

Union Bridge Walking Tour

DRAFT

Union Bridge is a town rich in history. Much of the growth of the town was fueled by the arrival of the Western Maryland Railroad in 1861. The railroad employed hundreds of people as track workers and shopkeepers. As you stroll the streets and gaze at the historic buildings, imagine what it may have been like during the 1800's as a bustling center of commerce.

Invention and artistry are deeply ingrained in Union Bridge's history. Both the reaping machine and the knuckle coupler, a device that links railroad cars, were invented in Union Bridge. World-renowned sculptor William Rinehart was born here. His work can be found throughout the world, with his most famous works in Washington, D.C. and Rome, Italy. Poet and artist Richard Eichman, creator of the Union Bridge town seal, made his home in the town. Union Bridge was also the childhood home of the late modern painter and illustrator James Billmyer.

It all began when John Tredane purchased 200 acres of land known as "kilfadda" in 1731. This was the first land grant for the area of present-day Union Bridge. The first settlers in Union Bridge – following the Native Americans – were William and Ann Farquhar who settled here when William received 200 acres of land from his father in 1735. Many of the settlers who followed were Quakers.

In 1820 the postal service discovered the area to be a convenient stop for mail service between Frederick and Westminster and an official name was needed for the town. William P. Farquhar, grandson of the original settlers, suggested the name Union Bridge in honor of the cooperation demonstrated in the building of a bridge over the northern swamp and Pipe Creek by citizens on both sides. The town seal illustrates this symbolic act, depicting two hands coming together to build a bridge.

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(Icon of Plate for Historic Registry) Union Bridge has been recognized by the National Park Service for its wealth of historic buildings. Architecture buffs can look for the icon to read about architectural features of the buildings noted in the National Register of Historic Places.

- 1 **Western Maryland Railroad Station and Railroad Museum** Union Bridge was the western terminus of the Western Maryland Railroad until 1871, when the line was extended to Hagerstown. The company performed engine repair and building in its machine shops across the street from the station. The brick depot and office buildings were built in 1902 and still stand today. In its heyday, six or seven passenger trains reached Union Bridge daily. There was also a late night train, known as the Owl, which arrived at 1:00 am and was used by people in the area attending night school or the theater in Baltimore.

- 2 **18 North Main Street – Bank Building** The Union Bridge Banking Company opened in this building in November 1899. In 1902 the bank was incorporated as the Union Bridge Banking & Trust Company. The building later housed a branch of the Farmers and Mechanics National Bank. The Westminster Union Bank opened a branch in this building in October 2003.

Icon This building is considered the most architecturally significant commercial structure in Union Bridge. The center bay has an elliptical arch with a door with fanlight and a window with a semicircular transom. The center bay of the second story is also recessed, forming a covered balcony. There is a dentil cornice over the second story. The third story center bay has four short semicircular arched windows, with a pressed metal cornice above and a mansard roof above that.

3 **19 North Main Street** This was the home of Reuban Saylor, the first Mayor of Union Bridge, elected in 1872. It was the first home built on the west side of Main Street and once housed Fogle's Electric shop.

Icon The set of Corinthian columns on the porch are a rarity in Union Bridge. Windows with ornamental treatment were common in center gables, such as the lancet window in this center gable.

4 **11 North Main Street** William Haines and John Repp built this building in 1900 to house a hardware store. After John Repp was elected to the legislature, the building was sold to George Buckey, who sold plowshares and implements, horse collars, and furnaces here. Buckey also owned a warehouse, a bank, a hotel and a number of rental properties in town. Buckey's Hardware introduced the first pipeless furnace to Union Bridge. The Union Bridge Hardware Company opened in this building in 1952.

Icon The storefront has recessed central double doors, each with one light above two lying panels. On either side of the doors is a small plate-glass window in the recess and a large plate-glass window even with the building front. The windows are framed by fluted pilasters, with rosettes above the fluting.

5 **9 North Main Street** This building once housed an ice cream parlor popular with young people because it had the first soda fountain in town. Otis Devilbiss bought the building and operated a lunch room here in the 1950's. He also converted the second story to apartments and lived there. Since then, the building has held a ceramic shop, offices, and a pharmacy. The Buttersburg Inn restaurant opened in this building in May 2002. Prior to being named Union Bridge, the town was referred to as Buttersburg by locals because a trader in town accepted butter and eggs in exchange for goods.

