

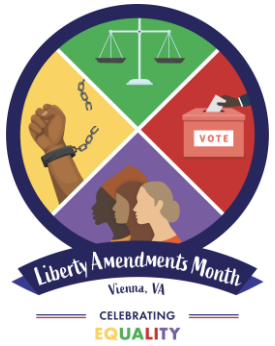
*The African American
Historic Sites of Vienna, VA
Riding Tour*

Compiled by Sylvia Taylor and Gloria Runyon

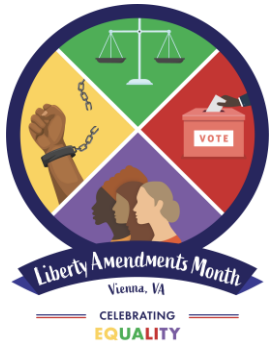
INTRODUCTION

- The *African American Historic Sites of Vienna, VA Riding Tour*, was originally created in February, 2017, as one of the events held in celebration of *First Baptist Church of Vienna's 150th Anniversary*.
- The tour compilers, *Sylvia Taylor* and *Gloria Runyon*, are longtime Vienna residents, members of First Baptist Church of Vienna, and Board Members of Historic Vienna, Inc.

The African American Historic Sites Tour of Vienna in support of the 13th and 14th Amendments



- *The 13th Amendment to the Constitution* abolished slavery within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction, stating that neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crimes.
- *The 14th Amendment to the Constitution* granted citizenship to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, including former enslaved people, stating that citizens shall not be deprived the right of life, liberty, and property without due process; or without equal protection of the laws, guaranteeing all citizens equal protection of the laws.



- In support of the 13th and 14th Amendments, our Liberty Amendments event will offer a historic virtual tour of the African American presence in Vienna from 1867 to 2006.
- Although there were African Americans (and other people of color) who were free before the Civil War who lived and owned property in Vienna, after the end of the War, more people of color and the former enslaved in Vienna were given the opportunity to own homes, have schools, and churches.
- All citizens, including the formerly enslaved, were given the right to due process and protections.
- This tour will offer you a glimpse of this community in Vienna, Virginia.

~RIDING TOUR~

- The riding tour has 22 stops.
- Stops #1-19 are in the NW quadrant of Vienna
 - Stops #20-21 are located in SW Vienna
 - Stop # 22 is located in SE Vienna



**Stop 1*

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA, 1867
214 Lawyers Rd. NW

- First Baptist Church of Vienna, original building at 214 Lawyers Rd. NW, was founded in 1867.
- It is the *first* and *oldest* church in Vienna, VA.
- The property, owned by ***Major O. E. Hine***, who had served in the Union Army, was deeded to the trustees of First Baptist Church for the sum of one dollar.
- With the help of the Freedman's Bureau, the first trustees, ***George Mac Brown, Daniel West, and Edward Harris***, succeeded in acquiring lumber from a Civil War barracks that was being demolished.

First Baptist Church (cont.)

- This building served as a *school, church, and community assembling place* for colored people. (*Colored was the descriptor of the times.*)
- Functioning as a school during the week, boards attached to the back of the benches were used as desks, then, detached for Sunday services. The church school continued in use until 1890, when the Town of Vienna was incorporated. The Town built a one room school known as the *Vienna Colored School* at the corner of Lawyers Rd. and Malcolm Rd. NW.
- In addition to being the first church built in Vienna, it is believed to be *one of the first colored elementary schools in Fairfax County.*
- In December, 1957, *after 90 years*, the church relocated to a new edifice at *450 Orchard St. NW*. A clause in the deed stated that once the church relocated, the land would revert to the heirs of O. E. Hine.
- In 1958, the building was sold to the *Knights of Columbus.*



