

2. Mutual Pharmacy – 314 Wood Ave

The Mutual Pharmacy is where Fleeta, played by Whoopi Goldberg, and Pearl, offered a steadying hand while Ave Maria's world spun away from her control. With a prescription for laughter, many hilarious scenes play out at the Mutual. Pearl creates a new makeup line, Cheerleaders are embarrassed while buying birth control pills, and Fleeta shares her secrets to keeping her love life going.

3. Coal Miner's Memorial – 5th & Wood Ave.

The movie scene of the explosion at the coal mine demonstrates the constant dangers miners face and the anxiety and fears felt by their families. Ave Maria and Spec are the first responders to the coal mine and provide rescue assistance to the injured. Jack Mac is one of the last to come out of the smoke and dust of the mine explosion. The Coal Miner's Memorial stands as a reminder to those coal miners who lost their lives in mine disasters.

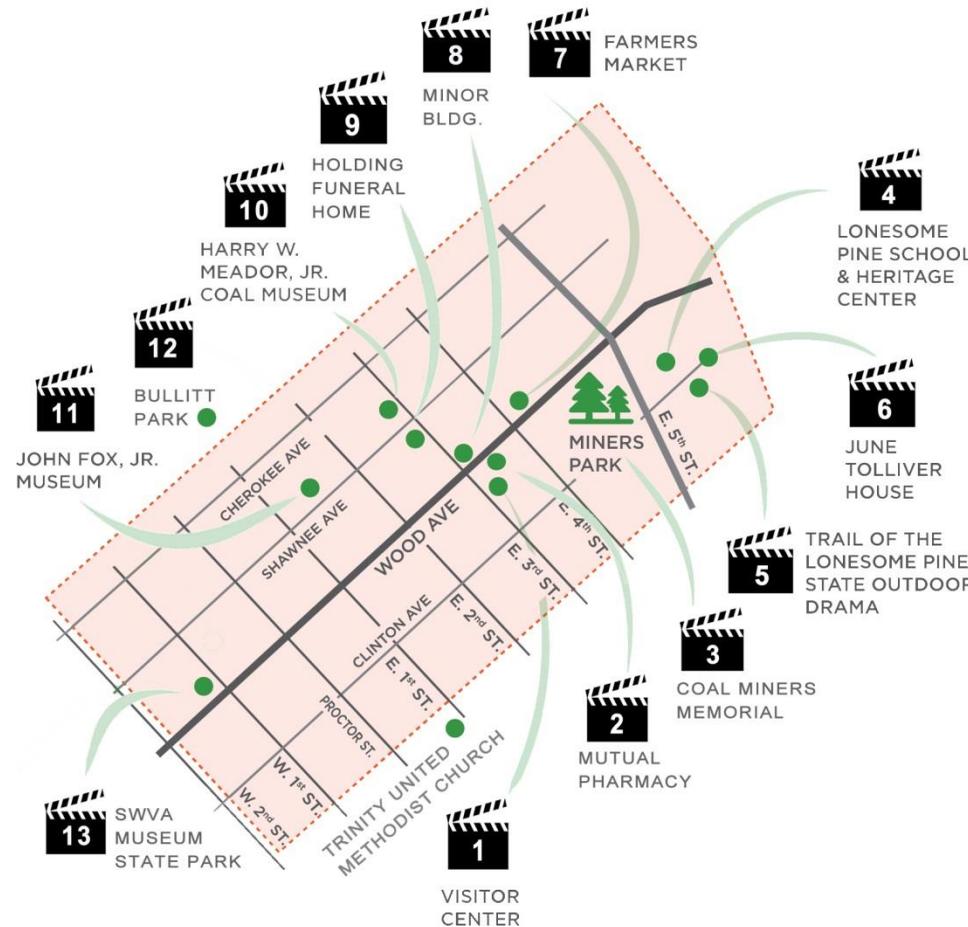
4. Lonesome Pine School and Heritage Center – 511 Clinton Ave.

Photo albums from the filming of the *Big Stone Gap* movie and Town memorabilia give a short history of the Outdoor Drama and other anecdotal history of the area of interest to our visitors.

5. Trail of the Lonesome Pine Outdoor Drama – 518 Clinton Ave.

The Drama has been a fixture in Big Stone Gap for over half a century, and now, shines on the silver screen in the movie *Big Stone Gap*. Ave Maria is the director of the drama and celebrates the final performance of the season with CAKE, a favorite theme of the books and the movie.

According to Jack Mac, the best seats in the outdoor theater to see the “milk glass moon” are row G seats 5 and 7. This magical spot is where Jack Mac proposes to Ave Maria by listing the benefits of their union including, “I have new truck, a 78 Ford Pickup (in shiny bright red). At our age there aren't a lot of us left, the never marrieds.” The theater provides the backdrop for the final scene of the movie as Ave Maria, wearing a red dress, is there for what she thinks is a last good bye. A gesture from Jack Mac shows his overwhelming love for Ave Maria opens her heart and her eyes to what has been right in front of her all along. The love of her friends, her family, and now Jack Mac's heart, is all she needs.