6 **8 North Main Street** Thomas Grumbine owned this building and sold earthenware, wood and coal stoves, and tin cooking utensils here. The building also housed Dutterer's ice cream store, Edward Myers' butcher shop and a restaurant. Hair and Now, a full service salon, opened in this building in August 1995.

7 **5 North Main Street** In the late 1800's, John Furney and his son-in-law, William Morningstar, sold toys, stationery and sewing machines and supplies from a building that was previously located at this site. The present building held the First National Bank of Union Bridge, which had financial problems when one of its cashiers used money from the bank for investments that failed. The bank was sold to Central Trust Company of Maryland, which failed during the Depression. Funeral home operator Raymond Wright owned a furniture store located in this building in the 1950's and Delegate Donald Elliott opened the Union Bridge Pharmacy in this building in the 1970's.

8 **1-3 North Main Street** Joseph Wilson opened the town's first ice cream parlor here in the 1800's. At the rear of the building, Wilson made ice cream using horse power. The horse walked in circles around the crank that did the churning. Mr. Routzen bought the building and added a bowling alley. An A&P was located in the building at one time, along with a barber, a Justice of the Peace, a hardware store, a real estate office and a beauty salon.

9 **6 West Broadway** This house was built in 1878 by George Fowble, the boss of the Western Maryland Railroad shop. Local physician Dr. Watt lived here when he first moved to Union Bridge.

Icon The two-story frame bay complete with a bay window is a later addition to this house that is an example of how popular design motifs, such as bays and turrets that were current in the late nineteenth century, were introduced to typical plan houses.

10 **11 West Broadway** This home was owned by prominent area merchant, J.W. Little, in the early 1900's. It was also lived in by the town's dentist and a veterinarian.

Icon A two-story bay window was added in the two west bays of this home, which was originally a side-passage plan house. The porch is five bays, with turned balusters and turned spindles in the apron, and jigsaw brackets in the cornice.

11 **10 West Broadway** Modern artist and illustrator James Billmyer lived in this home as a child. Billmyer went on to teach art at the New York School of Interior Design and formed his own art school in New York. Billmyer's illustrations appeared in many national magazines, including *Good Housekeeping*, *Family Circle*, *Parents*, and *House and Garden*. In the early 1900's he wrote a cartoon strip called *Hoodlum Hollow*, which included characters named after his childhood playmates from this area. Visit www.billmyer.com for more information on his work.

12 **15 West Broadway** During the 1800's, John Forney performed undertaking services from this home. In July 1863, Forney called on local resident John Hollenberger to construct a coffin for a Union General who had been killed in the battle of Gettysburg. The body of General John Reynolds was smuggled to Forney's shop in this house, placed on a train and sent back to his widow in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

13 **16 West Broadway** This home was built in 1876 by Adam and Mary Williard. Mary Williard operated a boarding house in the home after her husband died in 1877.

Icon This home is the only side-passage plan house in Union Bridge that is three stories tall. It has a three-bay porch with L-shaped posts with the center of each face cut out in conjunction with brackets and turned balusters. Bolection molded surrounds can be found on the doors of the house.

14 **23 West Broadway** Abraham Stoner built this house in approximately 1882. Stoner was a co-owner, along with George Buckey, of the Union Bridge Hotel on Main Street. Abner Devilbiss lived in this home beginning in the early 1900's and ran a garage in the buildings behind the house for more than 50 years. He also sold cars and trucks from the building. Devilbiss was well known for the 1917 Stanley Steamer automobile he purchased in 1920 and ran for 60 years.

Icon Perhaps the most unique use of gables in Union Bridge can be seen at this address. The home is a typical three-bay center-entrance plan. It has a hip roof with decorative cut slate and a lantern at the peak. The lantern has gables on all four elevations, with two narrow, semicircular-arched lights below. There is a central gable on all four elevations of the house and two smaller gables on the end bays of the front façade. The end gables are placed above two-story brick bay windows.

