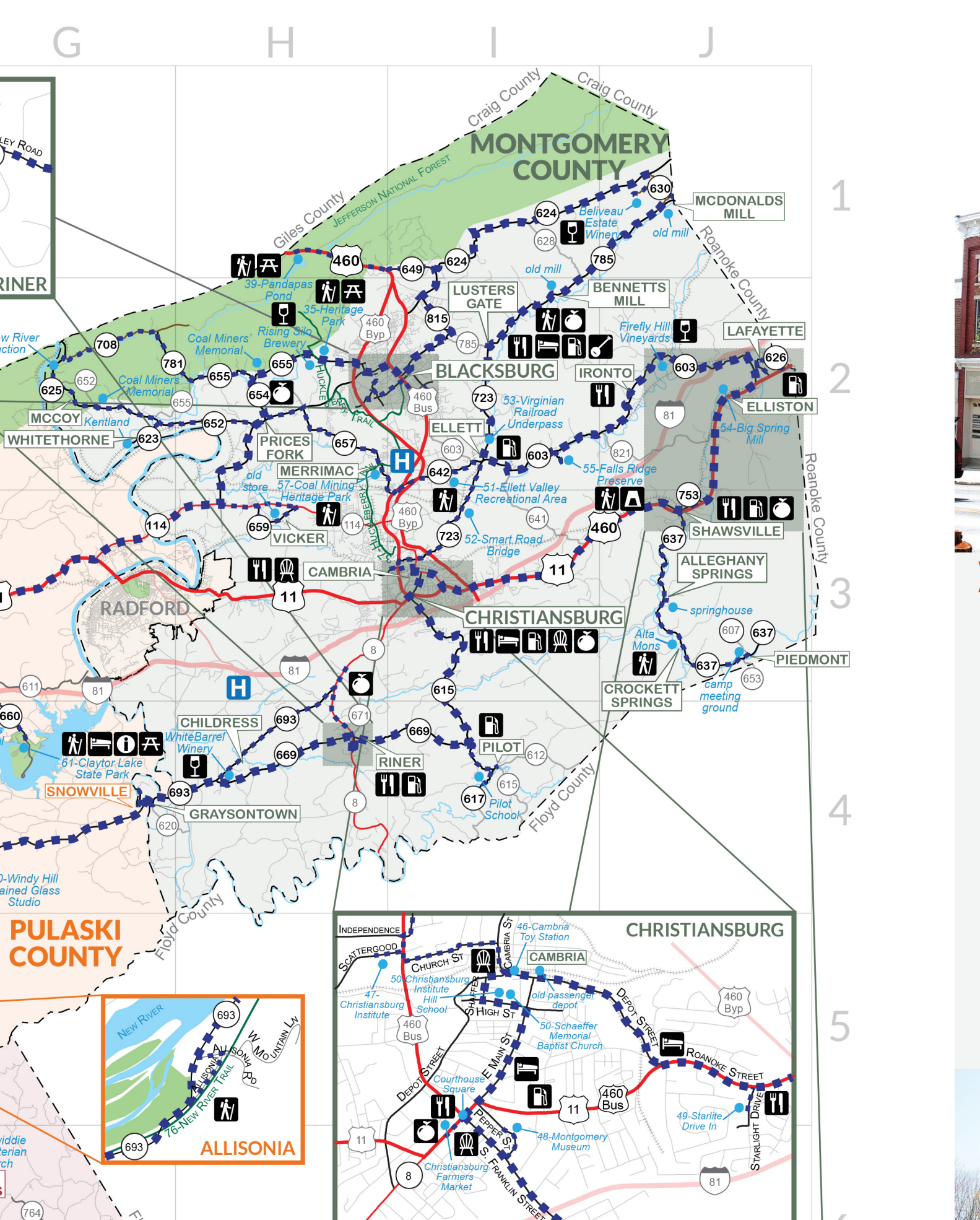
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Wythe County
Wytheville

CAUTION WHEN DRIVING

Tips & Tricks for a Safe Trip

- Many roads are scenic and only 2 lanes. Unless otherwise noted, all roads were paved and passable when we visited, but be alert to changes and obey speed limits.
- Watch for animals and slow vehicles like farm machinery and respect their speed. Remember, many people live here because they cherish the peace and quiet and slower pace.
- The entire route will take more than one day to travel. There are bed and breakfasts and hotels in the area if you'd like to make this a longer adventure.
- Local businesses included in the brochure tell stories of the community's past, provide unique cultural experiences, or are located in a historic building. Due to space constraints, just a sampling of these businesses are included here. You're encouraged to be curious and sample the local flavors.
- There are a few places listed in the brochure that are not open to the public, but are identifiable landmarks along the route. Please respect the privacy of the property owners.
- Cell phone signal is likely to be spotty.
- Virginia Tech parking passes are needed on campus. Virginia Wildlife Area Management Access Permits are required where noted.



