

## STATUES

### 7 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by P. DiPasquale

The bust of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was dedicated on April 4, 2004. The sculpture commemorates his appearances in the city of Hopewell as a defender of Civil Rights in America. Dr. King visited the Hopewell court on March 28, 1962 to address the defendants convicted in the city's last sit-in trespass trial. He returned the next day to support Reverend Curtis W. Harris at his contempt of court trial. "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere," stated Dr. King.

### 8 In Gear by Matthew D. Fine

Unveiled on April 26, 1991, "In Gear", symbolizes the unity between the city and it's industry. Virginia Beach, Virginia sculptor Matthew Fine describes it as: "a muscular tribute to the city's blue-collar history as well as to the rivers which gave birth to the industry here." Primarily funded by the Hopewell Manufacturers Association, the white Georgia marble artwork represents the industrial community's commitment to improve the natural environment and quality of life for Hopewell's citizens.

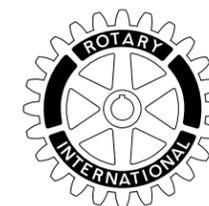
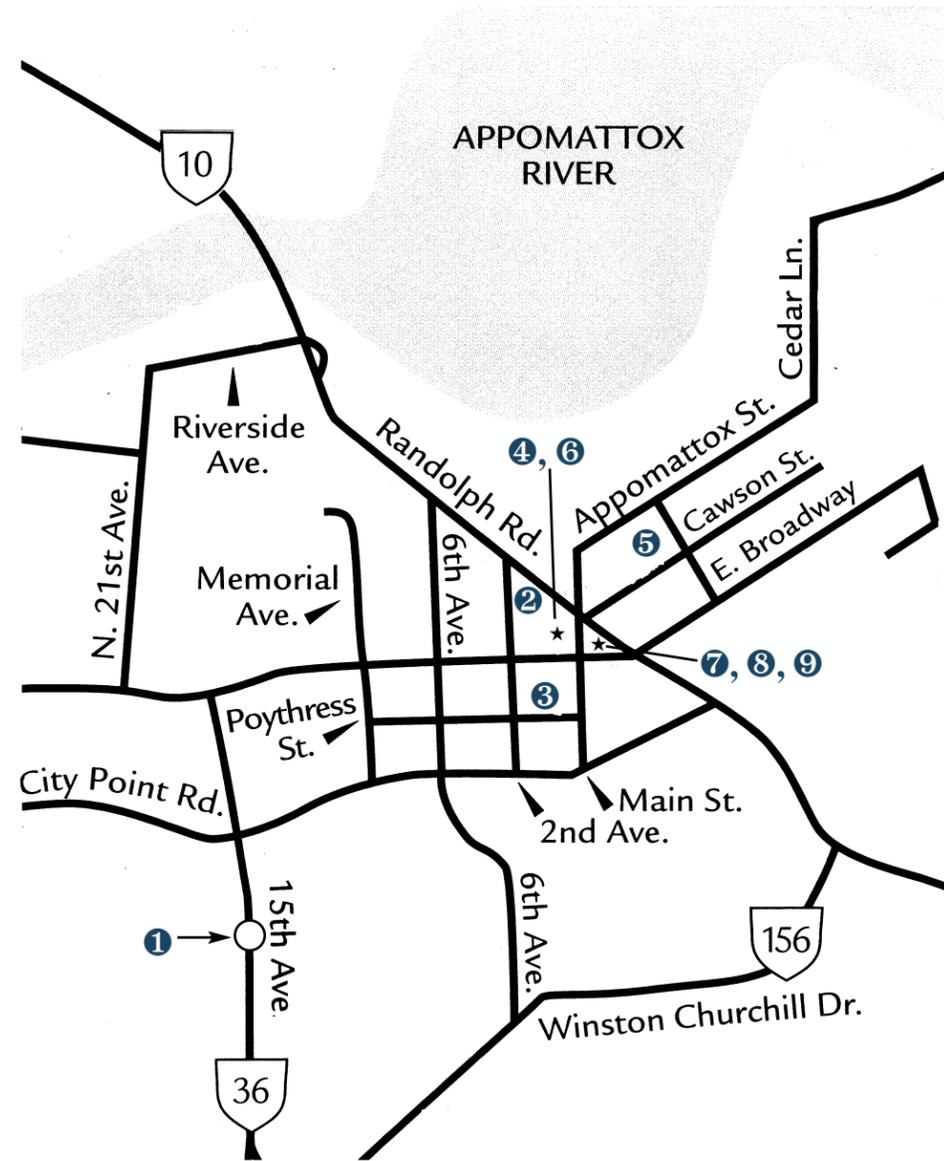
### 9 The Twinning of Ashford, Kent

The Twinning of Ashford, Kent, England and Hopewell, Virginia, USA in 1999 marked more than 350 years of history between the two cities. Francis Eppes, who was baptized in Ashford Parish Church on May 14, 1597 was the same Francis Eppes who sailed to Virginia in 1624 aboard the "Hopewell". In 1635, Captain Eppes received a land grant in Cittie Pointe, now part of Hopewell.

On September 25, 2001 the Hopewell City Council decreed that the civic plaza "would hereafter be known as the Ashford Civic Plaza".



