GILES COUNTY
Driving Tours

Pearisburg - Narrows
Rich Creek - Glen Lyn

NORTHWEST QUADRANT

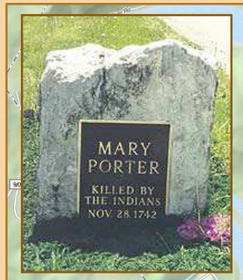
For additional visitor information, contact
Giles County Chamber of Commerce
203 North Main Street
Pearisburg, Virginia 24134
540/921-5000

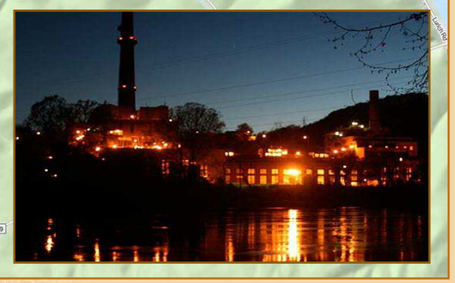
Pearisburg

Narrows

Rich Creek

Glen Lyn





1 HOLIMAN HOUSE
2 PEARISBURG ACADEMY
3 PEARISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH
4 PEARIS THEATER
5 ST. ELIZABETH HOSPITAL
6 CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
7 GILES COUNTY COURTHOUSE
8 BANK OF GILES/VIRGINIAN BLDG.
9 SHELTON BUILDING
10 ANDREW JOHNSTON HOUSE
11 RANDALL W. FLETCHER MEMORIAL BRIDGE
12 NORFOLK & WESTERN DEPOT
13 CAMP SUCCESS
14 MACARTHUR INN
15 ANNA'S RESTAURANT
16 CENTENNIAL PARK & MURAL
17 VETERAN'S MEMORIAL PARK
18 WOLF CREEK MILL DAM & POND
19 COMMUNITY CENTER
20 RIGHT TURN, CLYDE BREWING COMPANY
21 MILL CREEK NATURE PARK
22 AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER
23 MARY PORTER MARKER
24 GLEN LYN TOWN PARK
25 OLD SHUMATE PLACE

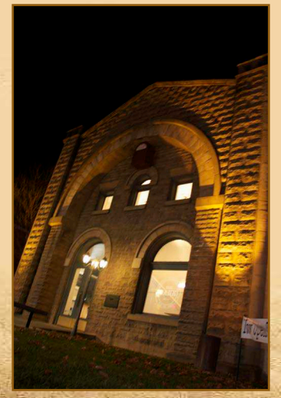
Special thanks to Olde Towne Pearisburg, Susan Kidd, Jo Martin and many others for their contributions to this driving tour.

NW QUADRANT
PEARISBURG, NARROWS, GLEN LYN AND RICH CREEK

Pearisburg

Named for Captain George Pearis who donated the land for the county seat. Begin your tour on VA 460 bypass. Exit at Pearisburg 460 business and Rt. 100 S. Follow the ramp .6 mi to the stoplight. Turn left on Mountain Lake Avenue and park in the municipal lot .1 mi on your left. Here you will begin a walking tour of Olde Towne Pearisburg. **(If you wish to drive this tour, follow the directions in your vehicle and omit steps 5, 6, 7 and 12.)**

1. Walk east on Mountain Lake Avenue to Tazewell Street. Turn right on Tazewell Street and walk south, crossing Wenonah Avenue. Continue on Tazewell Street to Church Ave. On the corner of Tazewell and Church is **1 Hoilman House** built in 1848. It was a private residence used for a short time after the Civil War as a girls' boarding school.
2. Continue west on Church Avenue. On the left is the **2 Pearisburg Academy/Masonic Lodge** building built in 1839. A two story brick building, it was constructed to serve as a school (2 rooms, first floor) and Masonic Lodge Hall (second floor).
3. At the end of the street, on a rise to the left are the ruins of the **3 Pearisburg Baptist Church**, built in 1873 and was worshipped in by the African-American congregation until 1983.
4. Walk back down Church Avenue and turn left on Main Street. Continue going south on Main Street and pass the **4 Pearis Theater.** The building on the corner of Main Street is the Western Hotel (Thomas Building) built in 1827. This is the oldest building in the historic district. Originally a private residence, it operated as the Western Hotel from the 1860's through the early 1900's. Once a thriving hostelry on the Newbern-Lewisburg Turnpike with ballroom and bar. Restoration and renovation of this landmark as a multiple use building began in 1992.
5. Turn east on Wenonah Avenue. The next 5 buildings on the right are included in the Historic District: the **5 St. Elizabeth Hospital & addition,** a store building, **Giles Motor Co.,** and 2 more store buildings.
6. Cross at Tazewell Street and continue on the north side of the Historic District. **6 Christ Episcopal Church** built in 1910 burned in 1926 and was rebuilt using the original stone walls.
7. The next 4 buildings in the Historic District include the Miller Building, a store building, the Shumate-Woods Building, and the Law Building built in 1910, which is now used as a County Office Building.



