

From the Welcome Center parking lot, make a right on High Street, then a right onto Bowman Road.



1 215 Bowman Road
Cromer-Trumbo House

The Cromer-Trumbo House now contains the Mary Etter Collection, a part of the Rocktown History property.

This house, built about 1840, is one of a cluster of early brick homes built on the north end of town. The rear ell has a log core which pre-dates the brick portion. The small brick building across the alley served as a shoemaker's shop for many years.

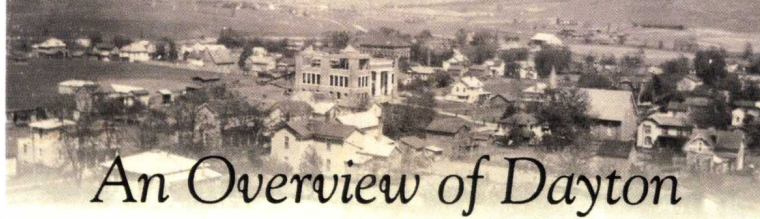
Across the meadow to the east is the Daniel Harrison House, a ca. 1749 stone structure that is open as a house museum during the summer months. This strongly built house possibly served as a place of refuge for residents of the area fleeing from marauding Native Americans during the 1750s and 1760s. It is a National and Virginia registered historic landmark.

Follow Bowman to College Street. Make a right onto College.



2 377 College Street
Boyers House

This mid 19th-century structure is one of the few surviving log houses in Dayton and certainly is the best preserved. It is perhaps typical of domestic buildings constructed in Dayton at that time.



An Overview of Dayton

Dayton is one of the most distinctive of several small towns that line the old Harrisonburg-Warm Springs Turnpike (Route 42). The initial settlement goes back to about 1745. Daniel Harrison, brother of Thomas Harrison (the founder of Harrisonburg), moved to this area and built his stone house about 1749. By the time of the Revolution, a road had been constructed through the Harrison property. Because of an increased demand for iron and the growth of Miller's Iron Works at Mossy Creek, several miles south of Harrison's house, the road was extended southward, increasing travel through the small community.

In 1828 Daniel Rife began selling lots along the then main road, now College Street. In 1831-32 the present Main Street was opened as part of the Harrisonburg-Warm Springs Turnpike. A post office, Rifessville, was established here in 1832. On March 6, 1833, an Act of the Virginia Legislature established the town of Dayton.

The town prospered, although it was seriously threatened by the Civil War. In 1878 a publishing firm, first established in Singers Glen by Joseph Funk, was moved to Dayton by Funk's grandsons, Ephraim Ruebush and Aldine Kieffer. They specialized in shaped-note music and by the turn of the century, were the largest music publishing house in Virginia. From 1875 until 1960, Shenandoah College and Conservatory of Music was located in Dayton. The school moved to Winchester, Virginia, in 1960 and is now Shenandoah University.

The surrounding countryside is a farming and poultry center with many Old Order Mennonites living in the area. New developments have sprung up on the western edge of Dayton, but the older part of town is largely unchanged. Some very picturesque and richly decorated buildings can be found through the quiet streets of Dayton.



3 363 College Street
Dr. Elmer U. Hoenshel House

"The Bird Cage House" was built in 1902 by Dr. Hoenshel, a Shenandoah College president. This picturesque cottage design is one of the finest examples of the Queen Anne style in Dayton. This house has a wrap-around porch, gingerbread trim, gables, and metal spires.



4 355 College Street
Shenandoah College
Administration Building

This 1912 Colonial Revival structure was built to serve not only as the College's business office, but also as classrooms and laboratories. It is currently an apartment building.



5 340 College Street
Howe Memorial Hall

Constructed in 1901, Howe Memorial Hall is the oldest college building still standing. It is an excellent example of the Italianate-Gothic style used for many of the turn-of-the-century collegiate buildings. Its construction includes heavy, castle-like cornerstones and slit windows.



6 325 College Street
Kieffer Memorial Building

This gymnasium and auditorium for the college was built in 1930 in the Colonial Revival style. Its construction includes dark brick and stucco cornices. The building has been converted into apartments.



7 315 College Street
James H. Ruebush House
(see #8 on next page)



8 305 College Street
Professor J. H. Hall House

These two Victorian homes erected by Shenandoah College faculty in 1904 and 1898, respectively, are very stylish structures built at the height of Dayton's fame as a music center. Professor Hall was also involved with the Ruebush-Kieffer Company for many years. James Ruebush served as head of the Music Department and later as president of Shenandoah College. Take special note of the stained glass windows, with a border star pattern, the rail on the roof ridges, and the stone window sills on the house at 315.

Continue down College Street to Mill Street. Make a left onto Mill Street and follow it to Main Street.



9 Mill & Main Streets
Cannon and Markers

On this corner sits a World War I German 15 cm artillery piece and three memorial plaques. The cannon was among the largest field pieces brought back from Europe by the United States government after World War I. It was restored in 1990, and a marker was dedicated to area veterans of all wars.

One of the plaques, a memorial for Lt. Col. Thomas R. Wildes of the 116th Ohio, is a rare marker in the South dedicated to a Union Army officer. In 1864, Lt. Meigs, one of Sheridan's engineers, was killed by a Confederate scout. As a reprisal, Sheridan ordered the burning of

Dayton. While citizens moved their household goods from their homes into the fields, Wildes sent a messenger to Sheridan pleading their cause. The rescinded order arrived just before the homes were torched.

Proceed south down Main Street toward the town.



