

# A Revered Route

A congressionally recognized National Heritage Area features multiple historic cabins that bring America's past to life.

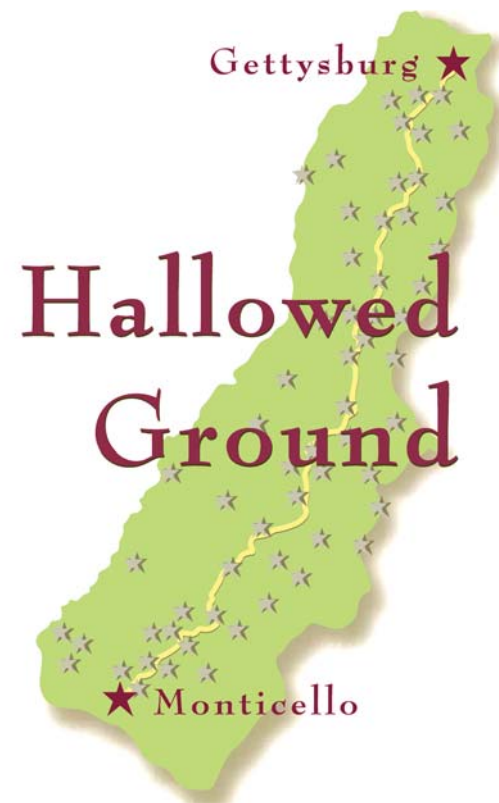
**F**rom Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Monticello, Virginia, a new trail has emerged that keeps much of America's forgotten history alive. Meandering 180 miles across four states, this route includes more than 10,000 listings on the National Register of Historic Places, including several presidential homes, Civil War sites, historic districts and more. But it also offers glimpses into the lives of average citizens throughout American history, many of whom lived in the most American of homes, the log cabin.

The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, designated a National Heritage Area by Congress in 2008, follows the Old Carolina Road — an old Native American trading trail now known as Route 15/231. Aiming to renew America's appreciation in its history by preserving important heritage sites, the nonprofit partnership supports the efforts of hundreds of individual historic locations and unifies them for the public to see how different areas of history relate to each other and helped form the America we know today.

Along the way, several noteworthy cabins have been painstakingly preserved, restored or replicated:

**Camp Hoover.** When Iowa native Herbert Hoover was elected president in 1928, he needed a nearby retreat within 100 miles of Washington, D.C., more than 2,500 feet above sea level to avoid mosquitoes and close to an excellent trout fishing stream. The headwaters of the Rapidan River in today's Shenandoah National Park fit the bill perfectly. Marines constructed the camp's buildings, including the Brown House (President's Cabin), the Prime Minister's Cabin and the Creel, all of which were restored in 2004 and decorated to reflect the original furnishings.

**Burgandine House.** The oldest house in Culpeper, Virginia, the Burgandine House was built prior to 1749. Made of logs and covered in clapboard, true to the trend of the time, the existing structure maintains the original integrity of the interior, allowing



Take the Journey.™

visitors to see what the home looked like for the original 18th-century owners, as well as the Union soldiers who slept in the house and yard during General Grant's occupation of Culpeper in 1863. The cabin remains a popular attraction today as a living history example included in the adjacent Museum of Culpeper History.

**Gilmore Cabin.** Montpelier in Orange, Virginia, was the estate and lifelong home of founding father James Madison. George Gilmore was born a slave at Montpelier in 1810, and upon emancipation in 1865, he created a homestead farm of his own less than a mile from the main house. Using reclaimed materials from an old Confederate camp nearby to construct his cabin, Gilmore later bought the property from a descendant of James Madison in 1901, and it remained home to three generations of Gilmore descendants until the 1930s. Recognizing the valuable impact slaves had on the development of



GILMORE CABIN



Montpelier, and the significance of the Gilmores' personal achievements, Montpelier and Gilmore descendants excavated and restored the cabin in 2005 to give visitors a glimpse at life for freedmen following the Civil War.

## Prince William Forest Park.

The Civilian Conservation Corps put several hundred thousand unemployed men to work in the Great Depression to build state and national parks and roadways for public use. Many of the park cabins they built still stand today, including several in Prince William Forest Park near Triangle, Virginia. During World War II, the Office of Strategic Services, the precursor to the CIA, trained intelligence operatives at the camp. Today, the cabins are available to rent as lodging for visitors to the park.



PRINCE WILLIAM FOREST PARK

Several other historic cabins exist along The Journey Through Hallowed Ground, with each dedicated to preserving the history that happened there. For more information, visit [hallowedground.org](http://hallowedground.org) or call 540-882-4929. **CBC**

## HOLIDAY SOJOURN

Pair a little history with a holiday drive to check out this seasonal cabin event:

**Christmas 1861 at Morven Park**  
Leesburg, Virginia

During the first winter of the Civil War, hundreds of soldiers with the 17th Mississippi Regiment hunkered down in log huts they built near Leesburg after their win at the Battle of Ball's Bluff. This winter, costumed interpreters portraying soldiers and local citizens will hold drilling, firing and camp cooking activities and speak with visitors about early experiences in the war. Nov. 21 and 22. Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$3 per child ages 6-12, and free for children under 6. Visit [morvenpark.org/tours](http://morvenpark.org/tours) or call 703-777-2414 for more information.



MORVEN PARK

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**7-1065**

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