



In honor of Virginia Tech's 150th celebration, The Council on Virginia Tech History created seven historical markers that examine the shared histories of the university and the surrounding lands and peoples. These historical markers celebrate and acknowledge the history while creating an opportunity to embrace shared values now and into the future.

1 WEST CAMPUS DR.

*Native Stewardship
The Monacan Peoples*

For thousands of years, Indigenous people lived in and migrated throughout the area that we now call the New River Valley. This region has long been stewarded by Eastern Siouan people, who called themselves, "Yesa" and identified with the Monacan Alliance.



2 SOLITUDE

*Enslaved Peoples and the Prestons
From Plantation to College Campus*

Solitude, 1801, as a one-room log structure, later became the center of the Preston property and was expanded to its current configuration. This included dwellings for enslaved people, such as the surviving example - the Fraction Family House, named to honor all who had been enslaved. In 1872, the new Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (now Virginia Tech) purchased Solitude plantation. The house served many purposes over the next several years before efforts began the 1980s to revitalize the entire site.



3 MOSS ARTS CENTER

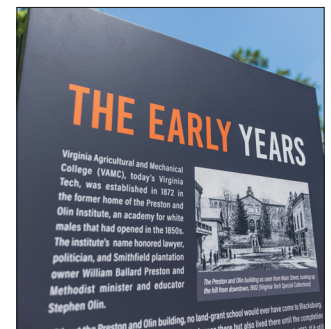
*People and Place
Land-Grant College*

Virginia Tech is situated on land that was long the domain of the Monacan-Tutelo peoples. As European settlements expanded onto Indigenous lands, it forced out the Native peoples. In 1798, William Black carved 38 acres from his property to form the village of Blacksburg, and the original 16 blocks. Area leaders supported the establishment of the Olin and Preston Institute in the 1850s which would later transition to Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College as part of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act.

4 HENDERSON LAWN

*The Early Years
Campus Over Time*

Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (VAMC), today's Virginia Tech, was established in 1872 in the former home of the Preston and Olin Institute, without which no land-grant school would ever have come to Blacksburg.



5 LIBRARY PLAZA

*Women's History
Women on Campus*

The first female students were permitted to enroll at Virginia Tech beginning in 1921. Yet women - Black and white - had worked at the college since its founding. In the early days, women were excluded from key aspects of campus life, so they formed their own clubs, yearbook, and athletic teams.

(cont. on back)

