

Clifton Historic Homes Tour, May 6, 2026

30. Southern Railway Caboose

Acquired from Southern Railway, the caboose stands in the exact spot of the original railroad station when Clifton was originally known as Deveraux Station.

Built in 1868 it served the community until 1958 when it was demolished. Passenger and freight trains provided mail, dairy, and lumber services through the years.

32. Clifton Hotel, c. 1869

Built in 1859 by Mr. H. G. Otis and rented as a hotel and summer boarding house during the late 1800's and early 1900's when Clifton was a resort known for its curative "Paradise Springs" mineral waters. This feature is thought to have attracted US Presidents Rutherford Hayes, Teddy Roosevelt, and Ulysses Grant.

Capacity of guests in 1881 was listed at 50 with price of board per week \$7 and per month \$27.

31. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 1870

The church was founded in 1870 on land acquired from the Harris family by Harrison G. and Mary Otis. Otis built the Clifton Hotel on the front portion of the plot but reserved the back for the Church. This town landmark features stained glass windows, oak pews and bas-relief wooden wall plaques with Biblical scenes, hand carved by longtime resident General Willard Webb in 1965 (see Webb Sanctuary).

39. Acacia Lodge, 1900

George P Wright, in 1875, helped to establish Acacia Lodge No. 16. Originally built as a mill by Tom Graham, Acacia bought it in 1903 for \$250. In 1920, it was moved to its current location for \$130. The cornerstones of the Clifton Baptist Church (1910) and the Clifton School (1912) were laid by members of The Acacia Lodge.

40. Pink House c. 1905

The Ambler family, who maintained a farm outside of town, where they grew various crops built this home. In the 1960's, a business located here painted the building pink. It has been known by locals ever since as the *Pink House*. The house was repainted yellow in the late 1990's.

41. Barn

When hearing *Gold Fever*, California and Alaska might come to mind first, but, in 1932, Mert McCain had his own case of *gold fever*. The location was ideal; accessible to both the railroad and the gold ore bed at Union Mills. McCain, an inventor was certain his machinery could yield large quantities of gold ore. Along the way investors from New York were invited to the enterprise believing riches could be discovered. During their visit a steam traction engine, the Frick "Eclipse" from 1869 would be churning away powering the plant. The swindle worked for several years. The Clifton Gold Mine, having been incorporated in 1932 lost its charter in 1938, due to the failure to pay the annual registration fee. The search for gold had come to an end.

29. Buckley Store

Built in 1900, with the back addition added in 1910, this perfect example of rural Victorian farm style architecture was the site of the original general store and Clifton Post Office. Boasting to offer "everything from a pin to a plow", the store was a major factor for encouraging the future growth of the town. Currently, the building houses a fine restaurant, Villagios and the Wine Shop.

28. Ayre Square

Owned by Jane Ayre Lyon, this pretty square features the large pine tree that residents decorate, light and sing carols around to open the December holiday season. The festivities include roasting marshmallows on an open fire for the kiddes and grown kiddes. During the year other events are celebrated in this square by the community. The festivities include a patriotic gathering of

song and speech for the 4th of July, and a fall extravaganza known as Clifton Day.

22. Payne House, 1884

This elegant Carpenter Gothic home was built by wealthy lumber merchant Melvin Payne, whose signature or benchmark, in the shape of a tree and cross, is carved into the mantel of the front parlor fireplace.

21. General Mercantile, 1884

Originally built as a general store, this structure has also been used as a saloon, church, pool hall, dry goods, bakery, grocery store, bakery and cabinet shop. In 1926 an addition was built for a barbershop. Also served as a B&B in the 80 's.

36. Wright House, c. 1941

Not only does the unique stone character of this house set it apart from the rest of the homes, but it was supposedly built by a gangster. Stone was brought in from a nearby quarry. It is the only stone house in the town and the first to have a full indoor bathroom

37. Kincheloe House, c. 1900

George Kincheloe worked as a huckster, peddling his wares to the Washington market from Fairfax and Prince William counties. When he was struck by a train at Clifton crossing he was left disabled and his wife, known as *Aunt Inez*, took in Clifton teachers as boarders. Every Friday night, 5 cent buckets of beer were brought to the thirsty schoolteachers living there.

18. Buckhill, 1902

This house is renowned as the former residence of Oscar Woody. An international mail clerk, he was on duty on the "Titanic" maiden voyage when she went down, all hands, in' 1914~

38. Miller House, c. 1907

Built by Miller, this Victorian home has been home to several Clifton families including the Ford and Detwiler. The shed located on the adjacent lot served as a root cellar for storage and fermenting of *spirits* from fruits and

vegetables grown on the property. Apple, pear and cherry trees are still present on the property.

17. Lucy Virginia Davis Buckley House

Built in 1913, for Lucy Virginia Davis Buckley, who lived here with her youngest daughter until 1923. It has been the home of two of Clifton's Mayors. Clifton's third elementary school (1895-1912) and first high school (1909 - 1912) were located in this yard.

