

Vienna – Town History

The original Fairfax County Courthouse, built in 1743 near Tysons Corner, was the first public structure in the Vienna area and gave us the names Lawyers Road and Old Courthouse Road. The first permanent settler in what is now Vienna was an American Revolutionary War Colonel, Charles Broadwater. His daughter, Jane, married John Hunter. The Hunters built their home around 1767 and called it Ayr Hill after his home county in Scotland. As more settlers came, the village grew and was called Ayr Hill.

In the 1850s, Peter Hendrick moved to Ayr Hill and purchased over 1,000 acres of land. He came from Vienna, New York, which changed its name to Phelps New York in 1855. It is presumed that Hendrick asked his new community to change its name to Vienna, after his former town.

Vienna did not escape conflict in the Civil War. In May, 1861, the vote on secession was held at Lydecker's Store (now the Freeman Store). On June 17, 1861, Union troops riding the train west were surprised by the cannon fire and rifles of over 600 Confederate soldiers along a bend in the track near the present Vienna Community Center. Outnumbered, the Union soldiers engaged in a brief skirmish before the engineer backed the engine towards the safety of Alexandria to the east.

After the Civil War, the Alexandria, Loudoun & Hampshire Railroad brought business to the area. Buildings went up near the tracks and along the main street that is now Church Street. Vienna became an official town in 1890 with just over 300 residents. The first mayor, Orrin E. Hine, is remembered for building roads and planting maple trees along Maple Avenue.

The horse and buggy days declined with the advent of the automobile. When a trolley line came to Vienna in 1903, furnishing hourly transportation to and from Washington, DC, Vienna became a commuter town. By the early 1940s, the town population was 1,200.

The town took on a new look at mid-20th-century when many businesses moved from Church Street to the new commercial street, Maple Avenue. Also during that period, Vienna adjusted to accommodate the thousands of post-World War II residents who settled in the area, and Maple Avenue was widened.

Freeman Store – History

The most prominent historic structure in Vienna is the Freeman Store. In 1859, Abram Lydecker, a New Jersey merchant, purchased land in Vienna on which to build a large combination dwelling, hotel and store. During the Civil War, the Lydecker store served as a brigade hospital and the cellar became a stable for Union soldiers' horses. After the war, restoration included scouring bloodstains from the floors and papering over the writing of soldiers.

Located next to the Alexandria, Loudoun and Hampshire Railroad, (later called the Washington & Old Dominion), the general store also served as the Town's railroad station and post office. Lydecker's son-in-law, Anderson Freeman took over the store in the late 1870s, and then it was run by his son Leon Freeman as a store until 1929. The building was used for the family's insurance agency from 1918 until the mid-1950s.

The Town bought the property in 1969. Restoration was begun in 1975 under the Freeman House Advisory Commission, later to become Historic Vienna, Inc. The building was dedicated and opened on June 26, 1976.

Original Vienna Library – History

Sharing the grounds with the Freeman Store is the Original Vienna Library, known as the Little Library. It was built in 1897 on land donated by an early settler. Originally located on what is now the corner of Maple Avenue and Library Lane, it was moved to the corner of Maple and Center Street in 1912. It served as the Vienna Public Library until 1961, when Fairfax County created the Patrick Henry branch. Until its closure in 1961, the Little Library structure was the oldest library building still in use in Fairfax County. The Town decided in 1969 to move the Little Library to the grounds of the Freeman Store, where it now faces Mill Street.

Historic Vienna, Inc.

Membership and Volunteer Form



Visit us at the

Freeman Store and Museum

131 Church St. NE, Vienna, VA 22180
703.938.5187

www.historicviennainc.org

Open Wednesday-Sunday, 12:00-4:00PM

*Listed on The Virginia Landmarks Register
and*

The National Register of Historic Places

***Strengthening Community Through
an Awareness of Vienna's Past***

Preserve and celebrate Vienna's history

Support Historic Vienna, Inc.

I want to make a \$_____ contribution to Historic Vienna, Inc. (100% tax deductible).

I want to become a member.

___ Individual (\$20)

___ Family (\$25)

___ Group or Corporate (\$35)

Membership is from January 1 to December 31.

There are 2 membership meetings per year.

I want to volunteer. (Circle as many as you wish)

Storekeeper – Special Events – Book Sale

I have skills to share:

Research – Graphics – Social Media – Computer

Skills – Other: _____

Make your check payable to:

**Historic Vienna, Inc.
P.O. Box 53
Vienna, VA 22183**

Historic Vienna, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions and membership fees are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Name *Date*

Street Address

City, State, Zip Code

Telephone

Email Address

Our Mission Statement

Historic Vienna, Inc. (HVI), established by the Vienna Town Council in 1976, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation dedicated to:

Preserving and promoting knowledge of Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of historically significant places, events, and persons.

Educating the public through permanent and revolving exhibits, outreach programs, and publications.

Enhancing a spirit of community through an awareness of Vienna's past.

Our Programs and Activities

- Sponsor ***traditional community events*** enhancing Vienna's small town atmosphere (e.g., visits with Santa, Church Street Stroll, Walk on the Hill)
- ***Living exhibits*** that illustrate the way people lived (e.g., reenactments, demonstrations, entertainment)
- The Freeman Store - experience a ***historic country store*** selling local history books, Virginia crafts, Vienna souvenirs, and old-fashioned toys and candy
- ***Guided tours*** of the Original Vienna Library, Freeman Store and museum exhibits
- Encourage ***preservation of Vienna's history, historic sites, and artifacts*** (Freeman Store and Little Library operations, museum exhibits, antiques appraisals, oral histories, preservation award, Vienna's historic register)

Support Historic Vienna, Inc.

Historic Vienna, Inc. depends on support from the community to fund its operations. How you can help:

- Become a member
- Shop frequently at the Freeman Store
- Make a 100% tax deductible contribution
- Support our annual June book sale – donate books – buy books
- Make a bequest
- Volunteer

Membership Benefits

Support Historic Vienna, Inc. operations, programs, and activities.

Speakers on history and regional issues.

Subscription to our newsletter – HVInk.

10% discount on purchases at the Freeman Store.

Invitations to special events and ceremonies.

Connect with Vienna history enthusiasts.

A Sampling of Vienna's Historic Structures and Places

Moorefield House Site
 Vienna Railroad Station, 1861
 First Baptist Church, 1867
 Vienna Presbyterian Church, 1874
 Bowman House, 1894
 Bouton's Hall, 1894
 The Original Vienna Library, 1897
 Vienna Elementary School, 1923
 Vienna Inn, 1925
 Louise Archer Elementary School, 1939
 Vienna Town Hall
 Salsbury Spring
 Railroad Caboose
 Private Residences in the Windover Heights Historic District
 Private Residences on Vienna's Historic Register

Historic Vienna, Inc. Located at the **Freeman Store**, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna, VA 22180

Open Wednesday – Sunday, 12:00-4:00PM – 703.938.5187 – www.historicviennainc.org