



TOUR NO. 1

(Sites 1-13, 42 miles)

West Milford-Lost Creek

Beautiful Self-Guided Rural Driving Tour

Beginning (0.0 miles) on Clarksburg's Main Street at Harrison County Court House, drive east one block and turn right on Second Street. Drive to top of hill and turn right into Lowndes Park entrance to see (0.6 miles):

1. **Lowndes Hill Park and Trenches.** The earthworks thrown up by the Union troops to protect Clarksburg during the Civil War can still be seen on right of scenic drive. The Clarksburg Y.M.C.A. also is located on Lowndes Hill.

The drive returns to Second Street; continue over hill on Van Buren Street, turning right on Roosevelt Road and left on South Chestnut Street following Route 98 West past Veteran's Hospital to U.S. 19 South (3.1 mi.). Turn left, see (3.4 mi.):

2. **Indian Mounds**—On the east side of the road. These mounds were probably built by the Hopewellian culture between A.D. 1 and 1000. They are thought to be burial mounds. Excavation was begun in 1968.

Continue south on Route 19 and find:

3. **Eli Marsh House,** 7.2 miles from Court House. "Roselawn", a large tan farm-house of the Federal Period, was built in 1845 by Eli Marsh who was a large land-owner and commander of "the Clarksburg, Virginia, Rifle Blues," a militia established by Colonial Virginia to protect settlers from attack by Indians. Jacob Richards Fort was located on this farm within sight of Route 19.

Further south (7.7 mi.):

4. **The old Sycamore one-room schoolhouse,** situated on the northwest corner of Route 19 and Sycamore road, was built in 1840 and restored for a residence by Mr. and Mrs. John Allen in 1967.

South on Route 19 at 9.8 miles turn left to:

5. **West Milford.** Col. Wm. Lowther settled near here in 1772. The town was laid out about 1815 by Jesse Lowther, and at one time had a gristmill and a sawmill owned by Samuel Clemens and Jacob Romine. At that time one could ford the shallow water below the dam, hence the name Milford.

(Col. William Lowther was buried in 1814 in the Lowther Burying Ground, 2 miles north of West Milford on a hill overlooking Highland Dam. Col. Lowther was a frontiersman and a great patriot who served in the Virginia militia. He was the first sheriff of Harrison County.)

Entering West Milford on Main Street, pass the Superette and turn right on School Street (10.4 mi.) and at end of School Street turn left onto Mill Street, which has several old and interesting homes. On the right at 407 Mill Street is the Bennett Rider house, a two-story brick house over 100 years old.

Bennett Rider was the first postmaster of Sycamore Dale Post Office. 1859-1864. He was also a schoolteacher, merchant, photographer, and mill operator, operating the West Milford Mill from 1865-1883.

At the end of Mill Street turn left and return to Main Street via Water Street and cross West Fork River bridge toward Lost Creek. Turn right on Duck Creek Road (10.8 mi.) to:

6. **Watters Smith Park** (13.2 mi.). In 1796 Watters Smith built a log cabin and several buildings on this site, located on Duck Creek near West Milford where he operated a farm. Burr Smith, great-grandson of Watters Smith, willed the 236 acre farm to the public to be maintained as a state park upon his death in 1949. Swimming, picnic areas and historical museum are part of the park.

Return to Lost Creek road (15.8 mi.), turn right to Lost Creek; pass under I-79 and on right (20.1 mi.) is:

7. **Daniel Bassel home.** Built about 1860 at the Main Street intersection, this house is the oldest in Lost Creek. Beautiful oak and walnut trim for this house had been cut and partially installed when Union soldiers commandeered the lumber to use as firewood. After numerous letters to President Lincoln, Bassel was reimbursed.

Proceed east on secondary route 48 to Rockford (22.2 mi.) and continue toward Johnstown, noting on the left a log cabin next to a white farmhouse; follow road left and continue to Johnstown (25.9 mi.). Turn right at stop sign and take right-hand fork of road to:

8. **Johnstown Methodist Church and Old Cemetery.** (26.3 mi.) The cemetery contains unique rough-hewn headstones, crudely inscribed and dating back to 1821.

Return to secondary Rt. 48 near "Stop" sign (26.8 mi.) and turn right toward Rt. 20. On the left at 28.6 mi. is:

9. **Log cabin,** built by the McPherson family about 1840 and authentically restored by Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Quilly Ward of Peel Tree.

At 29.3 mi. see

10. **Duncan-Maxwell House and Farm,** called "Point of View", purchased from Edwin S. Duncan by Lewis Maxwell as a wedding present for his son, Porter Maxwell. A picket fence encloses an acre of lawn surrounding the Victorian farm house. A uniquely-laid flat stone walk extends from the front gate to the front porch. The house has a Victorian veranda and a sleeping porch directly above.

Arriving at W.Va. Rt. 20 (29.7 mi.) turn left and find on left at 30.2 mi.:

11. **Templemoor.** This house was built by Ira Post about 1874 in the Italianate style-based on architecture of rural Italy. The house contains a cupola. It was the childhood home of mystery writer Melville Davisson Post and some of the servants living there in Post's time provided characters for his mysteries.



11. Templemoor

On right of Rt. 20 at 30.9 mi. is a reference to:

12. **Randolph Mason.** This historical marker commemorates a fictitious character in M.D. Post's "Strange Schemes of Randolph Mason."