15. Primitive Baptist Church, 1871

This simple structure represents a significant reminder of the long-standing history of Black Americans in Fairfax County. In 1863, during the Civil War, William Beckwith died and left 200 acres of property to his slaves, whom he freed in his will.

In 1869, the former slaves and their children formed the Cub Run Primitive Baptist Church Association and erected the church. Inside is a simple altar, handmade pews, and pot-bellied stove, all original to the church.

11. Cross House, 1886

The green space of the bordering town park extends into the lawn and gardens of this residence built by James Cross. Not only Clifton's first undertaker, but he was also wheelwright, wagon builder, blacksmith, magistrate and member of the first town council.

**** Adams House, 1905**

Long Distance Telephone service reached Clifton in 1910 connecting the town to Wahington, Alexandria, Fairfax, and Loudan County. A central switchboard was installed in this house and operated by Adam's Daughter Effie

12. Webb Sanctuary

This pristine twenty-acre parcel of land was the much beloved home of more than fifty years to the Webb family. In 1998, Willard Webb Jr. donated the land as a refuge to the Audubon Naturalist Society in honor of his mother Margaret. The Naturalist Society conducts classes, and has constructed a marked trail, which is open to all until dark.

34. The Buckley House, c. 1896

Built by Robert R. Buckley the first mayor of Clifton in 1902 as a wedding gift for his bride, Anna (Bess) Detwiler. and owner of the Buckley General store, now Villagios Restaurant. Jeff Arch who wrote the screen play for *Sleepless in Seattle* lived here in the 1990's.

35. Kidwell House, c. 1890

A.J. Kidwell, blacksmith. He was excellent at his profession and often made a profit by purchasing, training and selling horses. It was said that a horse's value increased if it had been cared for by Clifton's blacksmith.

10. Harris House, 1850

One of the two oldest houses in Clifton, this structure originally featured a unique "sick room" with an outside entrance, providing a quiet and separate area for ill and quarantined patients. This was the home of Wayne Nickum who, as a 50-year resident of Clifton, also served on our Town Council for 30 years as well as mayor for 10 years. We recognized his service as an elected official and tireless volunteer by dedicating our Town Hall in his honor.

09. Clifton Baptist Church, 1876

In 1877, a one-room church sat on this site with land obtained from the Harris family. Holding services in his home, George W Tillet originally founded the church in 1875 with members of the Mosby Rangers (43rd Battalion Virginia Cavalry) during the Civil War.

Rebuilt after a fire, a cornerstone laid by the Masonic Lodge dates the church November 24, 1910.

With its gabled roof, high spired steeple, and gothic arched windows, the Clifton Baptist Church is a proud and noble town landmark.

08. Fulmer House, 1910

J.M. Fulmer was known as the strong man of the town who supposedly yoked himself up with his ox, and then complained that the animal was not keeping up with him.

07. Earl Lee Memorial Gazebo

Erected by the Clifton Gentlemen's Club in 1987, the Gazebo is a recent addition to the town. It was styled after another Victorian gazebo in a rural area located in Reston, Virginia.

06. Ferndale, 1904

This stately house was a favorite summer vacation home for famous actress Miss Helen Hayes who stayed here in the 1960's as a favorite guest of her nephew and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Ruell Fugett.

04. Beckwith House, 1771

Also known as the Homestead, this home contains Clifton's oldest remaining structure. Originally a three room log house, it was part of the 200 acres left by William Beckwith to his sixteen slaves, all of whom were freed in his will in 1863.

03. Mayhugh Tavern, 1870

Originally facing the railroad tracks, this large Victorian was moved and turned to face Chapel Street in the late 1900's. At its original location, the tavern was owned and operated by Gustie "Grandpap" Mayhugh, who strove to run an orderly and genteel bar.

02. Quigg House, 1876

The Quigg house was the home of one of the few wealthier residents of Clifton. Mrs. Quigg was often seen dressed lavishly and riding in her carriage around town. Now Peterson's Ice Cream shop serving the best soft serve ice cream in Northern VA

09. Weaver House c. 1898

Residence for Virgil V. and Sarah Weaver, owners of the *Weaver Meat Market*. It burned down in 1930 in the fire that also destroyed the store. It was rebuilt early 1930. Now the Clifton Café serving the finest sweet and savory crepe among other specialties.

01. Clifton General Store

What is a small town without a general store? Originally a wood frame building burned to the ground in March of 1930. Today's Clifton General Store still operates in a manner appropriate to a small town with roots firmly planted in the nineteenth century. It is open every day of the year and sells everything from toilet paper and milk to hot coffee and a freshly grilled bacon cheeseburger. Stop in to read the nosy neighbor board, share a cup of freshly ground coffee with the locals.