15 **134 West Broadway** This home was constructed in 1924 and was one of the prefabricated Sears houses. The Sears homes phenomenon began in 1906 when merchandising expert Frank Kushel developed the concept to help market the company's excess supply of building materials. Kits including building materials and plans for houses were made available through catalogs and sent by railroad to consumers. Sears sold more than 100,000 homes through its mail-order Modern Homes program between 1908 and 1940. This home is likely a model known as the Castleton, which was available from 1921 to 1926.

16 **142 West Broadway** Construction on this house began in 1879. The owner, Joseph Moore, was well known as a real estate investor and was one of the original petitioners for the creation of Carroll County. He also played a part in bringing the railroad to Union Bridge. The house was sold at auction in 1892 to Siles Senseney, the president of the Union Bridge Banking & Trust Company. The home stayed in the family until 1975. It was later willed to the Carroll County Hospital, which sold it to T.L. Bertier, a former Senator from Anne Arundel County.

Icon The positioning of this home was carefully considered to convey the importance of its owner, Joseph Moore. The house is built of stretcher bond brick, with a central gable featuring stick-work. It has a three-bay glazed porch with a projecting central porte cochere on Tuscan columns.

17 **6 South Whyte Street/ 8 South Whyte Street** Thomas Russell owned this property and built a combination home and Coach and Machine Shop at 6 South Whyte Street in approximately 1870. Russell also built the frame house next door at 8 South Whyte Street, which includes a machine shop attached by an enclosed bridge at the front of the second story.

Icon One of the most significant shop buildings in town is located at 8 South Whyte Street. The gable end faces east, toward the street, and is one-bay wide, with a large, vertical-board door on rollers on the first story. Above is a pair of doors, each with four lights over two panels. There is a block hoist in the gable end and a frame hyphen on the second story of the north elevation that connects the shop to the second story of the house.

18 **10 Whyte Street** This home was owned by the family of William Rinehart, the sculptor. Israel Rinehart, William's father, purchased 2 ¼ acres of property here in 1865. William Rinehart purchased the land when his father died in 1873. The house remained in the Rinehart family for generations. Rinehart became known as one of America's most skilled nineteenth century sculptors. One of his best-known works is the relief known as "The History of Justice" on the bronze doors of the United States Senate Chamber in Washington, D.C.

19 **122 South Main Street - Union Bridge Church of the Brethren** The Union Bridge Church of the Brethren moved to this location in 1952 from 6 East Broadway, where services had been held since 1877.

20 **Mountain View Cemetery** In 1873 Amy Englar deeded land from the old family cemetery to the Mountain View Cemetery Organization to develop the present cemetery.

21 **Lehigh Portland Cement Park** Behind the current park there were four large brick buildings used by the Maryland Collegiate Institute, which was organized in 1898. The Institute moved to New Windsor in 1912 and joined with the New Windsor College, taking the name of Blue Ridge College. The Tidewater Portland Cement Company (now known as Lehigh Portland Cement) built a plant behind this spot in 1910. After the college relocated, the site was used by Lehigh Portland Cement, which is now owned by Heidelberg Cement of Germany.

22 **113 South Main Street** Jacob Stoner built this house in 1888. The home was once used as a dormitory for the Maryland Collegiate Institute and in the 1960's it was the site of Alexander's Nursing Home. The house recently became the inspiration for one of the models built by a developer of new homes in the Washington, D.C. area.

Icon This house is dominated by a large, projecting, three-story octagonal tower centered on the front. The porch follows the profile of the front of the house and has square posts with bosses, vertical grooves and carved brackets.

23 **114 South Main Street** Professor Elmer A. Wolfe, who ran a private school and served as the principal of the Union Bridge High School, lived in this home. Professor Wolfe also operated the Maryland Correspondence School, which prepared students for military and civil service. This building later became the second site of the Union Bridge telephone exchange.

Icon It is rare to find a central gable on a side-passage plan house, as is found on this home.

24 **109 South Main Street** Local pharmacist, John Weaver, built this home in 1887. Weaver operated a drug store at 2 North Main Street until 1899, when health problems forced him to sell the business. Raymond Wright purchased this house in 1938 and operated a funeral home in the building.