6 EGGLESTON QUAD

Student Diversity

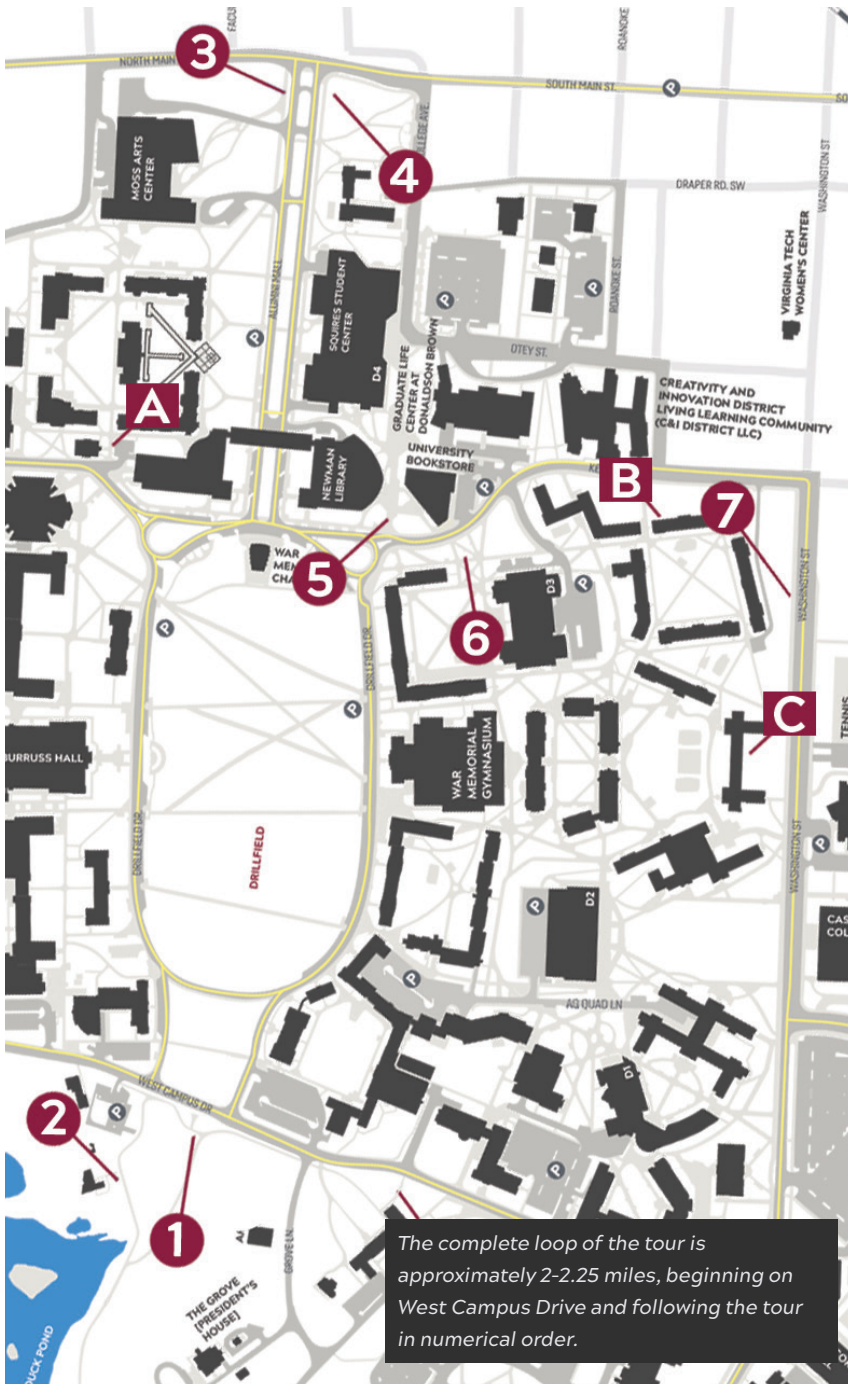
For many years, Virginia Tech students were all white, all male, and all cadets, and they were mostly Virginia residents and Protestant Christians. By the 1920s, students had come from many states and nations, white women were enrolling, and men could attend as civilians in their third and fourth years. Some students came from Asia, but Black and Native people were barred until decades later.

7 WASHINGTON ST.

Black History

Black Community

From the beginning, Black workers contributed to the well-being of Virginia Tech students and faculty, supporting a college that they and their children were barred from attending before the 1950s. In 1953, Irving Peddrew enrolled at Virginia Tech. The eight Black students of the 1950s all lived at the Clay Street home of an elderly Black couple, Janie and William Hoge, who helped introduce them to the wider Black community.



MAP OF MARKER LOCATIONS

ADDITIONAL CAMPUS MARKERS

A VAUGHN-OLIVER PLAZA

Named, in 2021, after Andrew Oliver and his wife Fannie Vaughn Oliver to honor and recognize the first Black employee of Virginia Tech. The tribute is located adjacent to the former Blacksburg neighborhood of New Town (1880-1960), which was home to many of the Black men and women who worked at the university.

B WHITEHURST HALL

Renamed in 2020 after James Leslie Whitehurst, who fought to remove restrictions on Black students at Virginia Tech. He became the first Black student to room and eat on campus and the first to attend the Ring Dance. Later, Whitehurst was appointed the first African American on the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors.

C HOGE HALL

Renamed in 2020 after Janie and William Hoge, who opened their home to Virginia Tech's first eight Black students who were excluded from living on campus. The couple provided a home, sanctuary, and guidance to the young trailblazers.

This tour was created by the Council on Virginia Tech History as part of the university's 150th anniversary.

