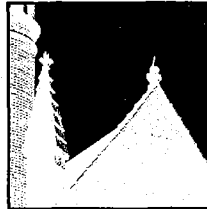
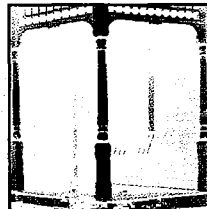




*HISTORIC SITES  
OF NASHVILLE  
AND DAVIDSON  
COUNTY*



**Look  
and  
See  
the  
Town**



**METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

---

**A**t a distance of a mile from the town you see a board with a hand painted on it as large as life, and the fore finger pointing, with the following inscription in large letters underneath —“Look and see the Town!” Upon looking down the road you see the town sure enough. It has a beautiful appearance when viewed from this point.

*Ann Royall, “the first woman journalist of America,” published an account of an 1817 visit to Nashville in **Letters from Alabama.***



■  
**HISTORIC SITES  
OF NASHVILLE  
AND DAVIDSON  
COUNTY**

**Look  
and  
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the  
Town**



**METROPOLITAN HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

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# INTRODUCTION



This publication contains brief descriptions of historic sites, buildings, districts, and museums in Nashville and Davidson County. The entries are divided into seven categories according to subject. A map in the back of

the book shows the location of each site.

Each of the sections has a story to tell about the people and the life in this place during the two hundred years of its existence. Historic house museums tell about the lives of outstanding individuals who played major roles in local or national events. Churches, schools, parks, and neighborhoods show how ordinary people lived, worked, worshipped, and played — what their interests were and what they valued. Architectural styles reflect changing tastes, economic growth and development, and local interpretations of national trends.

Several of Nashville's museums are housed in historic buildings themselves. Some are important as guardians and interpreters of specific collections of historic artifacts. Others showcase the work of local and national artists.

Capital City, Music City USA, home of Andrew Jackson, the Athens of the South — Nashville has a rich and diverse heritage. Its historic buildings and sites provide a visible link with the city's past and are the keys to discovering its character, culture, and charm.



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# HOUSES



The first pioneers settled in Nashville during what proved to be one of the coldest winters in American history. Arriving on Christmas Day in 1779, they survived in open-faced camps at the base of Capitol Hill. When the weather cleared, they cut trees, prepared logs, and began building cabins. Log structures were Nashville's earliest examples of residential architecture; few of them remain.

The first brick houses were built at the end of the eighteenth century. Indian attacks had ceased, and the settlement's increasing sense of stability encouraged its inhabitants to build more permanent homes. Many were modeled after the kinds of houses they had known in Virginia and North and South Carolina.

In 1843, Nashville became the capital of Tennessee. Large plantation homes reflect the burgeoning economy of the new capital city during the mid-nineteenth century. Nashville by that time was the home of two former presidents of the United States, Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk. It was the seat of state government, a major publishing center, and a distribution point for goods throughout the Mid-South.

Four of the historic houses included in this section are now historic house museums; Two Rivers Mansion and the Governor's Residence have been adapted for new uses. Begun in 1799, Historic Travellers' Rest is the oldest house. The newest, the Governor's Residence, was built in 1931, just before Nashville began to feel the effects of the Great Depression.

All the houses listed are open to the public. Special exhibits and activities vary throughout the year.

# 1

## BELLE MEADE MANSION

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Belle Meade Mansion was the crowning jewel of a 5400-acre working plantation and thoroughbred farm which flourished in the nineteenth century. John Harding bought the original land in 1807. His son William Giles Harding established the Belle Meade Thoroughbred Stud in 1836, and General William Hicks Jackson, William Giles' son-in-law, developed the plantation into a national showplace. In addition to raising thoroughbred horses, the Hardings maintained a wild deer park and sold breeding stock of ponies, Alderney cattle, Cotswold sheep, and Cashmere goats. At its sale in 1904, Belle Meade was the oldest and largest thoroughbred farm in America. Although the original house was probably built in the 1820s, an 1853 addition doubled its size and included a majestic Greek Revival limestone portico. Belle Meade Mansion remained a private residence until 1953 when it was sold to the state for restoration as a historic site. Managed by the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities, the site also includes one of Tennessee's oldest buildings, a log cabin built in the late 1780s, as well as a carriage house and a magnificent stable.

