

Photography by Robert Earl Pankey

c. 2000

About the Collection

Robert Earl Pankey (1938–2018) was a longtime resident of Appomattox, Virginia, and a devoted photographer whose work captured the quiet dignity of local life and the landscapes of his beloved county. After a professional career with Babcock and Wilcox, he operated his own photography business, documenting families, communities, and everyday moments across Central Virginia. Robert was known for traversing every back road in Appomattox, often with a camera in hand. In his later years, he and his wife Donna explored all 50 states, Canada, and Mexico. In 2000, he was commissioned by the Town of Appomattox 75th Anniversary Committee to document the architecture, streetscapes, and spirit of the town at the turn of the millennium. His photographs from that effort form a visual time capsule, preserving a precise moment in the town's history as it stood at the dawn of the 21st century.

Digitization Information

- Digitized by: Nathan Simpson
- Scanning Equipment & Settings
- Scanner: Epson FF-680W
- Software: FastFoto on MacOS
- Original scan resolution: 600x600 DPI
- Original scan dimensions: 3523 × 2357 pixels
- Color space: RGB

Web Optimization Processing

- Processing tool: Python PIL (Pillow)
- Conversion: RGB → Grayscale (L mode)
- Max dimension: 1200px (longer side)
- Resampling method: LANCZOS
- Sharpening: UnsharpMask (radius=1.0, percent=100, threshold=3)
- Contrast enhancement: +5%
- Output format: Progressive JPEG
- JPEG quality: 88
- Optimization: Enabled

Photo List

townofappomattox-32_0001.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0002.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0003.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0003_b.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0004.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0005.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0006.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0006_b.jpg
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townofappomattox-32_0015.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0016.jpg
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townofappomattox-32_0020_b.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0021.jpg
townofappomattox-32_0022.jpg
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