

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 Used Book Cellar – 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 (excluding the Used Book Cellar).

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
Historic Cemeteries
Private Residences in the Windover Heights Historic District
Private Residences on Vienna's Historic Register

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

- **Museum exhibits** highlighting our history and guided tours of the historic Little Library Museum, Freeman Store, and current museum exhibits
- The Freeman Store - experience a **historic country store** selling Virginia crafts, Vienna souvenirs, pottery, decorative gifts, local history books, old-fashioned toys and candy, and used books donated by the community
- Sponsor **traditional community events** enhancing Vienna's small town atmosphere (e.g., visits with Santa, Church Street Stroll, Walk on the Hill, traditional afternoon Teas)
- Encourage **preservation of Vienna's history, historic sites, and artifacts** (operate Freeman Store and Little Library museums, onsite and offsite museum exhibits, antiques appraisals, oral histories, preservation award, Vienna's historic register)
- **Living exhibits** that illustrate the way people lived (e.g., reenactments, demonstrations, entertainment)

Historic Vienna, Inc.

Support Vienna History



Visit us at the

Freeman Store and Museum

131 Church St. NE, Vienna, VA 22180
703.938.5187

historicviennava@gmail.com


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**

 **Instagram**
follow us at [FreemanStore_Museum](#)

 Join our Facebook page
[Historic Vienna Inc.](#)

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 renew/become a member.

____ Individual (\$25)

____ Family (\$30)

____ Group or Corporate (\$40)

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)

Freeman Store Special Events – Used Book Cellar
Little Library Museum docent – Oral Histories

I have skills to share:

Computer – Graphics – Exhibits – Research

– Other Skills: _____

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

Vienna – Town History

The original Fairfax County Courthouse, built in 1742 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 known European 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 began in 1975 under the Freeman House Advisory Commission, later to become Historic Vienna, Inc. The building was dedicated on June 26, 1976 and opened as a museum and gift shop in 1977.

Little Library Museum– History

Sharing the grounds with the Freeman Store is the original Vienna library, now known as the Little Library Museum. 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, open to whites only, until 1962, when Fairfax County created a storefront branch library. Until its closure in 1969, 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 and to build the Patrick Henry Library on the old Center Street location.

Historic Vienna, Inc.

Located at the **Freeman Store and Museum**,

131 Church St., NE, Vienna, VA 22180

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