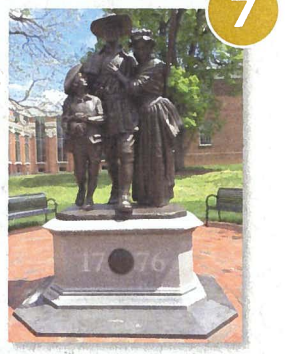
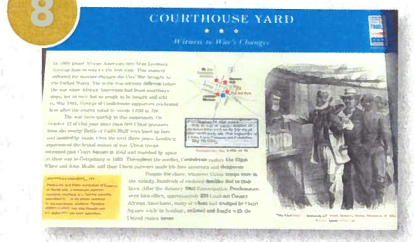
There are a series of monuments erected to memorialize the sacrifices of Loudoun County residents in several wars and conflicts.



7

Spirit of Loudoun

Dedicated in 2015, this monument honors individuals and their families who fought for freedom during the Revolutionary War. It was sculpted by Jay Hall Carpenter.



8

Civil War

At the intersection of two major roadways, Federal and Southern troops passed by the courthouse throughout the war. Despite the numerous occupations by both sides from 1861-1865, the courthouse survived. A marker from the Civil War Trails program documents the changes experienced by enslaved people during and after the war.

9

World War I Monument

The memorial to men who lost their lives in WWI was unveiled in 1921. The soldiers' names were segregated by race on the original memorial. In 2021 a new plaque was rededicated on Veterans Day listing all soldiers names in alphabetical order.

10

World War II & Korean War Monument

Local and national dignitaries dedicated the monument on Memorial Day, May 30, 1956. Leesburg resident General George C. Marshall, who was Army Chief of Staff during WWII, gave the keynote address. The monument was designed by noted sculptor Walker Kirtland Hancock. Seventy-two men from Loudoun gave their lives in WWII and Korea. The memorial was unveiled by Charles R. Titus Jr., whose father had been killed during WWII.

11

Vietnam Veteran's Memorial

The monument was unveiled on Veterans Day 1988 by the parents of Welby H. Grayson III, one of ten Loudoun residents killed in Vietnam. U.S. Senator John Warner and U.S. Representative Frank Wolf gave speeches during the ceremony.

12

Iraq and Afghanistan Wars

The Loudoun County War Memorial Trust Fund Committee dedicated the monument in October 2012. The names of four soldiers who died in the wars are inscribed on the memorial.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Marker

This marker placed by the I Have A Dream Committee, established in 1992, commemorates Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s work towards equality. On his designated holiday in January, citizens come together to march from the courthouse to Douglass Community Center (formerly Frederick Douglass High School) to commemorate King's work and vision.

13

Old County Jail Site

A county jail stood on Church and Market Streets from 1814 until 2007 when the mid-20th century version was demolished and a new facility was built on Sycolin Road in Leesburg. The image below shows the 1954 jail with a wing built in 1966.

Image courtesy of the Thomas Balch Library

14

An expansion of the county courthouse complex began in April 2020 on the former jail site. When the new 95,000 sq ft. courthouse is completed, this new complex will house the General District Court, agencies that support Loudoun's court system and a public open space.

14

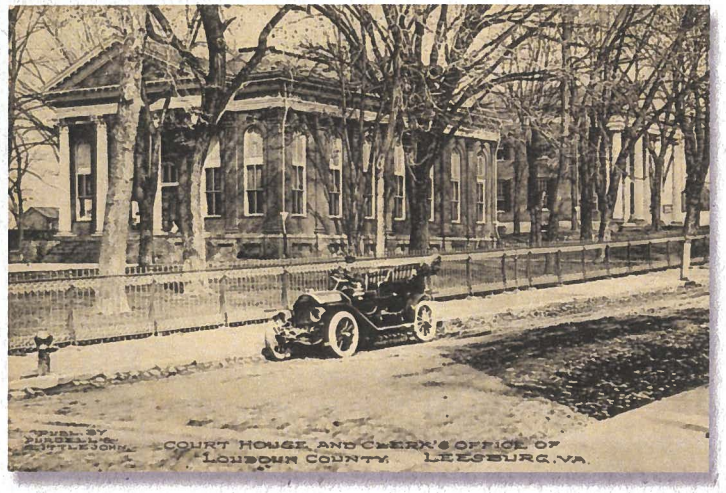
The Historic Records and Deed Research Division maintains county court records dating from the formation of Loudoun County in 1757. Loudoun contains one of the most complete collections of court records in Virginia.

