



Save Old Sterling (SOS)

SAVEOLDSTERLING.ORG

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“How will we know it's us without our past?” (Steinbeck)

Our Mission:

“Recognizing the value of preserving Sterling's heritage, SOS works to identify and preserve these historic and architectural assets for future generations.”

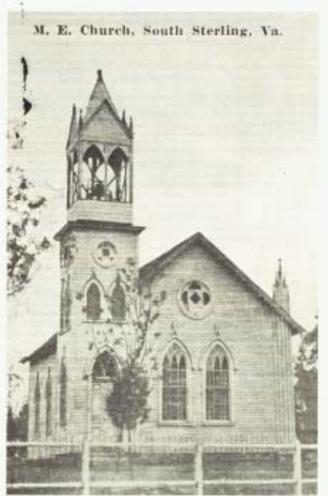
“The handful of historic buildings clustered along Ruritan Road and Ruritan Circle are an increasingly rare reminder of the rapidly dwindling history of the area and are becoming increasingly threatened by development pressures.” --The William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research

Sterling's Original Schoolhouse!

In 1867, the US Department of Education was formed to help the States establish school systems; Loudoun County Public Schools was established in 1870. According to Loudoun Historian Eugene Scheel, Broad Run School District No. 6 purchased the acre lot on October 11, 1879 from Dr. James E. Warner at a discount price of \$60. In 1880, Sterling opened its first public, 2-room schoolhouse. It served the community for seven decades. In addition to being used to educate children, it was a place for church services, Christmas parties, dances, community suppers, lectures, and spelling bees.

In 1947, the schoolhouse was replaced by the modern all-brick Sterling Elementary. The building then became a family rental until Grandma Betty Geoffroy leased the building and established the very successful Sterling Schoolhouse Antiques from 1980 through 2007.

The Old Sterling schoolhouse still stands at 1000 Ruritan Circle, close to the corner of Atlantic Blvd. and West Church Road, but it's barely recognizable. The property is currently used as a parking lot. It is also in grave danger of being demolished. Don't let that happen -- it's one of the last remnants of “Guilford Station”.



M. E. Church, South Sterling, Va.



Sterling United Methodist Church
As newly built in 1878;
After it burned and was rebuilt ~1898
Recent times;
and
February 8, 2017

A Shameful Loss -- the Church!

SOS did what we could to try to save the church but after nearly 150 years, it was destroyed. SOS salvaged the windows, flooring and siding. We hope to see those materials used in new buildings in Sterling. If you have an idea how to re-use these materials, let us know!

Join Us!

My grandmother used to say “Many Hands Make Light Work!” You could help make our job fun! Whether you enjoy history or are just looking to add value to the community, SOS would like to help you help us. Come to a meeting -- we welcome new participants.

We meet at 7:30 PM on the last Tuesday of every month.



Thank you, local sponsors!

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Meet the Ruritans!

by Mark Gunderman

In 1951, Sterling Ruritan Members began meeting in the Old Sterling Elementary School on Church Road (built in 1946). Before 1946, education back then ended for many children from farm families after they graduated from the seventh grade in the two-room schoolhouse on Ruritan Circle built in 1880.

The Sterling Club acknowledged that in order best support the community, there needed to be a community building and the Ruritans bought a building in Old Sterling at 183 Ruritan Road in 1956 at a cost of \$8,000. After much renovation, the first Ruritan meeting was held there in February 1959. The building was previously Bowman's Tavern, a local beer hall first built in 1946. The Ruritans decided to add on an auditorium, dining hall and kitchen. In 1963 the addition was completed at a cost of \$17,000.



Before Loudoun County built a community center, the Sterling Ruritans facility served the general public. The handsome meeting hall supported three religious denominations, the Red Cross for a Bloodmobile Center and the county for use as a polling location for state and national elections. Today the building is used to support monthly meetings, club activities, fund-raisers and rentals to various organizations.



The Sterling Ruritan Club meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. at 183 Ruritan Road, near West Church Road and Atlantic Boulevard. For information, call 703-444-6039.

Did You Know?

The Ruritan Club hosts Bingo every Thursday at 7:00 PM!. It's open to the public and serves a good cause!

Sterling's History and Heritage Is Being Recorded
Do you have a piece of Sterling history that you can share? We're putting the story of Sterling together from as far back as we can discover! If you have photos, documents, antiques and heirlooms related to Sterling's past, we can help publicize and archive them.

"We shape our buildings; thereafter our buildings shape us." -Winston Churchill

GuilfordStationArts.Org

Great Performances -- in Sterling!
(703) 992-3508

Thank you, local sponsors!

History Quiz!

Which agricultural product made Sterling famous in the 20th century?



- A) Cows
- B) Grass
- C) Sheep



The answer is below

(but you might need a mirror to read it.)

STERLING'S ORCHARDGARDEN WON NATIONAL AWARDS
LIMK AND WOOL WERE IMPORTANT PRODUCTS BUT

Meet Donna Bohanon!

Donna Bohanon is Sterling's new Heritage Commissioner, appointed by Supervisor Koran Saines. Ms. Bohanon is



also active in the Black History Committee, Friends of the Thomas Balch Library and has already been instrumental in preserving Sterling's heritage by voicing SOS's concerns to the Heritage Commission.

We are honored to have Donna represent Sterling and look forward to working with her to make Sterling a better place.

Ways To Give

SaveOldSterling is an organization of concerned citizens and serves the entire community.

You can help give back to your community by joining our team of dedicated volunteers or by making a donation to support the efforts of the SOS. Your valuable contribution helps SOS maintain our history.

Call Us: 703-992-3508 Any time! (Leave a message) **Email Us: Info@SaveOldSterling.com**

Send a Letter: SOS, 1006 Ruritan Circle, Sterling, VA 20164

Come to a Meeting: We meet on the last Tuesday of every month, at Mona's -- it's fun!