

## ***Small Historic Towns across America.***

as presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the fall and winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: [www.fpeusa.org](http://www.fpeusa.org)

### **Brief History of Abingdon, Virginia.**



Abingdon was founded in 1778 as an act of the Assembly of Virginia. It is located on a wilderness route called the Great road. Many pioneers traveled on this route on their way to settle the new American frontier.

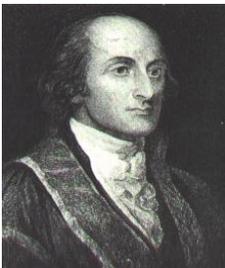
Two years after being established Abingdon helped our nation gain independence. They sent patriots to the Muster Grounds where they made the 300-mile march to Kings Mountain, South Carolina. This battle was the turning point for the Revolutionary War.

### **Location and Driving Directions from closest major U.S. Airport(s).**

The nearest airport to Abingdon is Tri-Cities Regional Airport (2525 Tennessee 75, Blountville, TN 37617).

- From the airport, Get on I-81 N from TN-357 N/Airport Pkwy (3.0 mi, 5 min).
- Follow I-81 N to US-58 ALT W/VA-75 N/Cummings St in Abingdon. Take exit 17 from I-81 N (29.3 mi, 26 min).
- Drive to Cummings St in Harrison (0.8 mi, 2 min)

### **Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time.**



John Jay (pictured) was the president of the United States in 1778. During this time France fought with the United States, against Britain in the Revolutionary war. Frances money, soldiers, and munitions helped with America's victory.



The flag in 1778

## Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.



The Tavern is the oldest building in Abingdon (built 1779). It has served as a tavern, bank, bakery, general store, cabinet shop, barber shop, private residence, post office, antique shop, and now a restaurant! It also served as a hospital for the wounded soldiers during the Civil War.

In 1984, the building was restored by Emmit F. Yearly (a local attorney). It is currently under the management of Max Hermann.

## City government.

Abingdon has a Mayor-Council government. The town council includes a mayor, vice-mayor, and three council members. There is no exact amount of time a mayor has served, looking at the list of former mayors some have served 2 years and some 4. Ed Morgan has been serving since 2010 to now.

## Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.

There is a long list of historic attractions you can find on Abingdon's website: <http://visitabingdonvirginia.com/>. Some events include: Virginia Highlands Festival & Abingdon Musical Experiences.

## Where can we stay if we visit Abingdon?



*"The Martha"* (pictured) was formerly the Martha Washington College, which opened in 1860. The college closed in 1932, but in 1935 the beautiful building re-opened as a hotel.

Abingdon has plenty of lodging options! Some include rental cabins and bed & breakfast inns. Other than this there is many motels & hotels to choose from!

## Why would I want to visit this historic small town.

I would want to visit Abingdon to see all the historic sites. Living in a bigger town it would be nice to get a taste of what it's like in a small time.

I would want to visit the Barter theatre. It seems like a beautiful place filled with rich culture. Someone that loves theatre and historic things would love Abingdon!



## Fun Facts.

- The town was given its original name of **Wolf Hills** by the legendary Daniel Boone.
- Abingdon is one of the oldest English-speaking settlements west of the Blue Ridge, founded in 1778.
- Some Hollywood luminaries have graced the stage at **Barter Theatre**, including Gregory Peck, Patricia Neal, Ernest Borgnine and many others. Visit the Barter Theatre lobby to see photos of their famous alumni.

(From <http://visitabingdonvirginia.com/>)

## Links you may wish to visit.

<http://www.abingdon-va.gov/>

<http://visitabingdonvirginia.com/>

YouTube Video: "Arts, Culture, Heritage- Abingdon, VA"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbHISANz3OU>

YouTube Video: "It's Always Play Time In Abingdon"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x00lcYUy96M>