

# OTHER ART

## **Great Road Mural (inside Post Office) 2 East Main Street**

This mural, entitled "Great Road," was one of many murals commissioned for post offices across the country by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Project Administration. This painting was completed in 1939 by John DeGroot and portrays the settlement of the Appalachian frontier. The post office itself is also listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Peace Sculpture 755 Roanoke Street**

This public memorial beam stands outside of the Montgomery County Government Center and was acquired and donated by the Rotary Club of Montgomery County. The beam was salvaged from the debris of Ground Zero in New York City. It now stands as a public memorial to remember the lives lost on September 11, 2001. Dick Gilbert, then-president of the club, wanted to "find something beautiful from the ashes."

## **Smiling Fish (graphic drawing below) 19 West Main Street**

This piece of artwork, created by Roanoke artist and welder Dave Wertz, was installed in the Downtown Historic District in 2017. "Smiling Fish" was commissioned by owners of the Old Town Mall to help beautify Downtown Christiansburg.

## **"Wings and Wheels" 100 East Main Street**

This artwork, created by artist Nikki Pynn, was inspired by local cyclists and their practice of pushing themselves uphill to experience the feeling of flying down the other side.

# ART ADVISORY BOARD

In 2020, the Town of Christiansburg enacted an Art Advisory Board. The purpose of which is to advise and make recommendations to Town Council regarding the promotion, support and value of public artwork as a means to beautify Christiansburg throughout the town and promote creative place-making within public spaces.

Have an idea for public art in Christiansburg? Share it with the Board at [publicart@christiansburg.org](mailto:publicart@christiansburg.org).



# CULTURE CROSSINGS

It doesn't take more than a casual stroll through Christiansburg to discover cultural gems. The Town has a rich history that serves as a colorful background for the region's growing arts scene. Allow this brochure to guide you through the Town's historic markers and buildings, as well as its public murals and art. This brochure is a way to explore and experience Christiansburg's history, art and culture for yourself.

## CONTACT



### **Montgomery Museum of Art and History**

300 South Pepper Street,  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

540-382-5644

[www.montgomerymuseum.org](http://www.montgomerymuseum.org)

Tuesday-Friday 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Saturday 1-4 p.m.

Closed Sunday-Monday

Admission is free.

Tour the Museum's exhibits virtually here:

<https://tinyurl.com/v3cgg5n>

### **Museum Market on Main**

100 West Main Street,  
Christiansburg, VA 24073

540-382-5644

[www.montgomerymuseum.org](http://www.montgomerymuseum.org)



**BLACKSBURG**  
**CHRISTIANSBURG**

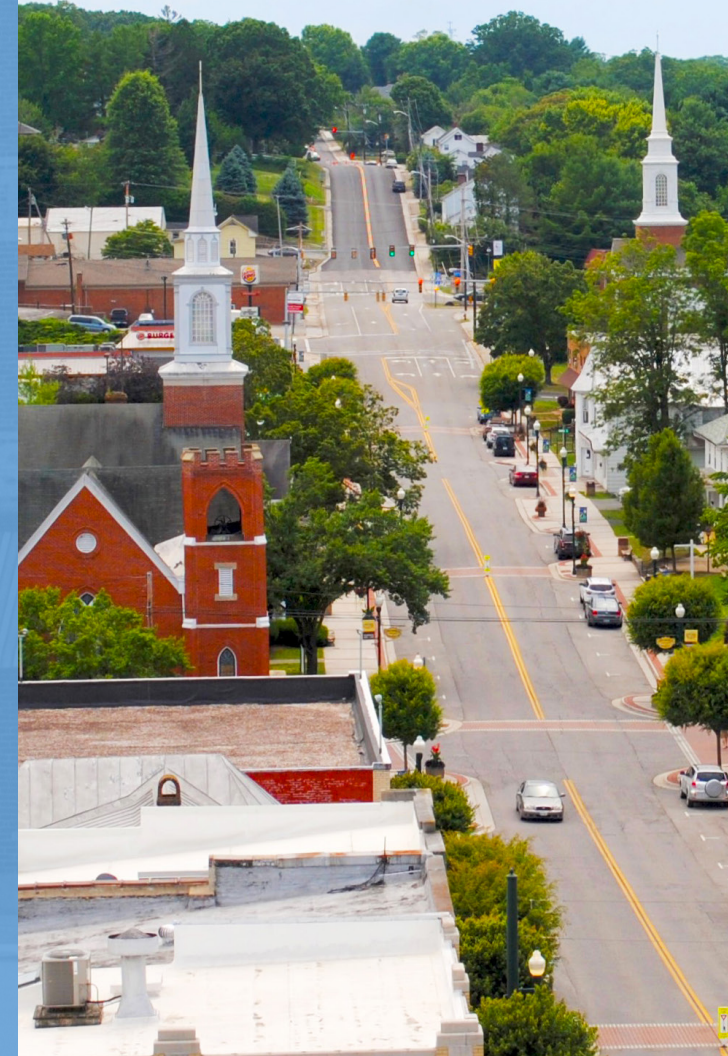
This brochure was produced by the Town of Christiansburg and co-sponsored by Montgomery County Regional Tourism with content contributions from the Montgomery Museum of Art and History. For more information, please contact the Montgomery Museum.



