

HISTORIC VIENNA, INC.

ORNAMENT COLLECTION

In 1997, the Board of Directors of Historic Vienna, Inc. contacted Rachael A. Peden of Farnham, VA, who, since 1972, has been creating a vast array of hand-made, hand painted ornaments. The initial goal was to have her make an ornament depicting Vienna's Little Library. The rest, as they say, is history.



1. 1997 – The Little Library. Vienna's original library was built in 1897 on Library Lane by Mr. Edward W. Pierce on land donated by Mr. William B. Lewis. The Library was operated by the Vienna Library Association under a series of rules based on taking very good care of the books. The building was moved in 1912 to land donated by Mr. Charles C. Hine to what is now the site of the Patrick Henry Library, then to its present location on Mill Street in 1970. Today it contains most of its original books, card files, and historic records. There's a **Little Free Library** book exchange in front of the building. Across Maple where Mill intersects was once the Freeman Grist Mill, which was powered by a stationary steam engine.

2. 1998 – The Freeman Store. The great welcome the first ornament received was followed immediately by the **Freeman Store** built in 1859 by Mr. Abram Lydecker. Today the building is the home of Historic Vienna, Inc. and is open to the public as a museum and store ten months of the year.

3. 1999 - Vienna Presbyterian Church. The oldest portion of the Church, erected in 1874 and now called the Chapel, is depicted in the ornament. For the next 65 years it remained a tiny village church, usually with fewer than a hundred members and sharing a pastor with another church. World War 2 and the post-war years brought tremendous growth and by 1976, membership had grown to 1,351. Today the congregation has more than 2,600 members.

4. 2000 – The Red Caboose. The **Caboose** ornament, one of the most popular in the collection, arrived to commemorate the railroad that ran here for 113 years (1855 to 1968) from Alexandria to Bluemont, Virginia. Damaged by Confederate forces in 1861, the railroad resumed full service after the war. Originally carrying both passengers and freight, after 1951 it was freight only. The caboose was installed as a Centennial project in 1990.

5. 2001 – The Train Depot. The Vienna Railway Station dates to the Civil War (1861) and is now home to the Northern Virginia Model Railroaders club; they operate a large HO-scale model railroad that represents an actual North Carolina railroad set in the 1950s.

6. 2002 – The Vienna Inn. This year the ornaments moved away from Church Street and vicinity when the iconic Vienna Inn on Maple Avenue, joined the collection. Originally an ice cream parlor operated in the front room of the home of Mr. & Mrs. Clayton M. Feeser, this world-famous institution was purchased by Mr. Mike Abraham in 1960, who renamed it and along Mollie began serving adult beverages and the famous chilidogs for which it is known today.

7. 2003 - Vienna Elementary School. This year's ornament began the addition of local schools to the collection. Vienna's first school was built on the site of the current building in 1872 on what was then School Street (now Center Street). There were about 68 students and two classrooms but only one teacher. The building was replaced in the early 1890s, but was destroyed by a fire in 1919, to be replaced by the current structure in 1923.

8. 2004 – The First Baptist Church. Erected in 1867 and now the **Knights of Columbus** hall, this building at 214 Lawyers Road was Vienna's first church. Constructed primarily by former slaves on land donated by Union veteran Maj. Orrin E. Hines, it was built using lumber reclaimed from Civil War barracks. Reverend Cyrus Carter became the first pastor in 1873. The church also doubled as a school for black children once ante-bellum laws forbidding their education were negated.

9. 2008 - Louise Archer Elementary School. The school was established in its current location in 1939, as a school for African-American children as the *Vienna Colored School*. Mrs. Loise served as the school's principal and taught along with two other teachers. In the early 1940s, the only water was from the Salisbury Spring a mile away where school boys went to fetch water. Mrs. Archer fed the children meals she cooked on a pot-bellied stove. Mrs. Archer died of a heart attack in 1948; the school was renamed in her honor in 1950.

10. 2009 - Bowman House. Constructed around 1890 as Vienna's second public school, the building consisted of a center hall, two large rooms on either side, and a bell tower over the front door. It remained a school until 1915 but was restored to that status from 1919-20 to 1923 following the Vienna Elementary fire. The building was moved to its present location in 1923 where it served as a commercial firm. After World War 2 it was the home of Mr. Kenyon Bowman and his family. It was purchased by the Town in 1960.