10 50 Main Street
William H. Carpenter's
Cash & Trade

On the near side (north side) of the Post Office is one of Dayton's finest examples of a late 19th-century commercial building. This 1888 store building has a frame structure with a tall false front and elaborate cornice.



11 229 Main Street
Shepherd of the Valley
Lutheran Church

Formerly the Dayton United Brethren Church, this 1904 Gothic Revival church building is a major landmark on Dayton's commercial triangle. It was built after a 1903 fire burned the original church. As with many buildings in this area, Eutsler Brothers of Grottoes

were the contractors, and the bricks were made and laid by Shrum Brothers of Dayton. The church has a fine example of a circa 1928 four-manual Moller pipe organ.

Cross Main Street and continue south.



12 222&218 Main Street
Thomas House and
Samuel Shrum House

These two brick houses on the east side of Main Street are mid 19th-century examples of homes built in the center of town. They survived the early 20th-century fires that destroyed much property in this part of Dayton.



13 150 Main Street
Coffman House

This is the oldest house on the south end of Main Street, perhaps dating as early as 1820. It was initially part of the Coffman farm. In the early 20th Century, the house was owned and enlarged by the Shrum family, who operated a brickyard on adjoining lots. It is the only early 19th-century Dayton house with a full basement containing a kitchen.

Stay on Main Street and cross Mason Street.



14 Michael Hollar House

This 1906 house, built by Johnsr Burtner, is a large, excellent example of the Queen Anne-inspired style in Dayton. Among the fine details are its stained glass windows.

Return along the west side of Main Street



15 175 Main Street
Aldine Kieffer House

Dating to the 1860s, this brick structure with a richly decorated porch was owned by Aldine Kieffer, one of the founders of Ruebush-Kieffer Company and probably the best known among the local son writers and poets.



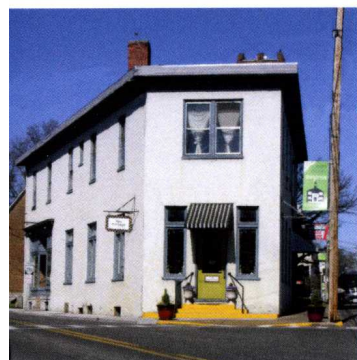
16 201 Main Street
George W. Hedrick House

This is one of the largest and most stylish Victorian houses in Dayton and dates to the 1870s. G. W. Hedrick, a prominent local businessman, owned a prosperous carriage factory in Dayton.



17 213 Main Street
Specialty Harness Company

This building was constructed about one year after the 1911 Dayton fire. It is an excellent example of early 20th-century factory architecture.



18 223 Main Street
Triangle Building

Built in 1910, the building once housed the Bank of Dayton, post office and telephone switchboard. It was damaged by fire in 1962. The original bank vault still stands in the store building.

Follow the left fork of the "Y" onto College Street.



19 255 College Street
Ruebush-Kieffer Company

The second of the Ruebush-Kieffer Company's printing offices in Dayton, this building has been altered very little since its construction. The Ruebush-Kieffer Company was one of the largest and most successful music printing houses in the South, specializing in the promotion and teaching of character or shape-note musical instruction.

Make a left onto Cherry Lane, continuing past three streets to Eastview Street. Make a right onto Eastview.



20 265 and 275 Eastview Street
Hedrick and Stauffer Houses

Along this street, one can see typical early 20th-century Dayton homes. The first, 265 Eastview, was built about 1891 by the developer of this area, George W. Hedrick, for his own use. (He was also responsible for 201 Main Street.) The Stauffer House at 275 Eastview Street dates to about 1910.

Proceed to the end of Eastview Street and turn right onto Mill Street.



21 290 Mill Street
Dayton Elementary and High School

Dayton elementary and high schools were located here from 1914-1956. It then functioned as Dayton Elementary School until 1989.

Charles M. Robinson of Richmond was the architect for this building. He is responsible for a number of schools in Harrisonburg and Rockingham County, including the first buildings for what is now James Madison University. This Colonial Revival structure used the Corinthian order with a very fine cornice. It was one of the earlier of the brick consolidated schoolhouses in Rockingham County. The exterior has been restored. It has most recently operated as Dayton Learning Center.



22 190 Mill Street

Johnson Burtner built this home in 1889. The corner lot shows to advantage his elaborate gable screens with arched sawn trim and wooden finials.

Make a left onto High Street and cross the street.



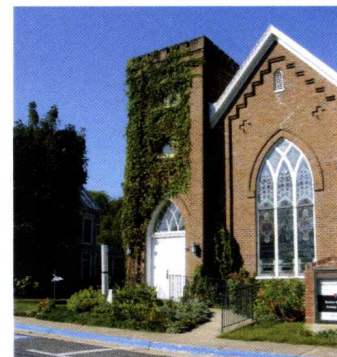
23 322 High Street
Johnson Burtner House

This 1895 Victorian Home was also the work of local contractor Johnson Burtner. It displays very fine gable decoration and woodwork on the elaborate front porch.



24 340 High Street
C. A. Funkhouser Home

With its bay windows and turret-style porch, this is one of the more elegant homes in Dayton. A large Palladian window pierces the front, and a variation of this Palladian motif, with leaded diamond panes, embellishes the south side.



25 363 High Street
Former Dayton Presbyterian Church

Built in 1902, with Gothic Revival detailing, this church has excellent stained glass windows. It is used as Valley Friends Meeting House. The Friends completely restored the stained glass windows.

Proceed down High Street and return to the Museum.