THE PLACE TO BE.  
**CHRISTIANSBURG VA**

# CULTURE CROSSINGS

The intersection of art and history.





# HISTORIC MARKERS

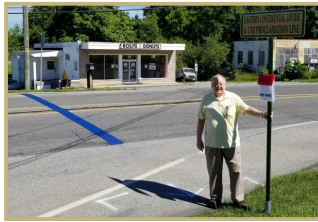
**1909 Courthouse Eagle Corner of East Main & South Franklin Streets**  
Located in Town Square, the metal eagle sculpture originally capped the clock tower dome of the 1909 Montgomery County Courthouse, which stood on this site until 1978.

**Constitution Oak Corner of East Main & North Franklin Streets**  
The Constitution Oak was one of forty-five saplings given to the delegates of Virginia's 1901-1902 Constitutional Convention. The 1902 constitution marked the resurgence of Democratic control in the state, replacing the Reconstruction-era constitution of 1870 and ushering in an era of Jim Crow segregation policies that shaped racial interactions until the 1960s. Montgomery County treasurer and Confederate veteran Arthur O. Sullivan planted the tree in 1902.

**Downtown Park 55 College Street NW**  
This park was dedicated in May 2018 to the memory of fallen Christiansburg police officers. Two marble memorials were erected to honor Officer Terry L. Griffith and Officer Scott A. Hylton, who were both killed in the line of duty.

**Eastern Continental Divide & 1763 Proclamation Line 1225 West Main Street**

The Eastern Continental Divide ridge line separates water flowing east to the Atlantic Ocean—via the Roanoke River basin—from water flowing west to the Gulf of Mexico—via the New, Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. In October 1763, by Royal Proclamation, King George III forbade Virginians to settle west of this line. In 2019, the line was marked in blue, a project spearheaded by Jim Glanville, pictured above.



**Lewis-McHenry Duel Corner of West Main & South Franklin Streets**

This public marker describes an 1808 duel, which is believed to be the first in the state in which rifles were used. Both Thomas Lewis and John McHenry died. The duel contributed to the passage of the Barbour Bill in 1810, which outlawed dueling in Virginia.

**Town Square Memorials Corner of West Main & South Franklin Streets**

In May 2016, the Montgomery County Public Safety Monument, located on the west corner of Town Square, was dedicated to fire, law enforcement and rescue personnel who lost their lives in the line of duty.

A memorial was erected in 1953 on the south corner of Town Square to honor soldiers who died during WWI, WWII and the Korean War. The names of soldiers from Montgomery County who died in the Vietnam War and the Middle East have since been added.

An obelisk recognizing Confederate soldiers from Montgomery County who died in the Civil War stands on the north corner of Town Square. The monument was erected in 1883 by the local chapter of the Ladies of the Memorial Association, which erected similar monuments across the South for fallen Confederate soldiers.