11. 2010 - Bouton's Hall. Built around 1894, this building was once **Bouton's Grocery** store. From 1897 to 1915, and again in 1932, and still again from 1936 to 1954 it was the Town's post office. The building has been owned by Concord Masonic Lodge #307 since 1920, with the Lodge Hall on the second floor. The first floor has been the **Pennywise Thrift Store**, operated by the Holy Comforter Church of Vienna since 1961. "Back in the day" the Lodge Hall was also used for dances, parties and as a moving picture theater.

12. 2011 - Vienna Town Hall. Vienna began to develop in the 1760s after John Hunter settled here and built a house which he called Ayr Hill after his place of birth, Ayr, Scotland. As the village grew it assumed the name Ayr Hill, by which it was known for 100 years. In 1854 a family named Hendricks came to Vienna and wanted the name changed to Vienna, the name of their hometown in upstate New York. Since the family owned a lot of land and had become influential in local affairs the change was willingly made, but it was not until 1890 that the Town was officially incorporated as Vienna. The present Town Hall was completed in 1962.

13. 2012 - The 1946 Fire Engine. Another of the favorite ornaments, particularly among the younger set, is the 1946 Maxim Motor Company fire engine. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department was established in 1903 at the behest of Councilman Leon Freeman. It was the first volunteer fire department in the area with Councilman Freeman service as the first Fire Chief.

14. 2013. Santa Claus. This year Historic Vienna decided to do something a bit more traditional and added a roly-poly Santa Claus to the collection. Since each Santa Clause is a hand-painted creation look carefully since they are not all the same. Some have eyeglasses, or variations in other details that makes each ornament unique.

15. 2014 – Once Upon A Time. For 30 years, Once Upon A Time at 120 Church Street was the place to go for dolls, doll houses, doll house furniture and building supplies and the best toys of all kinds. Previously Craig and Wright Grocery and General Store, the Vienna Glass Company, a bank and a gift store, Once Upon A Time was a favorite for children of all ages. Restored by local builder Tommy Staats, it now houses the Staats offices on the second floor and Cocoa Vienna, makers of fine chocolates, truffles and chocolate novelties on the first.

16. 2015 - Worthington's & The Full Cry Shop and The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. This year Historic Vienna tried something entirely new, its first two-sided ornament. One face of the ornament shows the original fire house of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department on Church Street constructed in 1930, the second face is Worthington's & The Full Cry Shop which moved into the building in 1958 when the new Fire House on Center Street was completed. The two stores offered a fine selection of women's fashions and a vast array of gifts. During their day it was "the" place to shop.

17. 2016 - Vienna Arts Center. Knowing that the Vienna Arts Center building was facing the proverbial wrecking ball, Historic Vienna created this ornament in commemoration of the nearly 50-year history of the all-volunteer Vienna Arts Society and its mission to bring together area artists to share interest, enrich their own experience in art and to make contributions to the community.

18. 2017 - Green Hedges School. The second and more traditional ornament in 2017 was Green Hedges School, created with their assistance to commemorate the founding of the private elementary school in Arlington, Virginia in 1942 by Frances Kilmer, daughter of Impressionist painter, Frederick Frieseke, and Kenton Kilmer, son of famous American poet Joyce Kilmer. The Kilmers sought to provide a positive learning environment free from prejudice, and enriched curriculum that included the best in all the arts, a global exposure to history, and a commitment to citizenship and character. The school moved to its present location on Windover Avenue, NW in 1955. Today's enrollment is approximately 160 students.

19. 2018 – Vienna National Bank. Constructed in 1923, the building at the corner of Church Street and Dominion Road was the first structure in Vienna built as a bank. Prominent features of this distinctive brick building are its striking entry way and the two 'American Gold Eagle' coin medallions high on its front face.

20. 2019 – Curly's. Wesley United Methodist Church constructed in 1890 at 137 Church Street NW. 1956 – 1987 building becomes Curly's Men & Boys Clothing Store