8. The Sheriff's Office and Jail was built in 1937-38 and is adjacent to the Courthouse on Public Square. **7 The Giles County Courthouse**, noted for its large domed cupola, was built in 1836 and was listed in 1982 in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.
9. On the West side of Main Street, directly across from the Courthouse and also in the Historic District are the Bank of Giles County 1902, Shelton's Store, and the **8 Virginian Building.**
10. Cross Main Street and continue west on Wenonah Avenue up the hill to find a Civil War Cemetery. On the south corner of Wenonah and Main you will pass the circa **9 1900 H.B. Shelton Department Store Building.**
11. Return to Main Street, cross to the east side and continue north, crossing Mountain Lake Avenue. On the right are Dr. Johnston's Office, the **10 Giles County Historical Society Museum, and the Andrew Johnston House**. Dr. Johnston's office was built in 1857 and served as a doctor's office until 1949. It was used briefly during the Civil War by Union Troops commanded by Col. R.B. Hayes and Major Wm. B. McKinley, both future US Presidents. The Johnston House built in 1829 was deeded to the Giles County Historical Society in 1987 by the heirs of Andrew Johnston to serve as a museum and research center. It is listed in the Virginia Landmarks register and the National Register of Historic Places.
12. Walk south on Main Street making a left turn on Mountain Lake Avenue and return to your vehicle.
13. Exit the parking lot going west onto Mountain Lake Ave. At the light turn right onto Main Street. Turn left onto Rt. 100 N (at Dairy Queen). Travel .7 to the stop sign and turn left, continuing on Rt. 100 N to Narrows. Pearis Cemetary is located directly off Rt. 100 approximately .5 miles

Narrows

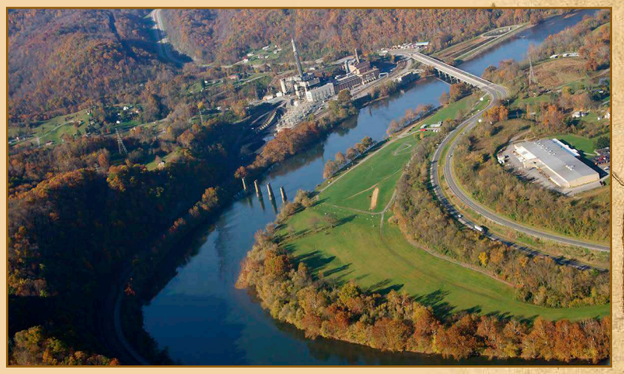
Driving toward Narrows on Rt. 460, one travels beside the New River, which flows north into West Virginia. The Town of Narrows is named for the geological feature ("The Narrows") where the New River is at its most narrow point between Peters and East River Mountains. The first settlers arrived in the area in 1778.