Clerk of the Circuit Court Historic Records Division
18 E. Market Street
Leesburg, VA 20176
Phone: 703-737-8775
E-mail: Clerks-Archives@loudoun.gov

For more information:
A companion brochure, "African-American History at the Loudoun County Courthouse" is available. Scan the QR code to link to the Historic Records Division web site to learn more about each topic. Or go to:
www.loudoun.gov/2173/Events-Research-Tips-Exhibits

Loudoun County

Courtyard Walking Tour



"History and historic events abound on the courthouse grounds as numerous significant gatherings, court cases and celebrations were conducted in this location. It's fair to say that some amazing activities related to Virginia and U.S. history occurred where you are walking. To learn about Loudoun's history, visit my modest historic court records museum in the Courts Complex."

–Gary M. Clemens, Clerk of the Circuit Court

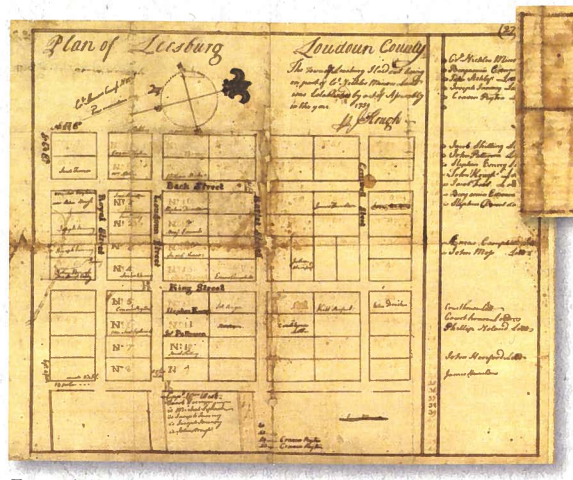
Image courtesy of the Thomas Balch Library

This Publication is Proudly Provided by:

Gary M. Clemens
Clerk of the Circuit Court

Historic Records Division
Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court

The corner of King Street and Market Street in Leesburg has been the center of government for Loudoun County since its formation in 1757. When Nicholas Minor divided his land into lots to establish "Georgetown," known by 1759 as Leesburg, he knew that he needed the courthouse to be in the center in order to draw people and commerce to the new town. With that in mind, he gave the Justices and their heirs two lots of land on which to build the courthouse. The courtyard then consisted of 1 acre. Today the court complex resides on over 5 acres.



Two original lots of land for the courthouse as set out on the 1759 map of Leesburg.

The 1769 bell from the first courthouse is located inside the courthouse main entrance.

Many activities have taken place on the courthouse grounds. In August 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read at the courthouse by the sheriff as ordered by the governor and council of Virginia.

In August 1825, General Lafayette came to Leesburg and was celebrated by the residents with speeches, poetry readings, and a banquet held under tents on the courthouse lawn for Lafayette, former President James Monroe, President John Quincy Adams, and town leaders.

In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, Justice Asa Rogers became increasingly aware of Leesburg's precarious position close to the border between the North and South. With this imminent danger in mind, he ordered Clerk of the Court, George K. Fox Jr., to remove the records and loose papers from the courthouse premises to keep them safe. Fox Jr. kept these records hidden in Campbell County until the end of the Civil War.

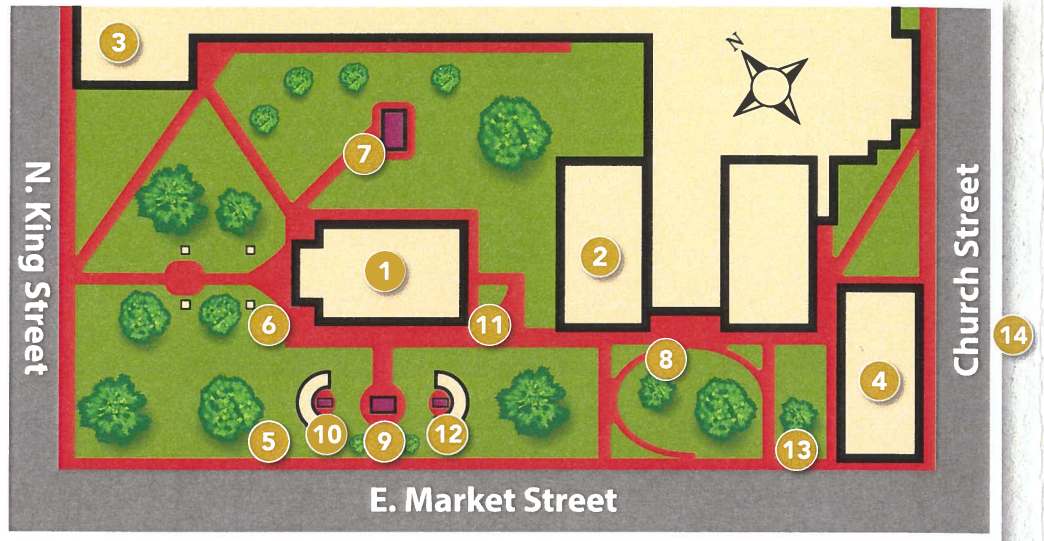
Cases related to both slavery and abolitionism were argued in Loudoun's first two courthouses. Legal documents related to enslaved and Free Black people were recorded in the the county court and are retained in the clerk's Historic Records Division.

