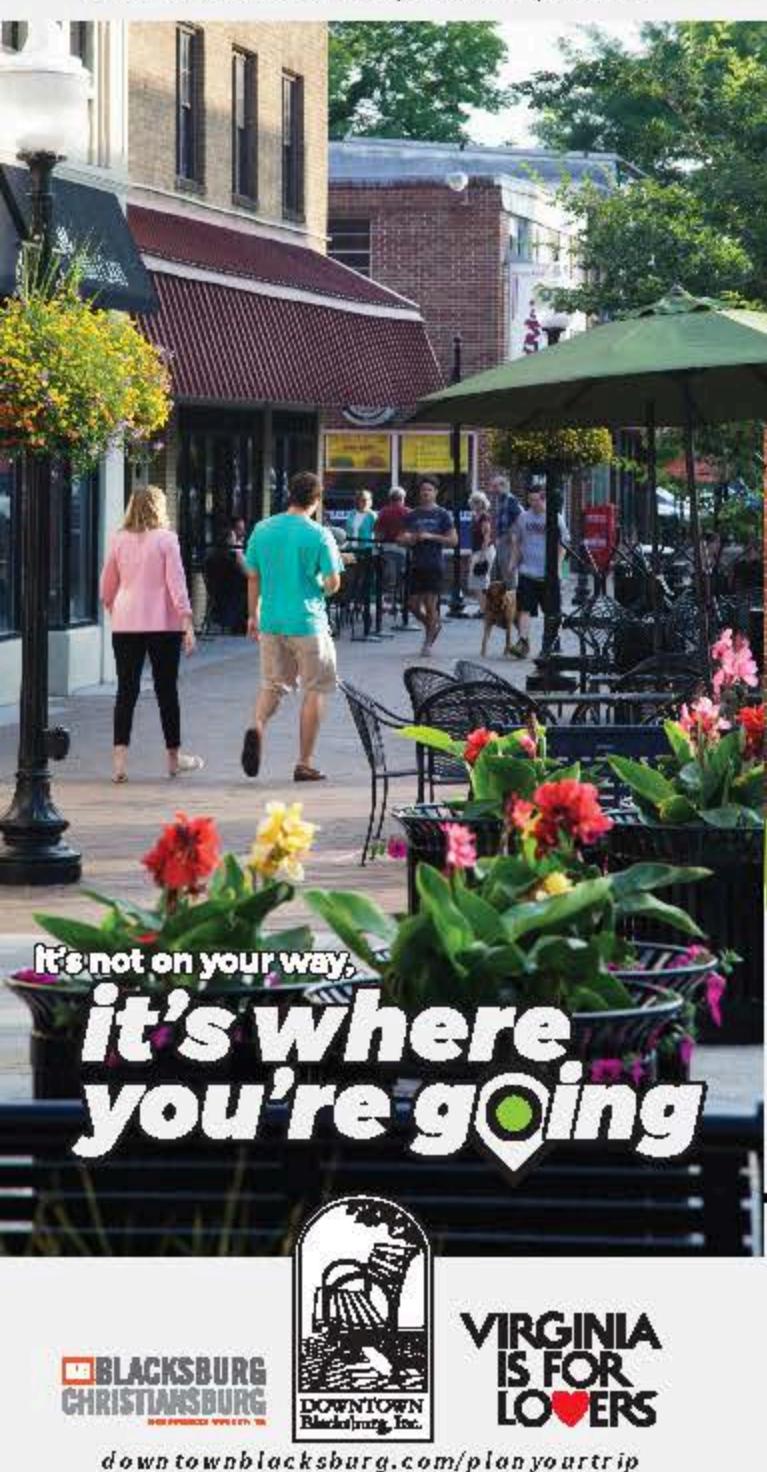


# shop. DOWNTOWN dine. BLACKSBURG stay.

A Visitor's Guide to Merchants, Restaurants, & Services



It's not on your way,

**it's where  
you're going**

**BLACKSBURG  
CHRISTIANSBURG**  
INDEPENDENT MUNICIPALITY



**VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
LOVERS**

[downtownblacksburg.com/plan-your-trip](http://downtownblacksburg.com/plan-your-trip)

The Blacksburg Farmers Market began with a simple structure in 1995. In late 2003, construction of the new Market Square Park was completed, creating an updated space for the vibrant Farmers Market and a gathering space for community activities.

