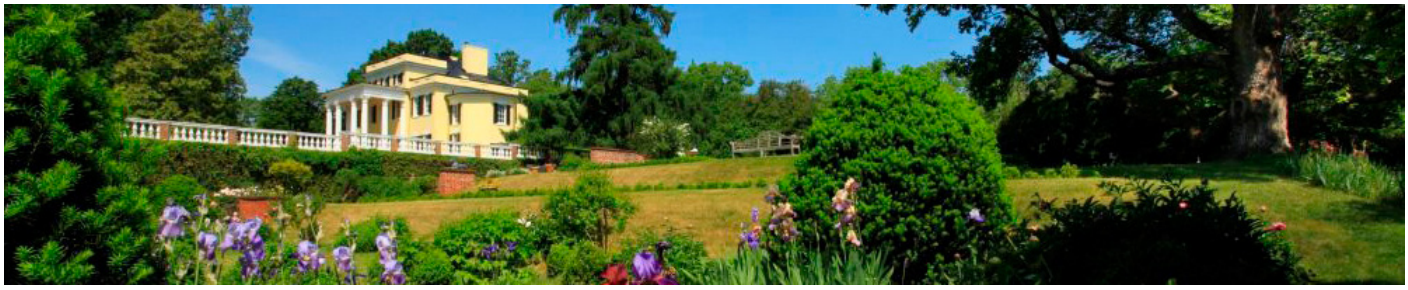

Leesburg Homes/Gardens on Tour

Springdale Village Inn - https://www.springdalevillageinn.com Springdale was built in 1832 by abolitionist, government official, writer, educator and evangelical Quaker Samuel M. Janney. According to local legend, it is believed that Springdale served as one of the last stops of the Underground Railroad. This is supported by architectural evidence of sub-basements, crawl spaces, curious cubby holes and closed-off fireplaces. Springdale later housed a co-ed school and in the early 1900's served as a boarding house. It was later purchased as a private weekend retreat where Sam Rayburn and Lyndon B. Johnson played poker as often as possible, and in recent years has been transformed into a B&B. The elegant, Federal-style manor house boasts four stories, 25 rooms, eight fireplaces and a charming sun room. Constructed primarily of stone and oak, Springdale is marked by quality craftsmanship. It has the original Quaker pegs and dumb-waiter and now houses a commercial kitchen. Springdale is listed on both the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

Woodcrest - Meticulously crafted in 1988, Woodcrest is beautifully sited on 33 acres that give the property commanding views to the east of Leesburg and the skyline of Reston and Tysons Corner. The unique charm of this home lies in its elegant, but extremely simple form that is a classic example of early Georgian style (1730) architecture. Showing a level of workmanship rarely found in modern construction, the house is appointed with details inspired by notable historic homes. The raised limestone terrace overlooks a gated pool garden shaded by autumnalis cherry trees. Adding texture and color to the area are boxwood hedges, spring bulbs, flowering shrubs, perennials, and espaliered retaining walls. The unstructured natural design of the garden and grounds complements the simple elegance of the home. Open for the first time.

Stony Lonesome - One of the most stately homes in the village of Mount Gilead, the original stone 2 ½ story home and north wing of Stony Lonesome were built circa 1790. The stone walls are 30 inches thick at the foundation and taper to 24 inches at the slate roof. It is said that the sand used in the mortar was ballast in English ships unloaded at Dumfries, Virginia and ox-carted to the site. One of the mysteries of Stony Lonesome is an attic trapdoor with a wooden staircase that leads to a hidden space behind a second floor bedroom and continues down to a dirt crawl space in the basement. It is speculated that slaves were hidden in the shaft and assisted on their journey to freedom via the Underground Railroad. The 38 acre property with its spectacular peony and heritage rose collections continues to be maintained as a showplace. The well-kept grounds are enhanced by old trees, four ponds, old stone fences, and assorted farm animals and pets.

Larkrise - This charming Federal-style Quaker farmhouse is nestled on 11 acres in the rolling hills of the Goose Creek Historic District. The oldest part of the house was built of stone and brick in the mid 1700's by Minor Bartlow. A larger brick section was added circa 1780 followed by a frame section in the early 1800's. The lovely gardens are enhanced by the clever use of stonework, the childrens' playhouse, and a picturesque barn and stone springhouse. The informal gardens were designed and constructed by the owners.

Oatlands Gardens - https://www.oatlands.org The origins of Oatlands' terraced garden were formed in the early 1800s under the ownership of George Carter. Its four-and-a-half acres, enclosed by brick walls, served as both a kitchen garden for the Carters and their enslaved laborers and an ornamental garden recalling the formal designs found in England. In 1903 prominent Washingtonians Edith and Willian Eustis purchased Oatlands as their country home. Mrs. Eustis immediately began restoring "the old beauty," as she described it in the book, Historic Gardens of Virginia. Oatlands Historic House and Gardens is a National Trust Historic Site. Tours of the mansion are an additional fee. ***Note: Oatlands will be visited time permitting.***