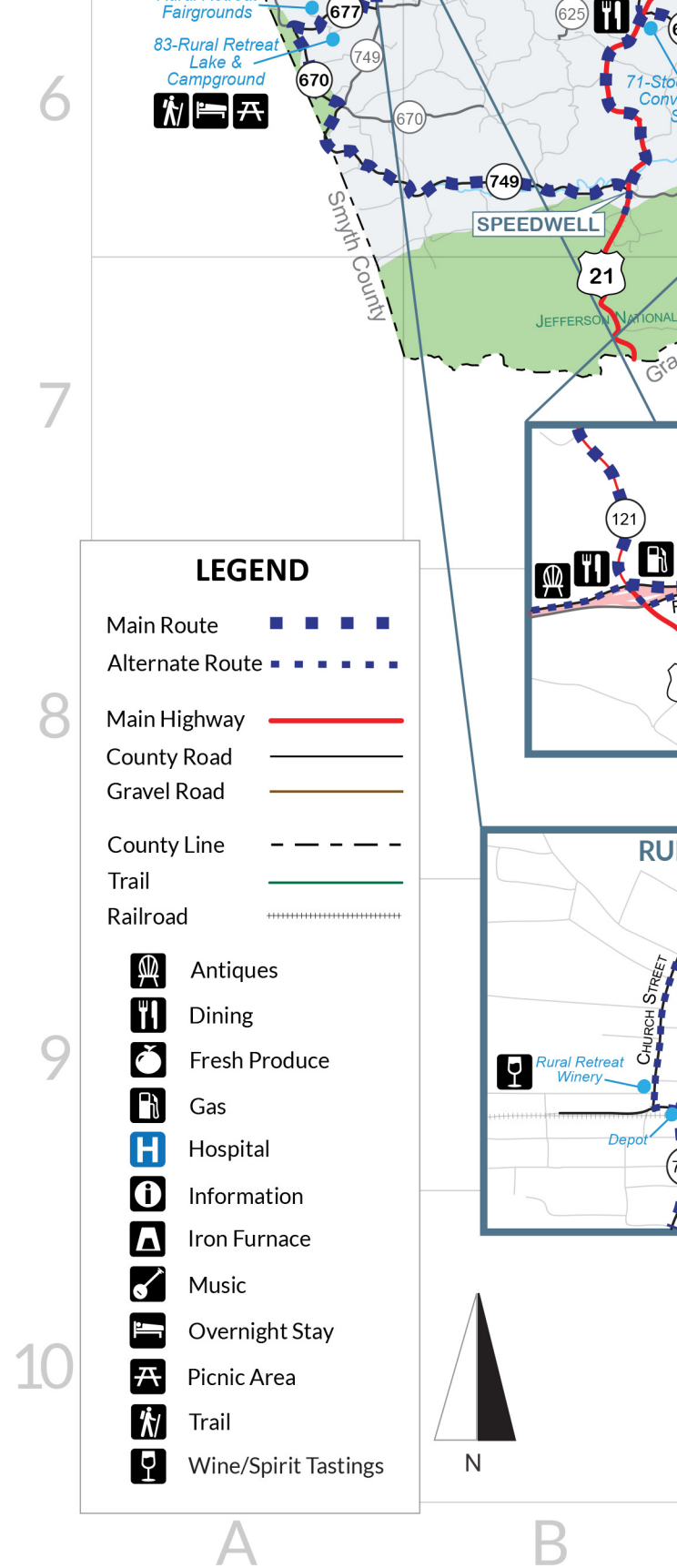
communities and industry: an old store at a crossroads, a one room school, a train depot, a stone iron furnace in a field, railroad tracks removed to become a trail. Visit historic downtowns like Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Fries, Hillsville, Pulaski, and Wytheville.