Photo courtesy of Montgomery County Tourism



## OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CIRCA 1847 | 117 SOUTH MAIN STREET

The Presbyterians built a church on Main Street in 1847 for \$1500. It is the oldest surviving building on the street today and one of the few surviving buildings in Blacksburg constructed before the Civil War. William Thomas, owner of the Thomas-Conner House, donated the lot, laid the cornerstone, and contributed 'time and slaves' to the construction of the church. The building now houses a restaurant, Cabo Fish Taco.

## PRICE HOUSE AND GARDEN PARK

CIRCA 1852 | NORTH CORNER OF WHARTON AND LEE STREETS

James C. Kent built this log and frame house, then valued at \$300, in the mid-nineteenth century. When Nelson Price, a longtime resident of the home, passed away in 1985, it was donated to the Town of Blacksburg. It now serves as the Town's Nature Center.

## ST. LUKE AND ODD FELLOWS HALL

CIRCA 1805 | 202 GILBERT STREET

For over 60 years, this simple two-story structure served as a gathering space and provided support and services otherwise unavailable to African-Americans during segregation. In 2005, The Odd Fellows Hall was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The museum exhibit is free and open to the public and offers a variety of events throughout the year.

## THOMAS CONNER HOUSE

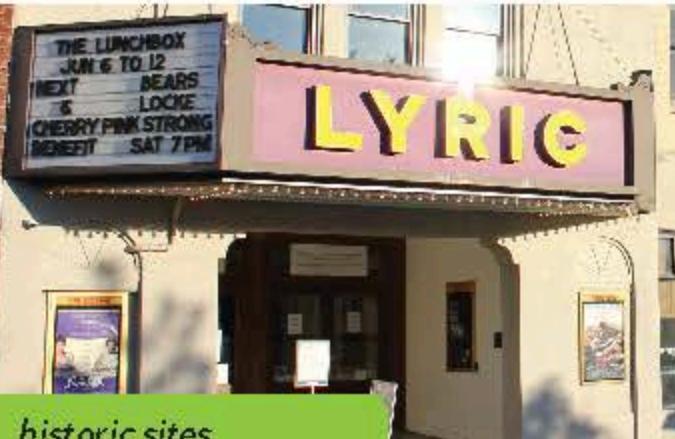
CIRCA 1879 | 104 DRAPER ROAD

Built by William Howard Thomas in the late nineteenth century, the home features unique details such as the semicircular arches above the windows. The home is owned by the Town of Blacksburg and leased to Virginia Tech.

## the heart of blacksburg

Rich in history, the community treasures several properties that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and located in the original sixteen blocks of the incorporated town. Among them are nine historic properties, which the Town of Blacksburg has purchased and restored to public use. Historic walking tours are available through the Blacksburg Museum. [www.blacksburg.gov/museum](http://www.blacksburg.gov/museum)

The town and university are also host to numerous events and organizations which celebrate the rich Appalachian folk tradition of the region. The town has been a desirable destination since 1872, when William Addison Caldwell hiked nearly 28 miles along Sinking Creek in Craig County to become the first student to enroll in Blacksburg's new agricultural and mechanical college.



## historic sites

### THE ALEXANDER BLACK HOUSE & CULTURAL CENTER

204 DRAPER ROAD SW | 540-443-1600

The house was built in 1897, remodeling began February 2013 and the Grand Opening was August 6, 2014. Visitors will enjoy the welcoming atmosphere and elegant surroundings of this historic venue; thought-provoking exhibitions of art and history; meeting and special event accommodations; lovely gardens; and cultural heritage programs and events for all ages and interests.

### THE ARMORY

CIRCA 1936 | 201 DRAPER ROAD NW

Built as a Federal Works Progress Administration or WPA project with additional money from the town and the state. In addition to its function as an armory, the structure was used as an additional building for the High School located behind the Armory. It is now home to the School of Visual Arts' main office, gallery, and classrooms for its foundations and drawing programs.

## a special place—for over 200 years

Founded in 1798 at the fortunate confluence of three mountain springs, Blacksburg has grown into the largest town in Virginia. Home to Virginia Tech, it fosters world-class talents, enjoying state-of-the-art technology and services in a setting of legendary beauty. After 200 years, the health-giving waters that favored its founding still course through the town of Blacksburg, and the promise which drew early settlers to this mountain idyll still calls to modern adventurers. A visit to the historic tree-lined downtown offers opportunities to buy gourmet gadgets, unique and sweatshop-free clothing, or locally crafted pottery and jewelry. There's gear for skateboarding, mountain biking, game day, or a night on the town—all within walking distance. This is downtown the way it was meant to be.



