

# Amherst

## VIRGINIA

# The Town 100 Years Young!

# 1910 – 2010

## A HISTORY OF THE AMHERST TOWN SEAL

In the middle part of the decade that began in 1960, Walter Creau, a commercial artist from Cleveland, Ohio, was visiting his wife's uncle James Bigby Davis, the Clerk for the Town of Amherst. Creau became responsible for creating an appropriate design for a seal for the Town of Amherst.



Creau's original idea for a theme was the "sleeping giant" (the Blue Ridge Mountain ridgeline west of Amherst), but this was rejected since it represented an area outside the corporate limits of the Town.

According to legend, while a group was in the Clerk's office in the Town Hall engaged in conversation on the topics of the day, and looking eastward along E. Court Street, it was suggested that the Amherst courthouse be used as a model for the official seal for the Town. During that era, a large letter "A" was attached to a radio antenna tower beside the telephone company building that was adjacent to the courthouse. This internally illuminated "A" was used as a visual navigation beacon by aircraft pilots.

Approximately six months later Creau returned to the Town and delivered a framed original of a proposed Town seal. His proposal incorporated the courthouse, the "A" and the Town's date of incorporation. Creau's proposal was adopted soon thereafter and is now considered the official seal of the Town of Amherst.

The original and official seal is kept by the Town Clerk on the wall of the Council Chambers in the Town Hall. It is also included in the Town Code Section 1-9.

## Centennial Art Meters WalkingGuide



## AMHERST ARTMETERS PROJECT

In the spring of 2008 the Town of Amherst faced a quandary: the penny parking meters located on the downtown streets were no longer useable, yet their bases were needed as holders for holiday flags.

Envisioned by a group of local citizens, the ArtMeters project offered a solution to this problem. It was suggested that local artists transform the outdated meters into a gallery of sidewalk art. The ArtMeters project was approved by the Amherst Town Council as an exciting and unique way to draw visitors, shoppers and diners to downtown Amherst. Businesses, organizations, non-profits, schools and individuals joined together in a creative community project to preserve an important and diminishing feature of the American small town: its unique personality.

The first group of ArtMeters whose theme is *What I Love About Amherst* was welcomed at an unveiling ceremony on July 8, 2009. Building on this success and reflecting the important centennial celebration of 2010, the theme of the second round of meters is *Glimpses of Amherst: the First 100 Years*. Unveiled during the centennial street fair held on June 12, 2010, the meters again are a favorite focal point for townspeople and visitors alike.

Thank you for visiting Amherst and for enjoying our walking tour of 38 very special meters.

## INTRO TO THE TOWN OF AMHERST

The community that came to be the Town of Amherst (population of 2,251 per the 2000 census) was known as "The Oaks" when it formed around a stage station on the Charlottesville-Lynchburg route. Upon the dividing of Nelson County from Amherst County in 1807, the village became the seat of Amherst County's government. At the same time, the community's name was changed to Amherst in honor of Lord Jeffery Amherst, a British Major-General who had been the hero of the Battle of Ticonderoga during the French and Indian War and who later served as the Governor-In-Chief of the Colony of Virginia. The original Amherst County Courthouse, built in 1809 on two acres of land purchased "from a Mr. Coleman for ten shillings", was torn down in 1872 to make room for the present courthouse built "from homemade brick of Amherst County clay".



**Sweet Briar College** - founded in 1901, architect, Ralph Cram, designed this lovely campus. Its buildings nestle comfortably on the 3000-acre property. A wide-ranging liberal arts curriculum strong in the sciences, arts and humanities, the college boasts a nationally acclaimed equestrian program. The college is located two miles south of Amherst on Rt. 29.



**The Episcopal Thrift Shop** - OK... we just love our thrift shop. Proceeds from donated goods totaling over \$15,000 annually go to assist those in need, civic projects and non-profit organizations. 9am-2pm F-S. **Rebec Vineyard** - located about four miles north of Amherst on Rt. 29, the vineyard features a tasting room open daily from 10-5pm and plenty of local wines for purchase. Meet Kaney, vintner. The vineyard's Garlic Festival is held the second weekend in October. There is a Sorghum Festival held the first weekend of October at the Clifford Ruritan Club and an Apple Festival held at the Amherst High School just south of town, the third weekend. Together they draw thousands of visitors each fall.

**The Amherst Museum** - is a treasure house of history and local lore. It houses books, genealogy, displays of local art and artifacts. It features a children's discovery room with interactive displays. Don't miss the Tyler log schoolhouse. 9am-noon, 1-5pm T-S.

