

McDowell
Walking
Tour

- Pre Civil War
- 1870-1890
- 1900-1920
- Civil War Trail marker

CEMETERY HILL

TO STAUNTON

TO WILLIAMSVILLE

In 1832, McDowell was known as Sugar Tree Grove. There was a Presbyterian church, store, schoolhouse, sawmill, blacksmith shop, post office, and a few dwellings.

In 1838, the Staunton-to-Parkersburg Turnpike connected the town to the Shenandoah Valley in the east and the Ohio River Valley to the west.

Highland County was formed in 1847. There were 4,000 residents living in the county and McDowell was the only village.

In 1860, the name was changed to McDowell in honor of a Virginia Governor.

The town grew and prospered during the latter half of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th.

In the 1880's, the large landowners, the Hull and Sitlington families, divided their tracts and sold off small lots in the village.

In 1910, there was a 6 percent increase in population in McDowell. There were 26 families. Additional shops, larger school, the Methodist church, hotel, mill and tannery opened.



Historical Society File Photo

1 Peter Hull House—Sold to J.S. McNulty in 1873; however, a log portion of the house, circa 1840, probably predates the brick Hull houses (#3 & #8) and the Civil War.

2 Frank Lockridge Garage and Hamilton's Blacksmith Shop—1915 was sold in 1920 and was the site of Swadleys Garage. Obaugh Funeral Home was built on this site in 1966. It has been in operation since 1930 by four generations of the Obaugh family.

Courtesy of Georgianne Maloy Hull



3 The Mansion House—The name given because it was the first large brick house in McDowell. Built in 1851 for George Washington Hull, it was one of only a few Greek Revival brick houses in the county. It was used as a hospital after the Battle of McDowell. From 1886-1930, it was a hotel run by Mary Bradshaw. In 1932, it was purchased by Frank & Caroline Ralston and remained a private residence until the Highland Historical Society purchased it in 2001. Today, it is the Highland Historical Society and Museum.

4 G.W. Hull & Bros Store—ca.1840. George Washington Hull is believed to have built his store. Also known as Bradshaw's and then McNulty's, this shop operated as a general store and post office for many years. In 1986, it reopened as Sugar Tree Country Store in honor of the town's original name.

5 Peter Hull House—Built as early as 1820, this classic antebellum house is constructed of rock and finished in stucco. Originally the entrance faced onto the old Staunton-to-Parkersburg Turnpike. The portico facing US250 as added later, presumably to provide a grand entrance with access to the new road.

6 Samuel Wilson House—1863. It was built on property purchased from Felix Hull, who died without conveying a title. Mr. Hull's widow, seeing the house being built in her front yard, contested the purchase; however, a commissioner of the court ruled in favor of Wilson.

7 Washington Swoope Hull House—ca.1872 (son of George Washington Hull)

8 Felix Hull House—ca.1855 Italianate in architecture, this brick house was a very up-to-date style for its time. It featured a mirrored staircase (front and back staircases sharing the same hall). The rear half of the house could be closed off to allow slaves to work without being seen by visitors. The house was commandeered by the Union Army in April 1862, to be used as officers quarters. Following the Battle of McDowell, General Jackson moved his headquarters into the house.

9 Hansel Store Property—ca.1884

10 A. J. Jones House—A log house, built by G. W. Hull. In subsequent years, the house was completely enclosed by the Victorian additions. Chimneys on both ends were removed and replaced with bow windows. It has been speculated that the original log structure predates the brick mansions built by the Hull brothers.

11 Crab Run Bridge—ca.1896 One of the shortest spans in the area, this single truss bridge has the unusual feature of having been constructed from bent railroad rails. While under construction, a large quantity of ammunition was found in the water where the Union Army threw it away as they were leaving town.

12 J. W. Kelly House—ca.1882 Built on land formerly belonging to the Sitlingtons, the house was originally rock with a stucco finish. Whereas the land exchange took place in 1882, there is the possibility that another dwelling stood on this land prior to the Kelly purchase.

13 Dick Evick House—ca.1882 The land was purchased from the Sitlingtons in 1882; however the rear portion of the house possibly predates the Civil War. The front of the house, with its Victorian features, was added around 1890. The house served as a parsonage for the Church of the Brethren from 1942-1964.

14 Hansel House—Susan Hansel inherited the land from Robert Sitlington and made it her home in the 1880s.

15 L. L. Quidore House—ca.1882. There was possibly a log structure already on the property when it was purchased from the Sitlingtons and the frame house was built around the log house. This was the home of the well-known physician Dr. Leroy Quidore. When the Dr. died in 1885, he left his wife to raise five children on her own. She opened a millinery shop to support her family. Two of her daughters taught school in the McDowell area.



Courtesy of Kent Botkin

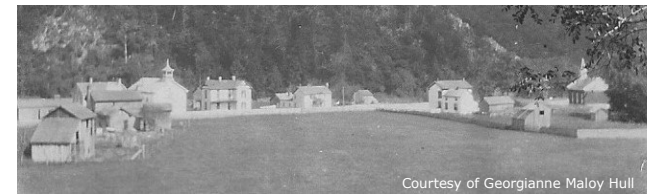
16 Hairs Economy Store—ca.1900. General merchandise store. Later used as Stone-wall Restaurant with apartments upstairs.

17 J. Vawter & E. Carichoff House—ca.1888. They opened the McDowell Boot and Shoe Factory. In 1914, the lot became the property of the McDowell Milling Company, presumably for a home for the mill owner.

18 John Hiner House—ca.1899. Queen Anne Victorian style house.

19 James Hiner House—ca.1882. This was originally a log home; possibly on the property when purchased by Hiner in 1882.

20 McDowell United Methodist Church—1875. As early as 1840, families gathered in homes and schools to hold Methodist services. The original church building was covered in an adobe material, but in 1956, when an educational addition was completed, three sides were covered in a brick veneer.



Courtesy of Georgianne Maloy Hull

21 Presbyterian Manse—ca.1883. Built on land purchased from the Sitlingtons.

22 Bradshaw House—ca.1883. The property was deeded by Edward Hull to the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal South church and parsonage property. The first parsonage was a 4-room log structure. In the early 1900's, a frame house was built around the original log house and later sold to R. Byron & Minnie Bradshaw.

23 Central Union Presbyterian—1822. The current building was erected in 1856 on land donated by the Sitlingtons. The church served as a hospital during the Battle of McDowell. It's pews were broken up and used as firewood. If you look closely, you will see initials and other marks left on the bricks by the soldiers.

24 McDowell Cemetery—Peter & Rachel Hull, Felix Hull, Robert Sitlington, his siblings and children are among the community members buried here. There are a few marked soldiers graves, and a marker acknowledging unmarked graves.

25 McDowell Mill—1911. Built by Ashby Hammer. Used until 1940, even after a flood washed out the dam and a tractor was used to power it. The building had served as a general store and movie theater before it was renovated as a private residence.

26 McDowell School—In 1822, the Presbyterian church was used as a school. By 1832, a separate building had been erected. In 1860, we see a log school building on this tract. Sometime prior to 1920 a frame building was constructed with an addition built in the 1930s. Unfortunately, this building burned down in 1948. When the current brick building was constructed, it was used only for primary and elementary school grades. The older students went to high school in Monterey.



Courtesy of Georgianne Maloy Hull