Loudoun's WWI Memorial Dedication on the courthouse grounds, July 8, 1922 Image courtesy of the Thomas Balch Library

Loudoun residents who gave their lives in service to their country are memorialized on the monuments by the 1894 Courthouse.

Other events that have taken place in the courtyard include an open air market, circuses, horse shows, church events, school plays, and dramatic readings. The current courtyard once included taverns, hotels, an academy, and a bank. The courthouse square has always provided space for important announcements, events, and memorials. Today, the courtyard is just as active, boasting concerts, protests, auctions, marriages, and many other social gatherings. This brochure is meant as a guide to the history of the court complex.

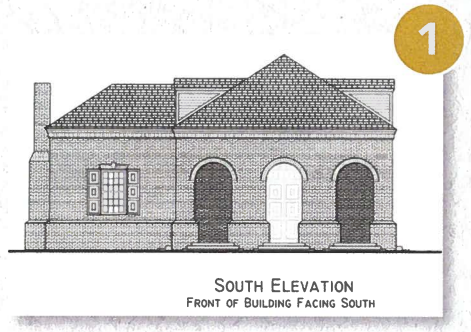
Courthouse Complex



First Courthouse

1

The first courthouse built on this site was started in 1758 and completed in 1761. There are no drawings known to exist, but court records indicate that the structure was built in this approximate location and was 40 feet by 28 feet. A rendering of what the building might have looked like, based on other courthouses of its time, is pictured here.



1

Second Courthouse

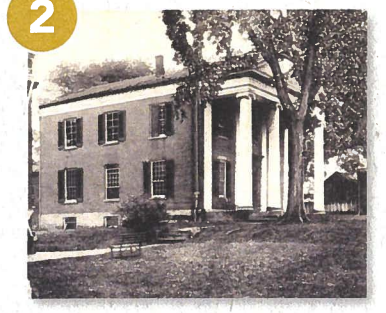
The first courthouse was razed to build a second larger courthouse. In 1809, the Justices appointed commissioners to advertise for proposals to erect a new courthouse, jail, and clerk's office. They authorized a levy of $3,000 in 1810 and $5,000 in 1811. Maintenance was needed by 1844 when $400 was allocated for a new roof, paving the floor, and a pump for "conducting the waterpower from the iron pipes into the jail yard."

1894 Courthouse

1

The current "old courthouse" replaced the second structure in 1894 and is still used today. William C. West of Richmond was the architect and the well-known Norris Brothers of Leesburg constructed it at a cost of $11,000. A year later, the Leesburg Electric Light Company wired the courthouse for electricity. A chandelier and 30 lights were installed.

2



Leesburg Academy

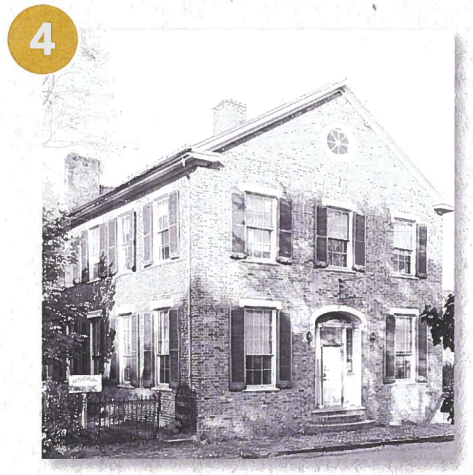
The Leesburg Boy's Academy was founded in 1797. The academy building was built in 1844 from funds raised in a lottery. The school operated out of this building until 1873 when the academy moved to another location. The county purchased the building in 1879 and the Clerk's Office relocated from a smaller space to this one. Today the former Academy building serves as the main entrance to the courthouse.

Leesburg Inn

3

Many establishments stood on this location, including a tavern before 1827. In 1857, William Pickett purchased the property for use as a hotel. It had many owners but was most notably known as the Leesburg Hotel/ Inn from 1898 until it was demolished to make room for the building you see today.

4



Bank of the Valley Building

This building has seen many transformations since it was completed as a dwelling house between 1805 and 1817 by the second Clerk of the Court, Charles Binns Jr. It was then used for the Leesburg branch of the Bank of the Valley from 1818 to 1868. The structure was purchased in 1972 by Loudoun County and has been used as the Commonwealth's Attorney Office. Image courtesy of the Thomas Balch Library.

Clerk's Gate

5

Take special care to notice the old Clerk's Gate. This gate indicates the path the Clerk would have taken to an original Clerk's Office structure built in the early 1800s and razed in the late 1870s.

6

Column Bases

The remnants of columns you see today are believed to have come from the second courthouse.