The Lyric Theatre, established in the early 1900s and renovated in 1998, now operates as a non-profit movie theatre and community center and is listed on the Virginia and National Registers of Historic Places as a part of the Downtown Blacksburg Historic District.

### FIRST CHURCH OF GOD AND PARSONAGE

CIRCA 1904 | 115 ROANOKE STREET

Adorned by five beautiful Tiffany stained glass windows, this building was erected as a Presbyterian Church. Next to the church is a parsonage dating to 1907.

### FIVE CHIMNEYS

CIRCA 1852 | CORNER OF WASHINGTON ST AND DRAPER RD.

The Queen Anne porch is distinctive to the home's original construction in 1852. It underwent numerous renovations in the 1980s. The Town of Blacksburg acquired the property in 1987. It now serves as the Town's Community Relations Office, including WTOB Channel 2, community access television, and the administrative office of the Blacksburg Museum. Visitors are welcome to stop in to view the interior or enjoy the large front yard.

## mission statement

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. (DBI) is an association of merchants, property owners, and downtown advocates whose mission is to sustain a dynamic, vital, and diverse community through marketing, events, economic development, and leadership.

## annual events

Each year, DBI hosts numerous downtown events. All proceeds are reinvested right back into the community. DBI has provided funding for downtown park benches, brick pavers, street lamps, the Farmers Market, the Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg's Hand-in-Hand Playground, and more.

## senior discount mondays

Come downtown to enjoy the 10am matinee at the Lyric Theatre with FREE popcorn, then grab some lunch or do a little shopping to enjoy all of these wonderful discounts. 4-hour parking is available in the Progress Street Parking Lot and Kent Square Parking Garage.

## summer solstice festival

Welcome summer with midway games, dog parade, 5k race, live entertainment, beer garden, and food.

## art on the breakfast at the market

JULY, THIRD SATURDAY Juried art show and sidewalk exposition of unique works of art. Breakfast offered by local restaurants at the show.

## steppin' out

AUGUST, FIRST FRIDAY AND SATURDAY A Blacksburg tradition! More than 180 craft vendors, three stages of live entertainment, great festival food, community connection, and more.

## halloween happenings

OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup> Downtown trick-or-treating, special entertainment, costume contest, and other Halloween activities for the young and the young at heart.

## winter lights & tuba christmas

DECEMBER, FIRST FRIDAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH TOWN OF BLACKSBURG HOLIDAY PARADE Celebrate the season—carolers, holiday crafts, hot cider and hot chocolate, visits with Santa, and more.

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. also partners with

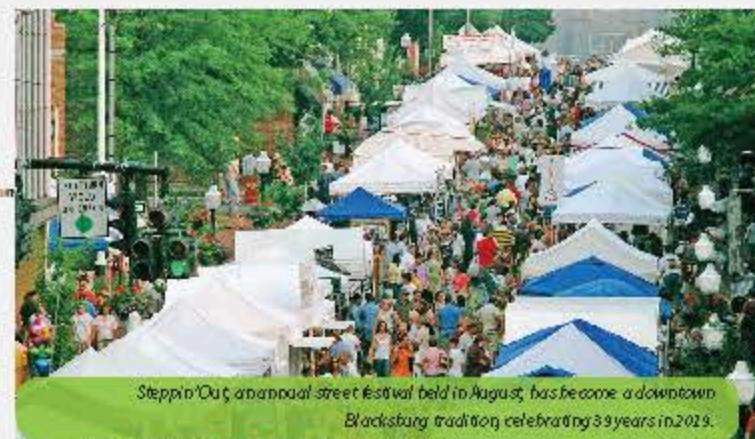
other groups during the year for events such as the International Street Fair, Pretty in Pink Ladies' Night, and other activities promoting the downtown community. In addition, DBI sponsors weekly and monthly retail promotions, including Senior Discount Mondays and Art Walks.



"16 Frogs," a public art, environmental and history project!

## regional arts & culture district

Recognized by the Commonwealth as an "arts & culture district," Blacksburg's downtown is home to several public and private galleries, the Lyric Theatre and the Moss Arts Center. It is also adjacent to the Virginia Tech Arts Initiative, which includes several galleries, an experimental theatre, and public arts initiatives.



Steppin' Out, an annual street festival held in August, has become a downtown Blacksburg tradition, celebrating 33 years in 2019.