***Stop 2 SALSBUARY SPRING**
*Corner of Lawyers Rd. &
Windover Ave. NW*



- *Salsbury Spring* is the site of the Town's oldest natural spring.
- In the early 1940s, it was the only water source for the students at the *Vienna Colored School (now Louise Archer School)*. Boys daily brought containers of water from the Spring to the school which was a mile away.
- This site, now a park, is cared for by members of the *Ayr Hill Garden Club* and *Town of Vienna Parks & Recreation Dept.* A few years ago, a Boy Scout troop was engaged in planting wild flowers on the site.
- There are two markers at the Spring. On the first is inscribed: *“Salsbury Spring provided drinking water and cooled the milk for the 250 acre dairy farm of Capt. Harmon L. Salsbury (1838-1913), commander of the US Colored Troop Company D, 26th Regiment from New York during the Civil War. The spring was the only source of water for the Vienna area during the drought of 1930 which dried up most wells. In 1938, Capt. Salsbury's wife and children donated this site to the Town of Vienna to be designated a park in his honor.”*
- The second marker reads: *“Dedicated to Ayr Hill Garden Club Members who have worked to keep Vienna green since 1929.”*



**Stop 3 WEST END CEMETERY*

500 Lewis St, NW

- The cemetery is on land once owned by *Captain Harmon L. Salsbury* in the subdivision known as Windover Heights.
- The cemetery has been known over the years as the Borgus, the North-South, the Lewis Street, and the Windover Cemetery.
- It was named *West End Cemetery in 1986* when restoration was being planned by Historic Vienna, Inc.
- After the restoration, over 250 people attended a dedication ceremony at the cemetery on April 26, 1987.
- The cemetery contains 47 gravestones plus other stone markers. The earliest death date was 1884; the most recent was 1978.
- The engraved marker reads: *“Historic Vienna Inc. dedicates this marker to Captain Harmon L. Salsbury, who granted this land on February 25, 1884, for use as a cemetery by colored people. 1986.”*
- This was done through the efforts of *Theodore Thomas*, Vienna African American historian, and *Maud Robinson*, wife of former mayor Charlie Robinson.
- In front of the engraved marker is a Town of Vienna Historic marker which designates that the cemetery is on the Historic Register.





****Stop 4 WEST ST. NW NOTABLE
FORMER FAMILIES
Town Councilman George Lovelace
425 West St. NW***



~Then~

~Now~

- Originally from Evansville, Indiana, George Lovelace graduated with a major in physics from historically Black Lincoln College in Missouri, and entered the Army via ROTC in 1959.
- Prior to moving to Vienna, he served in combat support position in Vietnam, earned an advanced degree in telecommunications management, and was promoted to a senior staff position to a NATO communications board. He retired as lieutenant colonel in 1979.
- ***Col. Lovelace*** moved to Vienna in 1975. He became active in the community and got his political start in Vienna organizing homeowners to get better water and street services.
- Along with help of ***Mrs. Monica Thompson***, a resident in the Malcolm Heights neighborhood, the ***Malcolm-Windover Heights Civic Association*** was founded in 1976.
- He was the first President of the Association and continued to serve as President until 1980.
- ***He also served on the Vienna Town Council 1982-2010, and was Vice-Mayor for 3 terms.***
- He became the first African American elected from Northern Virginia to serve in the General Assembly in Richmond since Reconstruction.
- He was elected to Virginia's 35th House of Delegates District, 1996-1997.
- He and his wife relocated in Locust Grove, VA in 2010.



****Stop 5 WEST ST. NW***

Remembering the Past – The West Family

- This street was named for the *West Family* which has a long history in Vienna and Fairfax County.
- ***Thomas West (1814-1880)***, was born a slave, who became the personal assistant for Maj. John Chichester during the Civil War, was one of Vienna's first colored landowners.
- Both Thomas West and ***his son Daniel (1845-1907)*** obtained their freedom after the Civil War. After the War, Daniel came to Vienna from the Chichester plantation, and worked as a laborer for ***Maj. O.E. Hine***, an ex-Union Army officer who decided to live in Vienna.
- Daniel's father, Thomas, also worked for Maj. Hine, and they were instrumental in asking for and receiving assistance from the Major in the purchase of the land and the building of ***First Baptist Church of Vienna in 1867***.
- Both father and son assisted in the construction of the building.
- They are buried in the West End Cemetery.