Zack's Run Road (37.1 mi.) offers a side trip from Route 20 to:

13. **Haymond Cemetery. Zack's Run**—The Cemetery is enclosed by a wire fence. It is on a hillside opposite the mausoleum, which is beyond the entrance to Floral Hills Memorial Gardens. Tall pine trees identify the cemetery. This cemetery contains the graves of Major Wm. Haymond, Sr., sergeant under Col. George Washington in the French & Indian War and officer in the Revolutionary War; Sotha Hickman, Va. Militia in the Revolutionary War 1741-1831; Major Thomas Haymond 1776-1869, an Indian Scout. Both of the Haymonds were surveyors of Harrison County.

Continue on Rt. 20 north to Quiet Dell and at 37.7 mi. enter I-79 north; exit 119 leads to U.S. Rt. 50 and end of this tour; for Bridgeport sites turn right and for Clarksburg turn left.

HARRISON COUNTY

When Harrison County was created from Monongalia County by an act of the Virginia Assembly in 1784, it extended from the Maryland line to the Ohio River, as far north as to include part of Marion County and as far south as to include all of the Little Kanawha and portions of the waters of the Great Kanawha River. It was named in honor of Hon. Benjamin Harrison who was governor of Virginia from 1781 to 1784 and father of Gen. William Henry Harrison, president of the U.S. Benjamin Harrison was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence.

For two years Harrison was the largest county west of the Alleghenies.

Over the years the boundaries of the county were changed numerous times until the present county boundaries were described in 1871.

Haymond in his "History of Harrison County" writes "The original boundaries of Harrison County, as near as can be ascertained, include either wholly or partly the following named counties:

Randolph	formed in 1787
Wood	formed in 1798
Lewis	formed in 1816
Pocahontas	formed in 1821
Jackson	formed in 1831
Braxton	formed in 1836
Marion	formed in 1842
Barbour	formed in 1843
Ritchie	formed in 1843
Taylor	formed in 1844
Gilmer	formed in 1845
Wirt	formed in 1848
Upshur	formed in 1851
Pleasants	formed in 1851
Tucker	formed in 1856
Calhoun	formed in 1856
Webster	formed in 1860"

Doddridge County was formed in 1845 from parts of Harrison, Tyler, Ritchie and Lewis Counties.



Visits to a selection of historic sites in Harrison County are divided into five separate tours

Tour No. 1, Sites 1-13

Southeastern Harrison County

Tour No. 2, Sites 14-23

Northeastern Harrison County

Tour No. 3, Sites 24-50

Northern Harrison County

Tour No. 4, Sites 51-55

Western Harrison County

Tour No. 5, Sites 1-38

City of Clarksburg



Beginning at the Harrison County Courthouse on West Main Street in Clarksburg, drive east 2 blocks and turn left onto Monticello Avenue; turn left onto West Pike Street and right at top of hill onto Second Street and exit ramp to Route 50 West. Take Marshville Exit (10 miles from courthouse) and drive 1.6 miles to see on left:

51. Fletcher Bridge—built by the Harrison County Court in 1891. Stone for the abutments of the bridge was quarried at the top of the hill about 100 feet above the west end of the bridge. William J. Williams, contractor, reported Nov. 21, 1891, that he had paid L. E. Sturm \$937.46 for the masonry and that the superstructure was nearing completion. When short curves in the road were eliminated, the bridge was bypassed and is used in 1984 only by the few families who live on the west side of Tenmile Creek. The bridge was named for a Fletcher family who lived near the structure and whose descendants still live on the righthand side of the Marshville road across from the bridge.

Return to Route 50 West, turn right and drive west to first Salem Exit. Turn right after leaving exit and drive to Terrace Avenue in Salem (17 miles from courthouse). Turn right onto Terrace Avenue and in 100 yards, turn left onto Church Street. At top of hill on right is:

52. Salem Seventh Day Baptist Church and Cemetery.—The church, built in 1901, is the third church building on the site, the first log church having been erected in 1795. About 20 yards into the middle of the cemetery is the grave marker of Samuel Fitz Randolph, founder of Salem who died in 1825. Grave markers of the father, mother, and wife of U.S. Senator Jennings Randolph are to the left and by the fence as one faces the cemetery of the church.

Walk southeast through the grounds of the church parsonage (red brick, ranch style) to large holly tree beside old Route 50. To the left of the tree is a stone marker erected by the D.A.R. in 1930:

53. Site of Salem Blockhouse.—"Old Northwestern Turnpike on Shawnee Trail. Old Fort Site 100 ft. South of this Marker." Under the side porch of the cottage directly across old Route 50 from the marker is the well that supplied with water the first Salem community in the 1790's.

Continue south on Church Street, turn right onto Main Street; drive through business district, which has been entered in the National Register of Historic Places, and one-half mile past roadside marker on left "Chartered 1794 and settled by colony of families from New Jersey. Site of blockhouse where troops were stationed during Indian wars to guard the trail from the Ohio to the West Fork settlements. It is seat of Salem College." Drive two-tenths of a mile to on right:

54. Salem College Administration Building (1911).—Founded in 1888, the college first was housed in a building that stood east of the Administration Building.

Turn right at Salem College Administration Building on road leading to new Salem College Campus; drive past campus up hill and over hill one mile to:

55. Fort New Salem.—Erected to serve as a laboratory for students enrolled in the Heritage Arts Division of the Art Department of Salem College in the late 1960's, the fort consists of log structures donated by land owners in Harrison, Doddridge and Taylor counties and placed side by side much like those log cabins built on West Main Street hill in the 1770's by the first settlers of Clarksburg to give a measure of protection from Indians. Heritage arts such as weaving, basket making, cooking, blacksmithing, chairmaking, printing are demonstrated in the various buildings of the fort. John Randolph has been head of the Heritage Arts Division from its start. The fort is open to the public every Saturday and Sunday from late April through October.

Continue driving downhill to Route 23; turn left; enter Route 50 East which leads to Clarksburg.