**Belle Meade Mansion is located at 110 Leake Avenue, off U.S. Highway 70. The first floor of the mansion is wheelchair accessible. Admission is charged.**

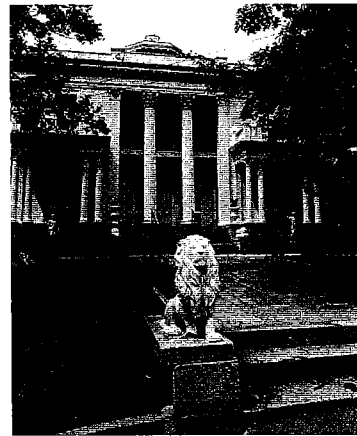


# 2

## BELMONT MANSION

Belmont Mansion, an ornate Italianate villa built in 1850, was the summer home of Joseph and Adelia Acklen. An extraordinary woman who married three times, Adelia was reputed to be the wealthiest woman in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century, owning six plantations in Louisiana, 50,000 acres of land in Texas, and 2,000 acres in Tennessee. Her lavish taste is evident in the mansion which boasts the most elaborate domestic room built in antebellum Tennessee. The two-story salon featured Corinthian columns, chandeliers, and fine paintings and statuary, collected from Adelia's extensive travels abroad. Marble fountains, cast-iron gazebos, and statuary still stand as evidence of ornate, formal gardens. Adelia also built a deer park, a zoo, a bear house, a bowling alley, and an art gallery to entertain her guests. Although these structures no longer exist, the 105-foot water tower, used by Federal soldiers during the Civil War to relay signals, still stands. Belmont was sold in 1887, becoming the central building for Belmont Junior College for Girls, later Ward-Belmont, and now Belmont College. Belmont Mansion is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Belmont Mansion is located at 1900 Belmont Boulevard, three miles southwest of downtown Nashville on the Belmont campus. Admission is charged.**



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## 3

### GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

Located in a quiet residential area, the Governor's Residence was built as a private home, Far Hills, by W. Ridley Wills in 1929, with additions in 1931. The mansion's setting provides an outstanding view of the Nashville hills. The main entrance is on the north side with all principal rooms and porches opening to the view on the south. Designed by Hart Freeland Roberts, Inc., the twenty-six-room building has served as the home for Tennessee's chief executive since the state purchased it in 1948. Governor and Mrs. Gordon Browning were the first official occupants. Governor and Mrs. Winfield Dunn began the practice of setting aside selected rooms in the mansion as museum areas open to the public during the week.

**The Governor's Residence is located at 882 Curtiswood Lane, five miles south of downtown off Franklin Road. The mansion is open on selected days during the week. Tours of more than ten people are by reservation only. Wheelchair accessibility can be established if requested in advance. Admission is free.**



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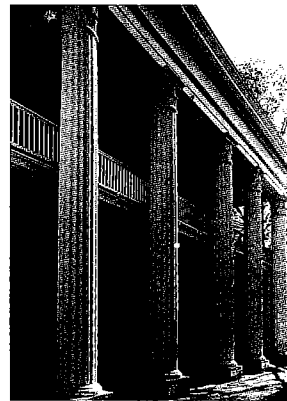
## 4

### THE HERMITAGE

The Hermitage, home of Andrew Jackson, seventh President of the United States and hero of the Battle of New Orleans, offers a glimpse of life on the nineteenth century plantation of its owner from his retirement to Tennessee in 1837 until his death in 1845. Begun in 1819 as a Federal-style brick home, The Hermitage was enlarged in 1831 and rebuilt after a fire in 1834 in the popular Greek Revival style. In 1889, the State of Tennessee granted a charter to the Ladies' Hermitage Association, placing the house and twenty-five of the original 625 acres under their management. A National Historic Landmark, the mansion has been restored to the period of Jackson's retirement, including original furnishings and paintings carefully researched and preserved by the Association. On the grounds are two original log cabins, the smokehouse and kitchen, a formal garden designed by English gardener William Frost and created in 1819 for Rachel Jackson, and the Doric Greek tomb where Andrew and Rachel Jackson are buried. Completed in 1989, the Andrew Jackson Center houses an orientation theater, museum, gift shop, and restaurant.

Also among the Hermitage properties are Tulip Grove, the home of Andrew Jackson Donelson, nephew and private secretary to Andrew Jackson while he was president, and the Old Hermitage Church.

**The Hermitage is located at 4580 Rachel's Lane, twelve miles northeast of downtown Nashville on Old Hickory Boulevard. Exit from I-40 east. The center, grounds, and lower level of The Hermitage mansion are wheelchair accessible. Admission is charged.**