**Stop 6 FORMER PROPERTY OF
WILLIAM ALEXANDER WEST
~NOW~*



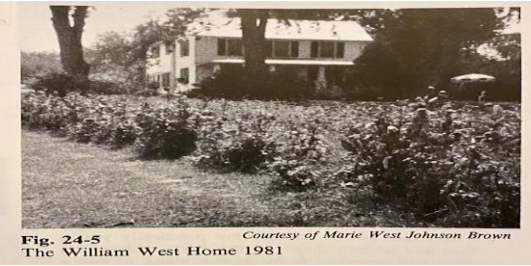


Fig. 24-5
The William West Home 1981

Courtesy of Marie West Johnson Brown

****Stop 6 WEST COURT NW
FORMER NOTABLE FAMILIES
William Alexander West***



- ***WEST COURT*** was the former property and home of William Alexander West, eldest son of Daniel West.
- William (Billy) West owned 5 acres of property and lived where West Court is now.
- His house and property have been replaced by nine houses in this court and other nearby houses.
- William A. West was born in his father's three room log cabin on Lawyers Rd. near Salsbury Spring in 1874.
- He went to school at First Baptist Church/School and graduated at age 15.
- He received special tutoring by Mrs. O. E. Hine, then entered a three year education course at Howard University.
- He became a teacher and taught at Vienna Public School A (a.k.a. Vienna Colored School) at the corner of Lawyers and Malcolm Roads.
- In 1944, he helped to organize the Fairfax County NAACP, and served as chapter secretary for many years.
- In 1952, William West ran for Vienna Town Council, and lost by one vote. He was well known and greatly respected by both white and colored residents.
- He died in 1978, at age 104.



****Stop 7 WEST ST. NW FORMER NOTABLE FAMILIES
Former Site of James & Mabel Ellis House
(Demolished) - 447 West St. NW***

- Mr. & Mrs. Ellis were both active in the community. They began living on West St. around 1940.
- After the death of Mrs. Louise Archer, principal of the Vienna Colored School, on April 1, 1948, Mrs. Ellis wrote a letter to the School Board dated April 17, 1948, along with a petition, signed by 20 former students of Mrs. Archer and graduates of the school.
- The letter and petition were presented to the Fairfax Co. School Board requesting that the name of the school be changed from Vienna Colored School, as it was officially known by Fairfax Co., to Louise Archer School. The Board approved, and the name was officially changed. The dedication ceremony was held on April 16, 1950 in the school auditorium.
- Prior to living on West St., ***James Ellis*** and his friend ***Fred Drew*** built a log cabin on Cabin Rd. c. 1937 at the request of ***Mrs. Katrina Hine Echols***, daughter of Maj. O. E. Hine. The Ellis family lived in the cabin before moving to their home on West St.
- The house previously owned by Mr. & Mrs. Ellis was sold and replaced with a new house.



****Stop 8 WEST ST. NW FORMER NOTABLE FAMILIES
Former Site of Cora Patterson and Naomi Walker Family House
468 West St. NW***

(The building was demolished in 2017 and replaced with a new house)

- This plot of land was the location of the home of Mrs. Naomi Walker and her family who moved into the house in 1963, and lived there until they sold the house and relocated to Manassas, VA. in October, 2016.
- Mrs. Walker bought the house from Mrs. Mary Louise Fenwick, who said it is believed that Mrs. Cora Patterson, a woman of color and the original owner, paid \$1.00 for the house as a settlement awarded to her because the house was not built to her specifications.
- The house was built in 1889, one year before Vienna was incorporated as a town. It was enlarged by an addition to the side of the house in 1925.
- Legend has it that Mrs. Patterson operated a guest house where teachers from the District of Columbia came in the summers to relax and enjoy the “country side.” It was considered to be one of the nicest homes in the Vienna area.
- Some of the unique features of the farmhouse style were the cupola on the roof, the colonial windows, a number of fireplaces and French doors inside, and the large wrap around front porch.