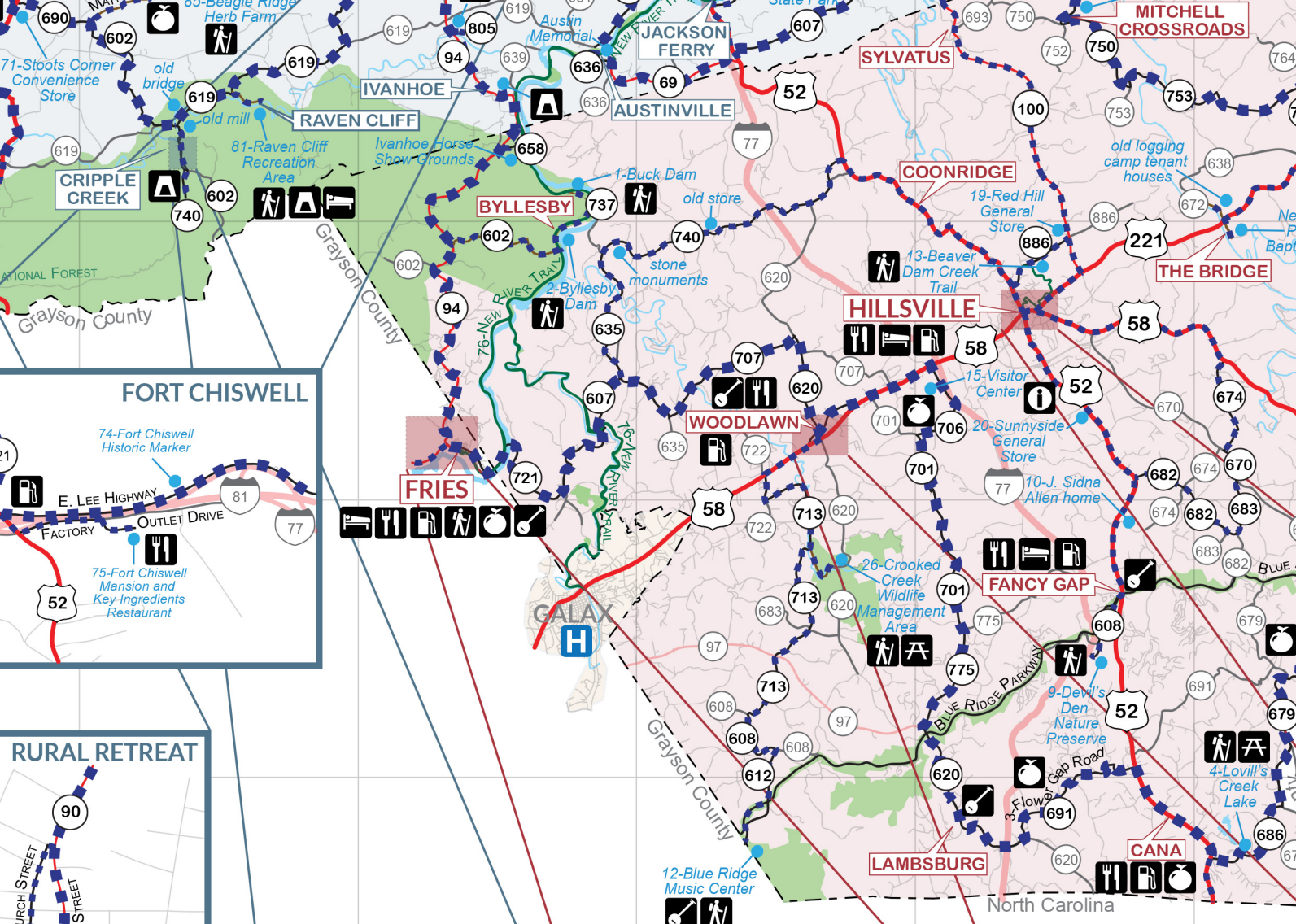


Montgomery County
New River



Carroll County
Old Courthouse





C

D

E

F



Wythe County
Cedar Springs store



Carroll County



Montgomery County
Elliston



Wythe County
Raven Cliff Furnace

While all efforts have been made to create a map that is easy to follow and correct, roads can change or not look quite the same on a map as they do when you are on them. Consider bringing a copy of DeLorme's Virginia Atlas and Gazetteer or a GPS device to help you out of tight spots!