Icon The style of this home is Georgian Revival, which is rare in Union Bridge. This five-bay, center-passage-plan house has a hip roof, two pedimented dormers, and a dentil cornice. Central double doors with etched glass and the turned balusters seen on the porch of this home were features not commonly used during the time the house was built. The porch also has fluted Corinthian columns and a dentil cornice.

25 **110 South Main Street** This home was built in 1887 as the parsonage for St. James Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Icon This three-bay, side-passage-plan house has a hexagonal turret on the northern bay. The entrance is on the southeast side of this turret. There is a jerkinhead gable dormer with Queen Anne muntins that is centered between the south and central bays.

26 **105 South Main Street** Built in 1888 by the president of the Union Bridge Bank, Cleveland Anders, this home remained in the Anders family until 1972.

Icon The entrance into this home is in the projecting turret of the north bay of the three-bay structure. This turret, which has clipped corners that make it slightly octagonal, is three stories with a semicircular arched window in the third story. The roof of this house is a "T" in plan, although the house is all the same width.

27 **106 South Main Street** Although this house was built in 1860, its basement may have been built much earlier and housed a tavern visited by Native American and Swedish settlers.

Icon The door surrounds on this home are bolection molded surrounds and the gable features a lunette window.

28 **27 South Main Street** This house was built from bricks from an old grist mill that was located near the railroad. Homer "Jack" Hartzler bought this building and established the first funeral home in Union Bridge. Hartzler was instrumental in forming the local Lion's Club and was its first president.

Icon This three-story structure does not fit any of the typical building classifications of its time. The home has four bays on the first story, with doors in the south and north-central bays. There is a two-story, wrap-around porch on the west and south elevations that has brick piers, chamfered wood columns and

jigsaw scroll brackets. There is a two-story brick wing on the east that has a standing-seam metal gable roof and a bay window with stained glass Queen Anne muntins on the south elevation.

- 29** **21 South Main Street** This home was built in approximately 1890 and was one of the first homes in Union Bridge to have electricity. The first known owner, J. Hamilton Repp, began the *Union Bridge Pilot* newspaper in 1899 and ran it in one half of the home while he lived in the other half. Oliver J. Stonesifer served as editor of the paper from May 1908 until his death in October 1950. The *Pilot* was sold to the *Carroll County Times* in June 1969 and it ran as a special section of the *Times* until 1972.

Icon The three center bays of this eleven bay duplex contains a door with side lights, marking the front plane of the house. South of the center three bays is a projecting three-bay tower with a semicircular arched central sash. The second story matches the first in plan, but has a mixture of different Queen Anne muntins. The tower has an octagonal turret roof with a central shed dormer containing a single Queen Anne sash.

- 30** **11 South Main Street** This home was once the residence and office of Dr. Thomas Legg. Dr. Legg, who served as the town's Mayor, came to Union Bridge in 1908 and operated his medical practice here for 56 years. He used three different horses for his morning, afternoon and evening house calls.

Icon This house is an adaptation of the five-bay plan, with a window and door placed in the first bay. There are a number of bay windows, including a two-story bay in the front façade, a one-story bay on the south, and a two-story rounded bay with vertical, beaded-edge siding. The door surround has square engaged columns with chamfers, a four-light transom and double doors with glazed top panels.

- 31** **9 South Main Street** The small adjoining building was added to this home in 1925 to be used as a barbershop. Ralph "Bud" Bair bought the house and in 1945 opened his own barbershop. Bair also ran a dry cleaning store for Quality Cleaners from this shop. Ed's Barber Shop opened in the building in July 1996.

Icon Gables were a common decorative addition to the traditional three-room-plan house. The central gable at the front of this home contains a semicircular arched window. Other features of this house include octagonal columns supporting the porch, and roof cornices with paneled soffits and bed mold and scrolls.

- 32** **7 South Main Street – The Union Bridge United Methodist Church** The church began as a Methodist Protestant Church in 1879. The present building was finished in 1883 and the fellowship hall was added in 1940.

Icon The center bay of the church building has arched double doors at the ground story, and is flanked by arched stained glass windows on each side. The upper level has a triple lancet window of stained glass in the center, with stained glass lancet windows on each side. The tower has a hipped-roof of standing-seam metal topped by a cross.