Former Thomas House 533 Lincoln St. NW

****Stop 9 MALCOLM HEIGHTS
Lincoln & Highland Streets NW
(Originally a Colored Neighborhood)***



Former Marion House 531 Highland St. NW

- Malcolm Heights is a neighborhood that was built around 1948. The Town of Vienna contracted an architect from McLean to build a neighborhood on Lincoln and Highland Streets for the colored residents of Vienna.
- For many years, the streets were unpaved. Eventually, with the prodding of Mrs. Monica Thompson who lived on Lincoln St, and the Malcolm-Windover Heights Civic Association, the streets were paved c. 1976/1977 and sidewalks were constructed.
- ***Mrs. Fannie Thomas*** who also lived on Lincoln St., remembers being the first resident of this neighborhood.
- Over time, as original owners sold their houses and relocated, their houses were either enlarged or replaced with larger contemporary houses.
- ***Mrs. Thomas' house and the former William Marion Family's house are two of the replaced houses.***
- Today, this is a mixed racial neighborhood of 27 houses. Only six of the original houses have remained.



****Stop 10 PETERSON LANE PARK
Malcolm Rd. NW***

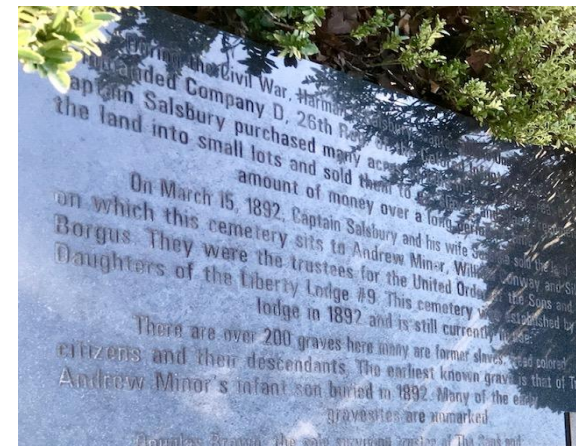


- *Peterson Lane Park* was named for “*Ting*” *Peterson*, father of *Joe Peterson*, an African American resident whose house was next to the park.
- The park was the location of a vibrant community of six or seven African American families whose houses stretched to Corsica St.
- Today, the Park is a neighborhood activity center that has walking trails, a pick-up basketball court, a soccer area, a Gaga pit, a playground, and a parking lot.





****Stop 11 SONS AND DAUGHTERS CEMETERY
South Side of Orchard St. NW near Malcolm Rd.***



- The historic plaque at the entrance of the cemetery reads:
“During the Civil War, Harmon I. Salsbury, Captain in the Union Army, commanded Company D, 26th Reg. of the Colored Infantry Troops. At war’s end Captain Salsbury purchased many acres of land in the Vienna area. He divided the land into small lots and sold them to ex-slaves and black freedmen for a small amount of money over a long period of time. On March 15, 1892, Captain Salsbury and his wife Susanna sold the land on which this cemetery sits to Andrew Minor, William Conway and Silas Borgus. They were the trustees for the United Order of the Sons and Daughters of the Liberty Lodge #9. This cemetery was established by the lodge in 1892 and is still currently in use. There are over 200 graves here many are former slaves, freed colored citizens and their descendants. The earliest known grave is that of Trustee Andrew Minor’s infant son buried in 1892. Many of the early gravesites are unmarked. Douglas Brown, the sole surviving trustee of the The Sons and Daughters Lodge, transferred ownership of the cemetery, before he passed, to the First Baptist Church of Vienna on December 6, 1986.”
- Due to the efforts of Ted Thomas, Maud Robinson, and Historic Vienna, Inc., the cemetery was designated a Historic Site with a historic marker.



****Stop 12 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA
RELOCATED 1957 & RENOVATED 1996
450 Orchard St. NW***



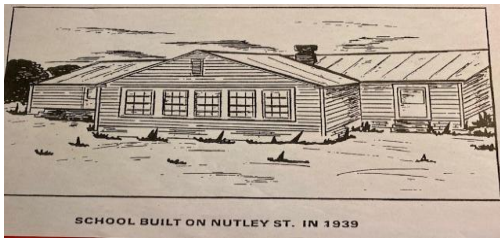
- In December, 1957, First Baptist Church relocated from Lawyer's Rd. NW to 450 Orchard St. NW.
- The cornerstone laying for a new building was an historic occasion for the members and friends of the church.
- Later, extensive renovation and the new construction of the building was implemented.
- In February, 1995, the congregation moved temporarily to nearby *Louise Archer School*, where church services were held for about a year while the construction of the new building took place.
- On *April 14, 1996*, the congregation of First Baptist Church of Vienna dedicated a beautifully redesigned and renovated edifice. *In 2017, the church celebrated its 153rd Anniversary.*



