

## Our Mission Statement

Historic Vienna, Inc. (HVI), established by the Vienna Town Council in 1976, is a 501c3 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

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

## Vienna Stories – Past & Present

Vienna Stories – Past & Present is dedicated to facilitating the preservation of local history by and for the Vienna community.

We aim to capture a sense of the local past through its existence in the living present, using the words and personal experiences of Vienna and greater Vienna residents.

Topics of particular interest to Vienna Stories – Past & Present include: personal experiences with community organizations, institutions, events, services, businesses, and family; and in addition, opinions of Vienna's growth and gradual restructuring, political climate, small-town atmosphere, and what it is like to grow up in Vienna.

## How to Get Involved

Historic Vienna has both written and oral stories. To view Vienna Stories – Past & Present, visit [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org). Your stories may be added to our collection. If you have any questions, comments, wish to be interviewed or volunteer to help, email: [hvioralhistory@gmail.com](mailto:hvioralhistory@gmail.com).



# Historic Vienna, Inc.





## Vienna Stories Oral History Guide

*Learn how to capture Vienna stories  
through personal experiences.*

View our collected Vienna Stories at  
[www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org)

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

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 <b>Instagram</b> follow us at <a href="https://www.instagram.com/FreemanStore_Museum">FreemanStore_Museum</a>	 Join our Facebook page <a href="https://www.facebook.com/HistoricViennaInc">Historic Vienna Inc.</a>

## How to Identify and Contact Interview Candidates

Our collection of oral histories engages with the lives of Vienna residents who have shaped Vienna into what it is today or are engaged in current Vienna activities. Here are some qualities to look for in your potential interviewee:

- Did s/he experience Vienna's transition from rural farming community to a suburban community over the course of the twentieth century?
- Did s/he live in Vienna before or during the town's huge growth spurt?
- Has s/he participated in any of Vienna's major events? (e.g., Halloween Parade, ViVa Vienna)
- Does s/he have a strong connection to certain buildings, businesses or events within the town?
- Is s/he a part of any of Vienna's government and/or community organizations or businesses, whether currently in operation or not? *Some examples: Town Council, Rotary, Optimist Club, Volunteer Fire Department, Churches, athletic groups, etc.*
- Does s/he have a unique perspective on the formation and restructuring of the town?

If your potential interviewee doesn't fit the mold of these suggestions, we still want to hear from you! If you're uncertain whether or not your oral history will fit into Vienna Stories – Past & Present, email [hvioralhistory@gmail.com](mailto:hvioralhistory@gmail.com) with *Vienna Stories* or *Oral History* in the subject line.

### Other Ways to Get Involved Transcribe Interviews

Transcriptions are incredibly useful to our project, but they're also incredibly time-consuming; *it takes roughly 4-5 times the length of your interview to transcribe it*. Transcriptions are simply a line-for-line copy of the dialogue spoken in an interview. If you'd like to volunteer to transcribe email [hvioralhistory@gmail.com](mailto:hvioralhistory@gmail.com) for more information.

## Sample Interview Questions

The following questions are samples of questions related to Vienna. Including some of these questions will provide the interviewee's perspectives on common topics.

Consider this to be a *skeletal outline*. Expand and exclude as you see fit!

1. Where were you born? Where is your family from?
2. How did you come to Vienna? What is your connection to the town?
3. How is Vienna important to you?
4. How long have you lived here?
5. What is your relationship to town? What do you like about the town?
6. How did you come to have your occupation? How was it different from or similar to your expectations?
7. How has your life been affected by large-scale historical events? (e.g., WWII, Civil Rights, 9/11, Covid)
8. How was Vienna affected by national events? What was your community's attitude(s) towards what happened? Did those views differ from yours?
9. What different communities or institutions do you remember being a part of the town?
10. Vienna has grown from a rural, farming community to a suburban extension of Washington, DC. How do you feel the town's identity has altered by these changes?
11. What is your experience with the town's cultural and racial differences?
12. What roles/identities do you find that different age groups (children, young adults, middle-aged adults, and seniors) play in the town? How do their needs impact how the town grows?

## Interviewee's Agreement

In order for Historic Vienna to showcase your oral history on our website we will need approval for use of the interview recordings that you've made and any other supplemental materials that you may wish to include.

We welcome you to ask your interviewee for approval of the use of supporting materials to enhance the presentation of your oral history presentation.

Examples of useful supporting materials include but are not limited to:

- Representations (photographs, paintings, etc.)
- Ephemera (letters, programs, ticket stubs, etc.)
- Other objects and papers

Please be sure to print a copy of the *Oral History Release Form*, available on the Vienna Stories tab at [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org) and bring it with you.

Fill out the "interviewer" portion of the Agreement before you arrive to the location of the oral history interview; it will make your interviewee more comfortable. **Have the interviewee fill in his/her information and sign where indicated.** Without this signature, we can't publish the interview!

### Submitting an Oral History

If you have taken an oral history and would like to have it added to our collection, please email [hvioralhistory@gmail.com](mailto:hvioralhistory@gmail.com) to coordinate with the Oral History Committee. Oral histories can be included in the online collection or only kept in our research archives.