

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 create an ornament for us depicting Vienna's Little Library, and our collection has now grown to include 20 *Peden* ornaments of beautiful, historic buildings in Vienna.



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, from 1961 for about 57 years. "Back in the day" the Lodge Hall was also used for dances, parties and as a moving picture theater.

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 II it was the home of Mr. Kenyon Bowman and his family. It was purchased by the Town in 1960.

Curly's. This is a two-sided ornament. One face shows **Wesley United Methodist Church** constructed in 1890 at 137 Church Street NW. In 1956 to 1987 the building becomes **Curly's Men & Boys Clothing Store**.

Caboose. The red **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.

1946 Fire Engine. Another of the favorite ornaments, 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.

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.

Freeman Store. The Freeman Store was built in 1859 by Mr. Abram Lydecker. Throughout Vienna's history, the Freeman Store has been a home, store, train depot, hotel, hospital, officers' quarters, fire department and historic site. The building holds the prestige of being on the National Register of Historic Places. Today the building is the home of Historic Vienna, Inc. and is open to the public as a museum, store and gift shop ten months of the year.

Green Hedges School. The Green Hedges School ornament was 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.

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 also 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.

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. Archer 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 schoolboys went to fetch water. Mrs. Archer fed the children meals she cooked on a pot-bellied stove. Mrs. Archer passed away in 1948 of a heart attack and the school was renamed in her honor in 1950.

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 and **Cocoa Vienna**, makers of fine chocolates, truffles and chocolate novelties.

Santa Claus. This year Historic Vienna, Inc. 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 making them unique.

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.

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.

Vienna Arts Center. Knowing that the Vienna Arts Center building was facing demise, 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.

Vienna Elementary School. This year's ornament honors Vienna's first school which 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.

Vienna Inn. The iconic Vienna Inn on Maple Avenue, was originally an ice cream parlor which was 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 began serving adult beverages and the famous chilidogs for which it is known today.

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.

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 II 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.

Worthington's & The Full Cry Shop and The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. This is a 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!