****Stop 13 HISTORIC HOUSES
FORMER CHANNIE HENDERSON HOUSE
(Renovated) - 432 Orchard St. NW***



- Mrs. Channie Henderson, a teacher at the Vienna Colored School, later renamed Louise Archer School, taught her students in the classroom that was at the front of the three room school.
- Her house was built by her husband Harold Henderson, Sr. on property purchased in 1948 from Wise Dairy Farm next door.
- The house was completed in 1952. Mrs. Henderson also taught at Oakton Elementary and Cunningham Park Elementary.
- Eventually, the Henderson family relocated and the house was sold to new owners.
- In 2018-2019, the original house was redesigned (*above*) with the original entrance encased in a renovated porch, and a garage and a rear wing added.



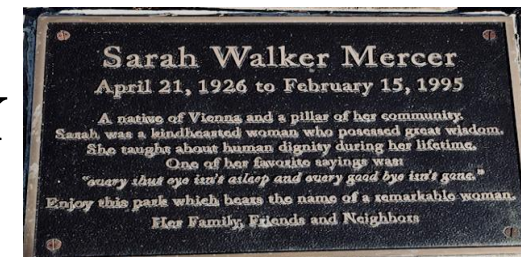
****Stop 14 LOUISE ARCHER SCHOOL 324 Nutley St. NW***



- ***Louise Archer School*** was built in 1939 as a three room school, under the leadership of principal ***Mrs. Louise Reeves Archer***.
- The school relocated from its previous location at Malcolm & Lawyers Rd. NW., which was built in the 1890s by the Town of Vienna as a one room school named ***Vienna Colored School***. In 1924, the school was enlarged to three rooms.
- Mrs. Archer began as principal and teacher at the original location in ~~1922~~ [correct date: 1924] .
- Mrs. Archer's teaching staff consisted of ***Mrs. Channie Henderson*** (first & second grades) and ***Mrs. Mabel Mack*** (third & fourth grades), and ***Mrs. Archer*** (grades 5-7)
- After Mrs. Archer's death in April, 1948, Mrs. James Ellis and former students petitioned the School Board to rename the school in honor of Mrs. Archer, the beloved first principal and teacher during the years of ~~1922~~ [1924] and 1948. The name was officially changed to ***Louise Archer School***. A dedication took place in 1950. (Corrected date S.T., 3/10/26)
- Mrs. Archer was a visionary pioneer who tirelessly pursued excellence in the education of her students.
- The expanded school became integrated in 1965 and is the only colored elementary school in Fairfax County that is still in use as an elementary school.
- The locations of ***Louise Archer School*** and ***First Baptist Church of Vienna***, which housed the first colored school in Vienna, have come full circle, as the school and the church are now neighbors.



****Stop 15 SARAH WALKER MERCER PARK
Corner of Nutley St. & Knoll St. NW***



- This beautiful floral park built in 2006, honors the late *Sarah Walker Mercer* a beloved neighborhood figure who was often considered the “*Mother of the Neighborhood.*”
- She was a longtime faithful member of First Baptist Church of Vienna, and the head custodian at Louise Archer School for many years.
- Through the efforts of her neighbors and the Malcolm-Windover Heights Civic Association, the park was designed and named in her honor, and presented to the Vienna Town Council for approval. It is built next to her home.
- Engraved on the memorial plaque are the words: “*Sarah Walker Mercer April 21, 1926 to February 15, 1995. A native of Vienna and a pillar of her community. Sarah was a kindhearted woman who possessed great wisdom. She taught about human dignity during her lifetime. One of her favorite sayings was: “Every shut eye isn’t asleep and every goodbye isn’t gone.”*”
- Also planted in this park is a memorial tree and a plaque to honor *Maxine Shelley Turner*, a student at Louise Archer, a graduate of Madison High School, and a senior at Virginia Tech who was one of the victims in the Virginia Tech shooting tragedy in 2007.



