

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



Above picture taken from fredericksburgva.gov

Brief History of Fredericksburg, Virginia.

The Virginia General Assembly established the town of Fredericksburg in 1728. It was named 'Frederick' after King George II's eldest son, Frederick, Prince of Wales. In downtown Fredericksburg, many streets are still named after members of the British royal family.

Many important figures in US history were residents of this town including, our first president George Washington, the revolutionary war generals George Weedon and Hugh Mercer, naval war hero John Paul Jones, and US president James Monroe.

Due to Fredericksburg's strategic location between Washington, DC (the union capital) and Richmond, Virginia (the confederate capital) there were four major Civil War battles fought in this area. The famous Civil War battle, named The Battle of Fredericksburg, was fought here on December 11-15, 1862.

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

Fredericksburg is located halfway between Richmond, VA and Washington, DC. Coming from either direction, take Interstate 95 to exit 130A (Route 3). Take Route 3 past Route 1, where Route 3 will turn into the Blue and Gray Pkwy. Turn left onto William St. and you will find yourself in the middle of downtown Fredericksburg.

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

The city of Fredericksburg was established prior the Revolutionary War, when there weren't any presidents. During 1728, King George II ruled Great Britain, and since Virginia was a royal colony, King George had power over the state. King George elected all governors, and from 1727 to 1749 Sir William Gooch served as mayor of Virginia. Fredericksburg was founded about 50 years before the American Revolution.

Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.

Alexander Spotswood founded an iron industry before Fredericksburg was officially established in 1728. The oldest building to have survived in Fredericksburg dates back to 1737. Mary Washington hospital and the University of Mary Washington are the biggest businesses in Fredericksburg today.

City government.

The City Council is composed of the Mayor, and six council members. Four council members are elected to represent the four wards, while the other two council members and the Mayor are elected at large. Both the Mayor and council serve four year staggered terms. Elections are held every two years in May.



Above picture taken from fredericksburgva.com

Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.

The city of Fredericksburg has been called, “the most historic city” by some. Ferry Farms was George Washington’s boyhood home, and can be visited and toured today. Although the home is not standing today, there are milestones to mark the believed position of the house.

There are also many Civil War parks and battlefields. Kids can run around and play in the fields, while teens and adult learn more about the war.



Above picture taken from achp.gov



Above picture is believed corners of George Washington's house.

There are many family friendly events year round in Fredericksburg. In March, there is a St. Patrick's Day parade. In December there is a Christmas parade. All year round there are picnics in the park, and art in the park events. There are often Civil War reenactments, and In 2014/15 Fredericksburg is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. For more information go to visitfred.com



Picture taken from shutterstock.com

Where can we stay if we visit Fredericksburg?

Courtyard Marriott

Discover one of the idyllic hotels in Fredericksburg, VA, Courtyard Fredericksburg Historic District. Our Fredericksburg, VA, hotel is conveniently located near an Amtrak station, Geico, Intuit, University of Mary Washington, Quantico, Dahlgren and cultural attractions. -marriott.com

Website: marriott.com

Why would I want to visit this historic small town.

I have always felt very close to Fredericksburg. My favorite thing to do is walk around downtown and browse all of the great shops. My favorite shop is a shop called Irish Eyes. The people in Fredericksburg are quite friendly. Near Fredericksburg the Rappahannock River is open to boats.

If you like history, then this is a great town to visit! There's something from every era to see but modern culture is still very available. The Civil War battlefields have great hiking trails right along the trenches that the armies dug out to defend themselves from the enemies. Once, my family and I went to see a Civil War reenactment. After watching the Confederate and Union soldiers charge at each other, we walked toward a street and saw the entire army of the Confederates marching down the road. A few turns later we saw Santa and his elf leaning up against a bright red car and stopped to take a picture with him. Where else are you going to see anything like that?

Links you may wish to visit.

[Fredericksburg, VA- fredericksburgva.gov](http://fredericksburgva.gov)

[Visit Fredericksburg- visitfred.com](http://visitfred.com)

[Trip Advisor- tripadvisor.com](http://tripadvisor.com)

[Civil War- nps.gov](http://nps.gov)