# Murals, Monuments and Statues of Hopewell, Virginia



## MONUMENTS

### 1 *First in the State of Virginia*

Designed and erected by Hopewell American Legion Post #80, the first monument in Virginia dedicated to the men who made the supreme sacrifice in World War I, was introduced to the public on Memorial Day 1921. Post #80, organized on October 2, 1919 remained viable through the late 1950's.

The veterans who built this wonderful monument established a "Last Man Standing Club". Having purchased an expensive bottle of whiskey to be left sealed, the "Last Man" was sworn to set up glasses, open the bottle and drink a toast to his fallen comrades. This decades old pact was fulfilled by Augustus "Gus" Robbins in 1980, the "Last Man Standing".

The monument has been refitted and restored over the years. The titanic columns and delicate iron grillwork pay tribute to Hopewell's war dead, POW's, and MIA's from World War I to the present. VFW Post #637 currently cares for the structure ensuring that the monument will survive for many generations to come.

### 2 *United Daughters of the Confederacy*

The City Point Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (no longer existing) was formed in 1932. Mrs. Libby Temple, president, presented the monument to the City of Hopewell on October 26, 1949. The inscription on the main shaft reads "Dedicated to the Glory of God in Memory of our Confederate Soldiers who fought in the War Between the States 1861-1865". Inscribed in the monument's base is a quote from Daniel Webster "Standing hand to hand and clasping hands, we shall remain united citizens of the same country, members of the same government. All united, now and forever". Mayor D. Lane Elder accepted the Memorial for the city, stating, "It is a Memorial to the ideals that inspire men, generations come and go, but ideals live on".

## MURALS

### 3 *Hopewell, Virginia Post Office*

Unveiled in the Post Office lobby by Postmaster Henry Munt, on January 31, 1939 the mural still hangs over the Postmaster's office door. This work of art, funded by the Treasury Department's Section commissions, was selected through an open anonymous competition conducted by the Section of Fine Arts, Federal Works Agency, and Public Building Administration.

The mural depicts Captain Francis Eppes clasping hands in a gesture of friendship with the chief of the Appomattox Indians. In the left background is the ship "Hopewell", on which, according to tradition, Captain Eppes came to America. Captain Eppes' farm and the city of Hopewell were named for the ship.

Artist Edmund Archer was born in Richmond, Virginia in 1904. He served on the staff of the Whitney Museum and taught at the Corcoran School of Art. After retiring from the Corcoran, Archer returned to Richmond in 1968. He died on July 13, 1986 and is buried in Hollywood Cemetery.

### 4 *"Our Heritage 1613-1990"*

The Hopewell Mural a 275 square feet oil painting: "Our Heritage 1613-1990" was dedicated on March 15, 1990 to honor Hopewell citizens on the occasion of the city's 75th year of incorporation. The painted image depicts a montage of Hopewell history and culture.

Jay Bohannon, a 1968 graduate of Hopewell High School, received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in 1973. He holds a Certificate from Alliance Francais in Paris and has studied independently in the Netherlands and more recently in Verona, Italy.

## MURALS

### 5 *Hopewell Library*

To celebrate Hopewell's past, present, and future, the community was asked to share stories about the city's history which inspired the design of the building and murals. When the architects asked the library staff to provide images for use in the design, J. Langford suggested the Library's collection of old postcards. Julia Crawford of Frim & Parker Architects was then asked to develop designs based on the postcards and other images of Hopewell that captured the spirit and essence of a city steeped in history and natural beauty.

Industry and Landscape Mural: The industrial presence in the City of Hopewell and its location at the confluence of the James and Appomattox Rivers inspired this mural illustrating the natural landscape and the structures that co-exist and enrich the region.

Buildings and Architecture Mural: Inspired by events and historical milestones, this mural illustrates the wooden buildings and streetscapes in Hopewell before the infamous Fire of 1915 and demonstrates the city's rise to brick facades in the 20th century and progressive architecture of the 21st century.

## STATUES

### 6 *Peter Francisco, Erected 1973 by: The Commonwealth of Virginia and The James River Branch, A.P.V.A.*

On June 23, 1765, a small boy was abandoned on the wharf at City Point (now Hopewell, Virginia). An eyewitness account states: *a foreign ship sailed up the James River, dropped anchor opposite the dock, and lowered a longboat to the water with two sailors in it. Then a boy of about five years was handed down and rowed to the wharf, where he was deposited and abandoned. The boat returned quickly to its ship. The ship weighed anchor at once, sailed back down the James River, and was never heard from again.* The child did not speak English and no one understood what he said, except that he kept repeating "Pedro Francisco." Thus, the local citizens called him Peter Francisco.

Peter Francisco grew into a giant man, six feet six inches in height and approximately 260 pounds. During the Revolutionary War Francisco became its most notable private soldier. Legends of Francisco's strength abound. Unable to fight with a regular sized broadsword, at Lafayette's request, Washington had a special sword, measuring some five feet long, forged for Francisco. During the retreat from Camden, Francisco single-handedly pulled an 1,100 pound American cannon free from its gun carriage. It was said that a team of six mules were unable to dislodge it. After the war, Francisco went home to Buckingham County to lead a quiet life. He was appointed sergeant-at-arms of the Virginia Senate. Married three times, he fathered many children. Peter Francisco died January 1831 and is buried in Shockoe Cemetery.