1. As you enter the town limits, turn onto Rt. 61 at the Rt. 460 stoplight. Follow Rt. 61 across the **11 Randall W. Fletcher Memorial Bridge** spanning the New River. The latest of three bridges that have been constructed here, this bridge was dedicated on November 23, 2013, and named for a local veteran who was a tireless contributor to the community.
2. At the end of the bridge, to the left is the **12 Norfolk and Western Depot**. N&W came to Narrows in 1864 and locals still tell stories of riding the rails – especially on the renowned steam engine, J611.
3. Back on Rt. 61, drive under the railroad overpass and turn right on Lurich Road for approximately .2 miles to **13 Camp Success**, the locale of Civil War encampments. This 8.5 acre, primitive campground allows tent campers and picnickers to enjoy the beauty of both Wolf Creek and the New River.
4. Returning to the Rt. 61/Lurich Rd. intersection, turn right onto Rt. 61. The historic **14 MacArthur Inn** is on the left. This structure opened in 1942 as the Hotel General MacArthur – the first U.S. building named for the World War II general. The building was used in many different ways over the years, but has been restored and operates again as an inn.
5. Past the Inn is **15 Anna's Restaurant** on the right. For over 20 years, Anna's has served the area with delicious, country cooking and hosted the regular Thursday night Ole Time Music Jam.
6. Across the street from Anna's is **16 Centennial Park and "The Mural of Narrows"**. The park was dedicated in honor of the town's centennial in 2004. The mural, portraying "NARROWS va…NATURALLY!", was added in 2013 by S. S. "Brick" Marunich, a Vietnam combat veteran, prolific artist, and Narrows resident.
7. Continue along Rt. 61 to its intersection with Kimberling to the **17 Veterans Memorial Park**. This important memorial was constructed by the local Veterans' of Foreign Wars and many dedicated volunteers. It serves to honor all branches of service and allows quiet reflection on the sacrifice of our veterans.
8. Across from the Veterans Memorial is **18 Wolf Creek Mill Dam and Mill Pond** better known as the Duck Pond.
9. Next on the left at the Mary Street intersection, sits the old Narrows High School building. The football field is still used, but today the building has been repurposed as the town's **19 Community Center**. The current high school is now located on the other side of the New River.
10. Return back along Rt. 61 East and turn right onto Main Street/Rt. 100 (across from Anna's). On the right, across from the Post Office, is the home of **20 Right Turn, Clyde Brewing Company** – a micro-brewery. Next door to the brewery is Narrows Gift Shop and Art Gallery, a nonprofit retailer showcasing the talents of over 30 local artists, authors, artisans, and craftsmen.
11. Continuing up Main Street/Rt.100 approximately .3 miles, turn right on Northview Street. Follow Northview approximately 3 blocks, turn right onto College Street, then the next left on Poplar Street. Continue on Poplar Street for .8 miles to the stop sign and turn right on the gravel road (through the open gate) to the parking area for **21 Mill Creek Nature Park**.
12. This 40-acre park adjoins the Jefferson National Forest and offers miles of trails for hiking and mountain biking. Hikers will find four Mill Creek waterfalls of varying sizes along the trails and fishermen can cast for native trout in this pristine water. An easy hike beside Mill Creek from the parking area brings one to the reservoir location where a section of the original stone dam from the late 1700s can still be seen.
13. Returning back to Main Street/Rt. 100 turn right, following the main original curving road (before Rt. 460 was built) toward the Town of Pearisburg through Bluff City. Or, take a left on Main Street, returning to Rt. 61, and cross the New River back to Route 460.

Glen Lyn

Located at the WV line on Rt. 460 along the New River, was first called Montreal, then Hell's Gate by railroad workmen. It became Glen Lyn (lovely glen) in 1883. It is the site of the earliest settlement in Giles County. It is the home of the famous fiddler, Henry Reed.

1. The **22 Appalachian Electric Generation Plant** marks the entrance to Glen Lyn on Lurich Road. It was built in 1919, and with its construction substantially increased the town's population from 50 to 400 people.
2. Turn right onto Rt. 460 (Virginia Avenue) and travel east .3 mi.
3. .1 mi on the left at State Line Market is a concrete marker marking the site of the earliest known home in Giles. Its inscription reads **23 "Mary Porter, killed by the Indians, November 28, 1742".**
4. .4 mi on the right is the **24 Glen Lyn Town Park**
5. Continue east on Rt. 460 2.9 miles to Rich Creek.



Rich Creek

Settled in 1780 by the Shumate family. In 1882, the North and West railroad came to Lurich, which could be reached by ferry or horse, and provided an outlet to Mercer County, WV.

1. Turn left on Rt. 219 N to Rich Creek.
2. Turn right at the stop sign onto Old Virginia Ave.
3. .25 mi on the right is the **25 Old Shumate Place** – the oldest landmark in Rich Creek. This historic landmark has been used as a dwelling since 1787, two years before George Washington took office as President of the United States of America. Daniel Shumate first built a log cabin in 1787. Daniel's son Hardin Shumate built the frame portion of the present structure in 1851. The log portion of the house was torn down in 1918, and the present brick portion was built by Thomas and Lula Shumate Gwinn. When the Gwinns took occupancy in 1918, the house was known as "Riverside". The remaining two acres around the house are all that is left of the original 900 acres transferred by land grants from Governor Edmond Randolph in 1787.
4. Continue on Old Virginia Avenue to the stop sign and return to Rt. 460 – left to travel east, right to travel west.