- 33** **2 South Main Street** Jesse Anders built this building in 1868. It was known as Anders and Lightner's Store and Public Hall and the upper floor was used as a meeting place for many events, including church services. In 1891 Jake and Julius Traub of Baltimore opened a men's clothing store here. The building later housed a general merchandise store from 1910 to 1958 and was the first building in Union Bridge to have a telephone. Original Pizza opened in this building in July 1986.

Icon This building is considered one of the most historically significant commercial structures in town. The first story is divided into two three-bay-wide storefronts. The northern storefront has fluted pilasters with stylized ionic capitals and a dentil cornice.

34 1 South Main Street Jesse Anders constructed this building during the 1870's. Samuel Repp purchased the building in 1885. Evelyn Repp married local physician Dr. Thomas Legg and they lived in half of this house while having a medical office built next door at 3 South Main Street. The building has also served as a dentist office and is now an apartment house.

Icon The center bay of this building has a porch with large, chamfered square posts set on paneled dados, and a scroll cornice. The door has a transom and sidelights, and a paneled surround with scrolls at the top. There is also a similar side entrance and porch on the north elevation. A combination smokehouse and bakehouse made of brick sits behind the house.

35 6 East Broadway – Hartzler Funeral Home The front of this building was built in 1877 as the German Baptist Brethren Church. The church split from its mother church, Pipe Creek, and formed a separate congregation in 1954 and the building was used as the Hartzler Funeral Home. The church allowed the town band, which formed in 1886, to build a band hall in the back of the property and give concerts from the second story balcony.

36 5 East Broadway Dr. Elisha Manakee built this home in approximately 1878 for his large family. The Union Bridge Agricultural Club held meetings in the home. The building was later purchased by farmer Elmer Pittinger who converted it into a two-family dwelling. In 1948, owner Paul Reese converted the home into three separate housing units.

Icon The house has a projecting center-bay tower that is three stories high, and a two-story porch. The porch has chamfered columns and jigsaw brackets and drop pendants on the first story and turned posts with jigsaw scrolls and a shingle-covered balustrade on the second story. The slate mansard roof on this house features several rows of decoratively-cut slates.

37 10 East Broadway – Old Town Hall Built in 1884, this building was originally the Town Hall, a store, and the jail. Cultural programs were once held here during the summers and movies were shown on the second floor until a theater was built in town in 1937. The fire company purchased the building in 1925 and used it until 1967 as its engine house. The building was restored by an artist and filmmaker and converted into the Firehouse Studio in 1990.

38 101 East Broadway This building was constructed in 1910 to house the press room for the *Union Bridge Pilot* newspaper.

39 1 South Benedum Street George and Josephine Grumbine built this home in 1878. Maybelle Baker, the first female postmaster in Maryland, lived in this house beginning in approximately 1959. Baker took over her husband's job at the post office when he passed away. The house was sold to the Rinehart family, who were related to Baker, after her death.

Icon The porch on this home has Tuscan columns and a cornice with block modillions. The six-panel door has a fanlight and sidelights.

40 **14 South Benedum Street – St. James Lutheran Church** The church was built in 1883 and a new building was added in 1963 for educational programs.

Icon The center bay of the church has a projecting brick porch with a gable, corner brick pilasters, paneled wood double doors, and an elliptically lanceolate fanlight of stained glass. Above the porch is a large lanceolate stained glass window with an inverted teardrop-shaped stained glass window attached to the top, which is a very unusual pattern. The tower on the north bay has a cloverleaf oculus, a wood boxed cornice, and a belfry above with decoratively-cut shingles and lancet openings.

41 **105 East Locust** This building was built by Paul Eichman, father of painter and poet Richard Eichman. The Union Bridge Clothing Company operated a coat factory in the building from the mid 1940's until the early 1960's when the operation was moved to a building on Route 75. When the factory was in this building the company delivered hand-stitching work to women in town to work on in their homes and collected it later in the day. There was a restaurant in the downstairs portion of the building at that time. Later, an auto-body shop operated here. Display Communications, which manufactures literature displays, opened in this building in the late 1980's.