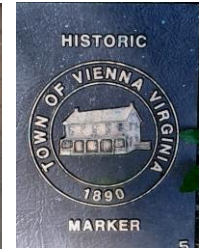
****Stop 16 JAMES H. HAYES-BULL RUN ELKS LODGE
250 Nutley St. NW***

- James H. Hayes Lodge was established in 1924 by 15 members of the Vienna community.
- The Lodge was named after a Black Attorney from Richmond Virginia who played a big part in the voter registration rights for blacks in Charlottesville Virginia in the early 1900's.
- In 1928 the Elks Lodge purchased land in its current location.
- In the late 1950's some of the land was taken by Fairfax County and annexed for James Madison High School property.
- The James H. Hayes Elks Lodge played an important part in the community by supporting educational programs for the youth, supporting a program called Helping Hands, supporting the Easter Egg hunt jointly with First Baptist Church of Vienna, and supporting the Black History Heritage program and the Martin Luther King Jr. program every year.
- The Bull Run Lodge in Manassas, VA merged with the James H. Hayes Lodge in 2016.
- Today, the Lodge remains active and practices the principles of order, which are *Charity, Justice and Brotherly Love*.
- There are several descendants of charter members that remain active within the Lodge today.
- James H. Hayes-Bull Run Lodge is part of the Fraternity, Improved Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks of the World and has over 300,000 members nationwide.



HISTORIC HOUSES

****Stop 17 TAYLOR HOUSE - 214 Nutley St. NW***
(Listed on the Town of Vienna Historic Register)



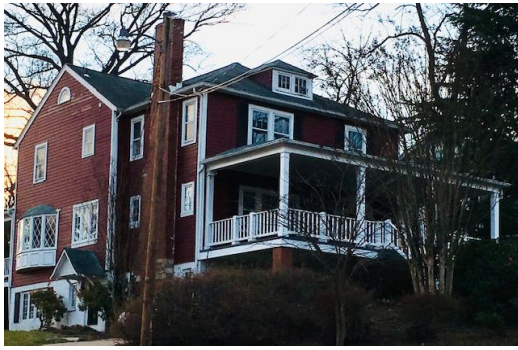
- In 1907, the deed to this house from H. L. Salsbury to Gilmore Taylor was signed.
- This house is one of the best examples left in Vienna of a home owned by a freed man and his family.
- The ownership shifted from Gilmore Taylor and his wife to their son Bentley Taylor and his wife Alice. It was commonly known as “*Aunt Alice’s House*” until 1978.
- After a series of owners, it was purchased by **Mr. & Mrs. Edward Maillett** in 1995 who registered it as a historic home in 2009.
- Descendants of Mr. & Mrs. Gilmore Taylor still reside in Vienna.
- Gilmore Taylor’s grave is located in the West End Cemetery.



HISTORIC HOUSES

****Stop 18 THOMAS-HOLMES HOUSE - 128 Nutley St. NW
Corner of Nutley Street and Windover Avenue.***

- Built in 1900, this house was owned by ***Carson and Mary Dade Thomas***.
- They had 5 daughters, two of whom were prominent members of the Vienna community.
- ***Mrs. Odessa Thomas Carter*** was a Town Clerk for the town of Vienna, and the first African American to hold this position.
- Her sister, ***Mrs. Mable Thomas Mack***, was a teacher at the ***Vienna Colored School*** from 1929 through the 1950's when the school was officially renamed ***Louise Archer School*** in 1950 (in honor of Mrs. Louise Archer), the former principal. She taught grades, three & four during her tenure there. She also served as principal from April - May, 1948, following the death of Mrs. Archer.
- The current owner of the house is ***Mrs. June Holmes, widow of Tyrone Holmes, grandson of Mr. & Mrs. Carson Thomas and son of the third daughter, Harriet.***
- The Thomas-Holmes property extended from Windover Avenue to Maple Ave. including all of Village Green. This area was where the family livestock and garden were located.
- During the Christmas season, the family has an extensive Christmas light display on the Windover Ave. side of their property. All symbolic aspects of the holiday are represented.