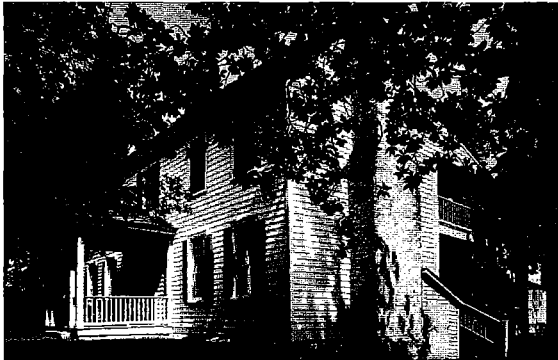


## 5

### HISTORIC TRAVELLERS' REST

Begun in 1799, Travellers' Rest was the home of John Overton, close friend, law partner, and presidential campaign manager for Andrew Jackson. Overton came to Nashville from Virginia and Kentucky and distinguished himself as a lawyer and state Supreme Court jurist. Overton, with Andrew Jackson and James Winchester, also founded the city of Memphis. Overton's son John financed a Confederate regiment during the Civil War, and the home was used as the headquarters for Confederate General John B. Hood before the Battle of Nashville in 1864. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Travellers' Rest began as a two-story, four-room Federal-style clapboard house. Additions in 1812, 1828, and 1887 increased the house to its present size and left a visible history of changing Tennessee architectural styles from Federal to Victorian. The site is currently interpreted as an example of a working farm in the early nineteenth century. The house remained in the Overton family until 1948 and was given by its last owner, the Nashville Railroad Company, to the Colonial Dames of America in Tennessee to be managed as a historic site.

**Travellers' Rest is located at 636 Farrell Parkway, five miles south of downtown Nashville off Franklin Road. The first floor of the house is wheelchair accessible. Admission is charged.**



## 6

### TWO RIVERS MANSION

Located between the Stones and Cumberland rivers, Two Rivers Mansion was constructed by David McGavock, an early settler and prominent landowner, in 1859. The rich land was owned at one time by Andrew Jackson and later by William Harding, whose family built Belle Meade Mansion. Harding's daughter Willie married her cousin David McGavock in 1850. In the 1880s, the 1100-acre estate became known as the Two Rivers Stock Farm, with livestock, a dairy operation, and grain crops grown to feed the livestock. One document states that, in addition to the elaborate Italianate mansion, there were fifteen tenant houses, thirteen stables and barns, and twenty-two other buildings, many of which were destroyed by a tornado in 1933. The McGavocks owned Two Rivers until 1965, when the last heir died and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County bought the house and the remaining 447 acres. A fourteen-acre tract, including the mansion and a small brick house built in 1802, was retained and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places; the city has developed a golf course, park, and two schools on the rest of the land. Two Rivers is offered to the public on a rental basis for weddings, receptions, and other events.

**Two Rivers Mansion is located at 3130 McGavock Pike, seven miles northeast of downtown Nashville off Briley Parkway. The mansion is not open to the public on a regular basis; tours are free and by appointment only. The lower floor of the mansion is wheelchair accessible.**



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## PARKS



The year 1901 marks the birth of Nashville's public park system. Although several small city parks and "trolley parks" -- privately owned amusement parks located along trolley lines -- existed in the latter half of the nineteenth century, the origin of a city-owned and managed public park system must be traced to the Tennessee Centennial Exposition of 1897.

Designed as a celebration of one hundred years of statehood, the Centennial Exposition was for six months Nashville's principal recreation center. Dazzling electric lights, fountains, and large exhibit halls drew national recognition and over a million visitors. At its close, Nashvillians were reluctant to part with the "White City," particularly its centerpiece building, a full-size replica of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.

The idea of retaining the exposition site as a city park surfaced immediately; but, because of problems with organization and leadership, it was not until almost four years later that the state General Assembly passed legislation creating a Park Board. Watkins Park, not Centennial Park, was the first city park. But a year later, the land on which the Centennial Exposition had stood was purchased and given to the board for development as a city park.

The twentieth century has seen the growth of the park system to include seventy parks and nearly 7,000 acres. The range of activities offered by the park system — golf, softball, polo, and soccer to wildflower hikes, concerts, ballet, and Greek drama — has brought Nashville's parks national awards and recognition.

As added good fortune, the state of Tennessee has also developed state parks and natural areas in Davidson County, one of which is described in this section.

The parks included here are among the oldest and most historically significant parks in Metropolitan Nashville.

---

## 7

### CENTENNIAL PARK

In 1897, celebrating a year late the one hundredth anniversary of Tennessee's admission to the Union, the Tennessee Centennial Exposition was held on the site of West Side Park, now Centennial Park. Known as the "great white city" because of the number of white stucco exhibit halls, the enormous fair was the first financially successful exposition in America. President and Mrs. William McKinley brought a train of prominent visitors to the celebration. The architectural centerpiece of the exposition was an exact replica of the ancient Greek Parthenon constructed of wood and stucco and built on a limestone foundation. When the fair was over, the Parthenon was allowed to remain standing, and Centennial Park was established around it in 1902. In 1920, the Park Commissioners decided to rebuild the badly deteriorating structure in reinforced concrete as a permanent reminder of the exposition and monument to Nashville's reputation as the Athens of the South. (See Museums) Today the park maintains several other notable features, including Civil War powder wheels present at the exposition, a steam engine, a fighter plane, Lake Watauga, as well as facilities for tennis, swimming, and ice skating, and a band shell for outdoor concerts.