42 **2 North Farquhar Street** This section of town was developed in the 1880's, and was referred to as "Lightner's Addition" because many of the lots were laid out by the Lightner family. This home was built in the early 1880's by stone mason Benjamin Phillips.

Icon Although decorative brickwork is rare in Union Bridge, an exception is the panel and band of dogtooth brick in the gable of this home. The gable also includes semicircular arched windows. The bracketed roof cornices appearing on this house are common in Union Bridge.

43 **1 Railroad Avenue - Stambaugh's, Inc.** Charles R. Stambaugh started Stambaugh's, Inc. in 1973 with only one rubber-tired backhoe. Business in the 1970's included the completion of septic systems, foundations, and the installation of farm conservation practices. The company later began paving residential driveways and entered into commercial paving of streets and highways. Stambaugh's is now involved in excavating, utility installation, commercial paving, seeding and mulching, and concrete construction.

Additional Points of Interests

Friends Meeting House William Farquhar donated the land for the Friends Meeting House and the cemetery nearby in 1772. The Meeting House was the first church in the community and it remained in good condition until 1931 when fire destroyed much of its woodwork. However, the building was reconstructed similarly to its original design. President Herbert Hoover, a Quaker by birth, frequented the Friends Meeting House.

Clemson Farm House, Mount Pleasant Farm - 200 West Locust Street This home was built in approximately 1820 by the Farquhar family. Sarah McKinstry Clemson purchased the house at auction in 1824 and the home remained in the Clemson family for more than 180 years. An experimental reaper - a precursor to the McCormick Reaper - was used in 1839 in the fields on the farm. During the Civil War, an encampment of Confederate soldiers was set up on the grounds surrounding the home.

5021 Middleburg Road – Old Roop Farm From 1945 to 1947, the Olive and Roger Roop Farm was the collection and distribution site for more than 4,000 donated cows that were sent to war-ravaged farmers in Europe to help rebuild their farms. This effort was known as Heifer Relief and evolved into the present day Heifer International.

10120 Clemsonville Road – John Clemson Ancestral Home Construction on this large Georgian style home spanned ten years, beginning in 1796. During its construction, John Clemson and his carpenter traveled to Mount Vernon to study architectural elements of George Washington’s home. The home was featured in J. Thomas Scharf’s book, “History of Western Maryland,” which was published in 1882.

Glossary

Baluster - a small post that supports the upper rail of a railing.

Balustrade – a railing held up by balusters.

Bay – a vertical section of building represented by an opening, such as a door or window, eg. Above house is 3 bays wide.

Bolection Mold – a molding that projects beyond the surface of a panel.

Boss – a raised part or protruding ornament on a flat surface.

Capital - the top part of a column.

Corinthian – order of architecture, distinguished by a slender, fluted column and a bell-shaped capital decorated with a design of acanthus leaves.

Dadoe – the part of a pedestal between the cap and the base.

Dormer – the roofed projection in which a window is set.

Gable – triangular portion of wall under a double-pitched roof.

Georgian (1700-1830) – symmetrical composition enriched with classical detail.

Ionic – of the classical (Greek or Roman) order of architecture, distinguished by ornamental scrolls.

Jerkinhead - a roof having a hipped end truncating a gable.

Lanceolate - narrow and tapering like the head of a lance.

Lancet Window – window with a narrow sharply pointed arch.

Lunette – a semicircular space, often containing a windowpane above a door or window.

Mansard Roof – a double-pitched roof with a steep lower slope – the hallmark of the Second Empire style. Named for Francois Mansard, a French architect.

Muntin – a strip of wood or metal used for support between panes of glass, as in a window.

Oculus – opening or window.

Pilaster – a rectangular support or pier projecting partially from a wall and treated architecturally as a column, with a base, shaft and capital.

Queen Anne Style - a style of English architecture of the early 18th century characterized by construction in red brick, forms modified from classical architecture, and simple, elegant and stately ornamentation.

Porte Cochere – a kind of porch roof projecting over a driveway at an entrance.

Sash – a frame holding the glass pane or panes of a window or door.

Soffit - the horizontal underside of an eave, cornice, etc.

Tuscan Column – a column of a classical order of architecture distinguished by a smooth ringlike capital and no decoration.

As Of December 5, 2005

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