6. June Tolliver House – 522 Clinton Ave.

The building is a National Historic Landmark, featuring period furnishings, walls filled with original paintings, and a gift shop that showcases local arts and crafts. In *Big Stone Gap*, there is an auxiliary group of young single ladies called the “Foxes” who volunteer each season of the drama to manage ticket sales, concessions, and operate the gift shop. Sweet Sue, played by Jane Krakowski, is the chairman of the Foxes and is also a rival for Jack Mac's love. Their signature trademark, tight-fitting t-shirts, affirm the Foxes “keep history alive.” In the movie, Sweet Sue's boys were played by Patrick Wilson's two sons.

7. Farmer's Market– 440 Shawnee Ave.

The parking lot used for the *Big Stone Gap* Farmer's Market was transformed into a village of behind the scenes Make Up and Costume Changing rooms. *Big Stone Gap* stepped back to the 1970's through hair styles, clothing, cars, trucks, kitchen items, paintings, and various items were often donated by local citizens.

8. Minor Building – 301 Wood Ave.

The office complex was originally built by Westmoreland Coal Company but became the office of Spec Broadwater in the movie. Spec, played by Anthony LaPaglia, is a great friend to Ave Maria as they work side by side to provide Emergency Services to the community. Later, Spec helps Ave Maria craft a legal scheme that will get her relatives out of her life and give Ave the freedom to live her dream.

VIRGINIA IS FOR LOVERS

9. Holding Funeral Home – 17 E 3rd St N

Across the street is Holding Funeral Home who provided an actual headstone for Frederick Mulligan during the cemetery scene. Often, the headstones in movies are made of Styrofoam and look it.

10. Harry Meador Coal Museum – 570 Shawnee Ave.

The story of coal mining is woven throughout Adriana Trigiani's books and movie. Jack Mac was a coal miner, as were many generations of families that lived and died in Big Stone Gap. Although you can't actually go to the coal mining sites from the movie, you can visit the Meador Coal Museum for a glimpse into the life of a Coal Miner and the impact of coal on the local towns.

11. John Fox, Jr. House – 118 Shawnee Ave.

This is the actual home where "Trail of the Lonesome Pine" author penned many of his 12 novels and 45 short stories. The best-selling author was also a reporter for the New York Times and spent time with the Rough Riders during the Spanish-American War as a correspondent for Harper's Weekly. The house looks virtually as it did during Fox's lifetime, still furnished with family belongings.

12. Bullitt Park and Tree Houses – E 1st St

Taylor Slagle is the head drum majorette at **Powell Valley High School** where many a cherry-bomb was dropped into the 'ter-let'. On Friday nights every fall, everyone attends the high school football game and on Saturday they dance to live bluegrass music at Carter Family Fold in nearby Hiltons, VA. A close friend of Ave Maria and the High School Band Director, Theodore Tipton, played by John

Benjamin Hickey, is the "Bob Fosse of Big Stone Gap." According to Iva Lou, Theodore Tipton is a humdinger who "makes a pair of Levi's sing." In 1978, Bullitt Park hosted "The Salute to Elizabeth Taylor," a musical tribute to the Hollywood legend as choreographed by Theodore Tipton, including a fire baton twirling Cleopatra. After the football game, the celebrity couple is taken to the Coach House for the Library Fund Raiser. During a visit with the kitchen staff, Liz takes a bite of chicken and immediately chokes. Thanks to the quick medical assistance provided by Spec and Ave Maria, Elizabeth Taylor's life is saved! Big Stone Gap is known as "the campaign stop where Elizabeth Taylor choked on a chicken bone." (true story)

13. SWVA Museum Historical State Park – 10 East 1st Street N

Storytelling has been a popular way of sharing information, history, and humor in this country for hundreds of years. A journey through the museum offers a fascinating glimpse into life in the Gap throughout several centuries. As Ave Maria was delivering twinkling lights to the Dogwood Garden Club for the Christmas Flower Exhibit, Ave passes out into a "Deep Sleep" for 8 days. After she awakens refreshed and renewed, she realized that she wasn't happy. She had lost herself along the way. Now, she wants to change.

Side Trip for Extra Credit

Trinity United Methodist Church – 203 E 1st St

On March 11, all of Big Stone Gap witnessed the raucous union of Iva Lou Wade and Lyle Makin with Blue Tuxes and Pink Bridesmaid Dresses, a wedding cake topped with the Book Mobile, and tons of kissing! Every element of the church was used and many townspeople filled the pews.



MOVIE SITE WALKING TOUR

*Love the books. Love the movie. Love Big Stone Gap.
Written by Adriana Trigiani*

Today's journey is a behind the scenes glimpse into the making of the movie, a real tour of the famous attractions, and an open invitation to experience the culture and local flavor of the real Big Stone Gap.



1. Carmine's Visitor Center – 300 Wood Ave.

Carmine's was a popular hangout in the 1950's, 60's and 70's. Adriana always loved the look of this building and its proximity to the Mutual Pharmacy and the Minor Building, so it was the perfect fit when filming began. The set was transformed with vintage booths, tables, and a classic black and white checked linoleum floor. Walls were decorated with local sports memorabilia from Powell Valley and Appalachia High Schools. Movie staff scoured the county for authentic set pieces to make certain that everything on camera was of the era. Now, the filling station turned diner has become the official Visitor's Center.