HISTORIC HOUSES
****Stop 19 MINOR HOUSE***
(Demolished in 2024) - 130 Pleasant St. NW



- ***Andrew Minor and his wife Emma***, employees of ***Capt. Harmon Salsbury***, were also well known residents in Vienna.
- The house that stood at 130 Pleasant St. NW was built on land recorded in a deed in 1899.
- The next generation rebuilt and enlarged it.
- Minor made two land transactions with Capt. Salsbury before 1900. The first for 5½ acres at Court House Rd. & Pleasant St. extending up Pleasant St. toward Maple in 1889. ***Son Joseph and wife*** built a house at 210 Pleasant St. SW.
- A portion of the land was sold to trustees of Union New School Baptist Church of Vienna, now ***New Union Baptist Church***.

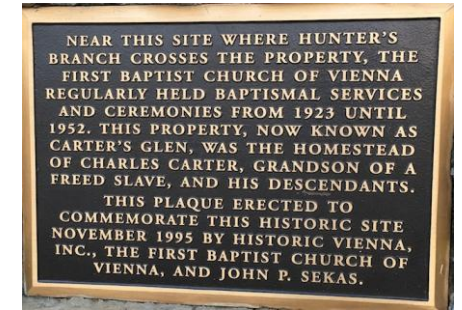


****Stop 20 NEW UNION BAPTIST CHURCH
205 Pleasant St. SW***

- The second church for colored people in Vienna was organized in 1902 under the leadership of ***Andrew W. Minor***, a colored resident who donated land and built the edifice on its present site after some of the members separated from First Baptist Church of Vienna.
- On October 27, 2001, the ***Union Baptist Church*** and the congregation of ***New Hope Baptist Church, Falls Church***, united during a meeting of both memberships. These two fellowships bonded together and merged to become one church under the joint name ***New Union Baptist Church***.



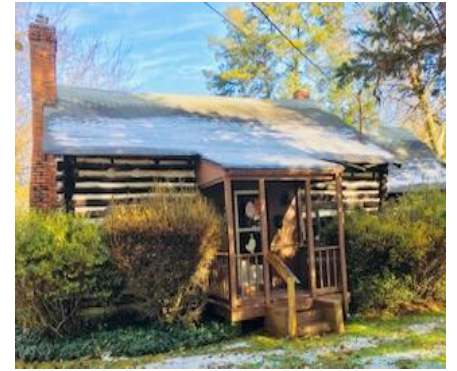
****Stop 21 CARTER'S GLEN BAPTISMAL SERVICES
& CEREMONIES STONE MARKER
Corner of Courthouse & Moorefield Rd. SW***



- *Carter's Glen Baptismal Services & Ceremonies Stone Marker* has an engraved marker which reads:
- *“Near this site where Hunters Branch crosses the property the First Baptist Church of Vienna regularly held baptismal services and ceremonies from 1923 until 1952.*
- *This property now known as Carter’s Glen was the homestead of Charles Carter, grandson of a freed slave, and his descendants.*
- *This plaque was erected to commemorate this historic site on November 1995 by Historic Vienna, Inc., the First Baptist Church of Vienna, and John P. Sekas.”*
- Charles Carter is buried in the West End Cemetery.



****Stop 22 FORMER SITE OF THE LOG CABIN
(Demolished) - 307 Cabin Rd. SE***



- The cabin was built c.1937 by colored Vienna residents ***James Ellis and Fred Drew***.
- James and his wife Mabel lived in the cabin until they moved to West St. NW around 1940.
- The cabin was owned by ***Mrs. Katrina Hine Echols, daughter of Maj. O.E. Hine***. James Ellis had been a chauffeur for Mrs. Echols when she traveled to Washington, D. C. In her will, Mrs. Echols bequeathed to Mr. Ellis \$5,000 from her estate and a new Mercury automobile.
- The cabin was rented in 1945 by the Payne family, who had previously lived in Falls Church. After Mrs. Echols died in December of 1954, Mr. & Mrs. Payne purchased the cabin in 1955.
- The Paynes raised four daughters there. The last person to live in the cabin was their youngest ***daughter Norma***, who inherited it from her mother. She lived there for 72 years until she died in April, 2017.
- The cabin then went to her sister ***Joan Payne Hubbard***, and remained unoccupied.
- Joan and her husband decided to sell the cabin because the logs were rotted. Due to its condition, the cabin would fall apart if dismantled or moved.
- The property was sold. The cabin was demolished in August 2019, and replaced with a new house.