**The Amherst Milling Company** - owned by the Wydner family since 1940, this circa 1813 mill is a step back in time! The miller is a wonderful host and his inventory is extensive. Don't miss the rabbits! Going south on Main Street, turn left at the traffic light; take the right fork on Depot Street. 8am-5pm M-S.

## FAVORITE THINGS TO DO AROUND AMHERST

**The Traffic Circle** - Barely saved from the bulldozer, this old fashioned roundabout at the intersection of Rt 60 and Business Rt 29 is a delight for all passersby. Envisioned, funded and installed by The Village Garden Club, the handsome three-tier fountain was dedicated to the Town in 2006. The seasonal flower beds are an ever-changing palette of color.

**The Chamber of Commerce** - Located at the rear entrance of the Amherst Museum, the chamber is a wonderful resource for attractions throughout the area. Stop there for more visitor ideas! 9-2pm T-Th. 9am-noon Friday.



East Court St.

2nd St.

# ArtMeters Walking Map

21 20 19 18 17 16 15

31  
30  
29  
28  
27

26 25 24 23 22

Goodwin St.

35  
34  
33  
32

36  
37  
38

14 13 12 11 10

South Main St.

1

2 3 4

5

6

7

8

9

West Court St.



1

Sponsor: Sweet Briar College  
Artist: Brooke Irwin



2

Sponsor: Massage Therapy of Amherst  
Artist: Chatham Monk



3

Sponsor: Mary Snow Realty  
Artist: Suny Monk



4

Sponsor: Dr. Sally J. Mock  
Artist: C. Janet Weimer



5

Sponsor: Vintage on Main  
Artist: Charlene Ryan



6

Sponsor: Sweet Briar College  
Artist: Chatham Monk



7

Sponsors: Del. Ben Cline,  
Suzanne Bunch, Ron Henderson,  
Judy McCartney, Steve Martin  
Artist: Marion Freerks



8

Sponsor: Clifford Ruritan Club  
Artist: Patricia Kidd



9

Sponsor: Amherst Glebe Arts Response  
Artist: Jason Parks



10

Sponsor: Vintage on Main  
Artist: Marianne Mathis-Hicks



11

Sponsor: Amherst Physical Therapy  
Artist: Terrie Linton



12

Sponsor: Rebec Vineyard  
Artist: Molly Brown



13

Sponsor: Village Garden Club  
Artist: Marjorie Steadman



14

Sponsor: Jacob & Mary Bailey  
Artist: William England



15

Sponsor: Boost Salon  
Artist: Terrie Linton



16

Sponsor: Laurel Stone Vet Hospital  
Artist: William England



17

Sponsor: Virginia Monk  
Artist: Charlene Ryan



18

Sponsor: Chamber of Commerce  
Artist: Patrick Knowles



19

Sponsor: Bank of the James  
Artist: Craig Pleasants



20

Sponsor: Massie Insurance Agency  
Artist: Angela Bennett



21

Sponsor: First National Bank  
Artist: Pat Echols Saunders



22

Sponsor: Friends of Amherst  
Artist: Jason Parks



23

Sponsor: VCCA  
Artist: Suny Monk



24

Sponsor: Coleman-Mays Building  
Artist: Terrie Linton



25

Sponsor: Joe Malloy & John Jaffe  
Artist: Riverview Artists



26

Sponsor: Whitehall Framing, LLC  
Artist: Patrick Knowles



27

Sponsor: Virginia Monk  
Artist: Marjorie Steadman



28

Sponsor: Dr. Sally Mock  
Artist: C. Janet Weimer



29

Sponsor: Friends of Amherst  
Artist: J Luis Lozano



30

Sponsor: Rebec Vineyard  
Artist: J Luis Lozano



31

Sponsor: Bank of the James  
Artist: J Luis Lozano



32

Sponsor: Elkwood  
Artist: Terrie Linton



33

Sponsor: Amherst Physical Therapy  
Artist: William England



34

Sponsor: Laurel Stone Vet Hospital  
Artist: Luther Shimp



35

Sponsor: Sweet Briar College  
Artist: William England



36

Sponsor: First National Bank  
Artist: Pat Echols Saunders



37

Sponsor: Windows & More  
Artist: Terrie Linton



38

Sponsor: Sundside Farm & Vineyard  
Artist: Terrie Linton

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