# STREET ART



**Cambria Depot Train (above) Cambria Street Railroad Crossing**  
Artist Katy Shepard painted this mural to represent a historic symbol of Christiansburg: a train traveling toward Cambria Depot.



**Covered Wagon (left) West Main Street sidewalk near Town Square**

Nikki Pynn, a local artist, painted the covered wagon as a tribute to the historic Great Road. Families migrated in colonial

days on the Great Wagon Road, which ran from Philadelphia to North Carolina. It roughly corresponds to modern day Route 11.

**Police Badge (below) 10 East Main Street**  
By artist Dave Mann, this mural at the Christiansburg Police Department is a symbol of unity and diversity in the community.



**Horse Pull Toy (above) West Main Street sidewalk near Town Square**

Nikki Pynn reimagined pre-existing features of the sidewalk to transform them into a classic toy.



**Flowers & Bees (right) 945 Cambria Street**

Katy Shepard painted images that pay tribute to the environment on a storm drain to remind people of the value and importance of sustainable practices. This mural shows the importance of bees for pollination.

**Farmers Market Robot (left) Hickok Street**

The Appalachian Power box on Hickok Street was painted by the Tuxedo Pandas: Team 4924, a program of the New River Robotics Association.



**Cambria Lilies (above) Corner of Cambria Street & Wilson Street**  
Artist Katy Shepard continued to put her environmental stamp on Cambria with these serene images of lilies on a storm drain.

# HISTORIC BUILDINGS

**Barnes-Surface Building 4 West Main Street**

This early 1900s building was once the home of the automobile and tractor dealership, Barnes-Surface Motor Company Ford.

**Cambria Freight Depot 630 Depot Street NE**

Located in the Cambria Historic District, this depot station was built in 1868 and is one of only two railroad depots built in Virginia during the Reconstruction Period that remains standing today. It replaced an earlier station that was burned by Union Soldiers during the Civil War. The depot served as a passenger station until 1906, when a new passenger station was built, but continued to operate as a freight station until the 1960s.

**Christiansburg Institute Edgar A. Long Building 140 Scattergood Drive**

Built in 1927 and named after a former principal, this building is the only remaining structure of the 14-building Christiansburg Institute campus. Christiansburg Institute grew from a small school for former enslaved people into a renowned high school for African Americans until its closure during school integration in 1966. The preservation, collection and interpretation of the school's century-long history is managed by a coalition consisting of Christiansburg Institute Inc., Christiansburg Institute Alumni Association and Old Hill School. A small museum is located on the property in a replica of a smokehouse built in 1988 by the Christiansburg Institute Alumni Association.

**Hans Meadows 1800 Depot Street NE**

John Craig, an early settler of the region, owned a considerable tract of land known as Hans Meadows. His son, James Craig, operated a tavern on this site. The surviving brick house was built in 1849; the rear section and hip roof were added in the early twentieth century. In 1792, James donated 175 acres to establish the Town of Christiansburg and build the first Montgomery County courthouse.

**Montgomery Museum of Art and History 300 South Pepper Street**

The museum houses rotating history and art exhibits, as well as an extensive archive of documents, genealogical information and photographs that the public can use to conduct research about the region and its historic families. The Montgomery Museum offers six off-site art galleries: Route 8 Donuts, Haga Law, Hometown Bank, Farmhouse, On Main Street/Great Road Events and the Christiansburg Public Library.

**The Oaks Victorian Inn 311 East Main Street**

This Queen Anne-style house was built for Major W. L. Pierce and his wife, Julia, in 1893. At the time of its construction, the house was considered to be "in the country." The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Old Hill School and Schaeffer Memorial Church 570 High Street**

Captain Charles S. Schaeffer, a Union soldier and Baptist minister, came to Christiansburg as an officer of the Freedmen's Bureau. He helped found the Memorial Church on High Street and the Old Hill School in 1867. The school began as a small gathering of twelve former enslaved people with a desire to get an education, but grew into a significant institution serving more than 200 students. The school later became known as the Christiansburg Institute. Both of these buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places.