**Centennial Park is located on West End Avenue at Twenty-fifth Avenue, North.**





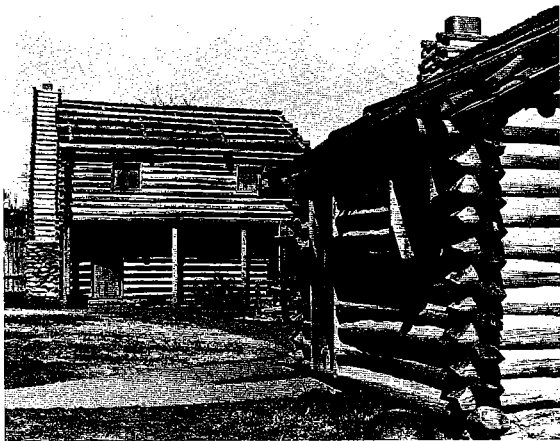
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# 8

## FORT NASHBOROUGH AND RIVERFRONT PARK

Built in the 1930s, this replica of the fort where Nashville began is somewhat smaller than the original and is located a short distance from the original site. Named in honor of Francis Nash, an American general killed during the Revolutionary War, Fort Nashborough provided security against Indian attacks and was the site at which settlers in the area converged to sign the Cumberland Compact, their governing document. Today guides in pioneer dress escort visitors through the cabins on the grounds and recount stories of the founding of Nashville in 1780 under the leadership of James Robertson and John Donelson. Immediately north of the fort is Bicentennial Park with a statue of Robertson and Donelson by Nashvillian Puryear Mims. South of the fort is Riverfront Park, conceived during Nashville's Century III celebration as a lasting reminder of the city's river heritage. The park serves as the setting for the city's July Fourth celebration as well as summer concerts and dances. The dock completed in 1985 provides a mooring for boats year round.

**Fort Nashborough is located at 170 First Avenue, North, along the Cumberland riverfront. Admission is free. The fort is wheelchair accessible.**



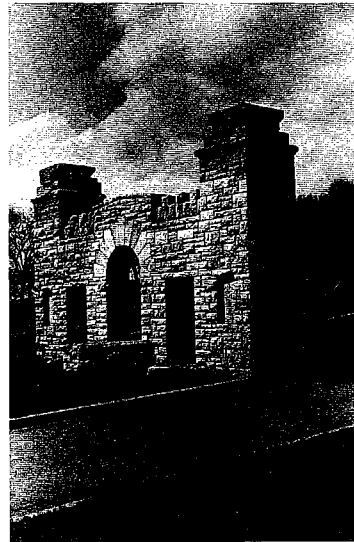
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# 9

## FORT NEGLEY

Located on top of St. Cloud Hill, Fort Negley was a Union army fort, part of a chain of fortifications surrounding Nashville during the two-year Civil War occupation of the city by federal troops. The European-style fort named for General James S. Negley was built by slaves and free blacks of stone, logs, earth, and railway iron. On December 14, 1864, the guns of Fort Negley opened the decisive Battle of Nashville. After three days of fighting, the Union Army forced the Confederate troops to flee to the south, ending any hope of saving the Confederacy. The fort was abandoned at the end of the war, and some of the stones used in its construction were reused to build the Eighth Avenue Reservoir. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the site was purchased by the Park Board in 1928. Part of the hill was leased in 1967 to the Cumberland Science Museum; another part, in 1976, to Herschel Greer Stadium. Atop the hill today are the ruins of a Works Progress Administration reconstruction of the original fort dating to the 1930s.

**Fort Negley is located on St. Cloud Hill at the corner of Ridley Boulevard and Chestnut Avenue.**



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# 10

## **RADNOR LAKE STATE NATURAL AREA**

Tennessee's first official state natural area, the Radnor Lake State Natural Area consists of 953 acres of land and water, furnishing homes for hundreds of species of plants and animals. The eighty-five-acre lake for which the area is named was constructed in 1914 by the L&N Railroad Company to provide water for steam engines at nearby railway yards. Birds soon made the lake a rest stop on their annual migrations; and, in 1923, L&N made the area a wildlife sanctuary and prohibited hunting. In 1973, the Tennessee Department of Conservation, with the support of thousands of concerned citizens, purchased the site to protect it as a natural area and established an extensive system of trails for visitors to use.

**Radnor Lake State Natural Area is located on Otter Creek Road between Granny White Pike and Franklin Road.**



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# 11

## **SHELBY PARK**

Covering 361.5 acres, Shelby Park is named for John Shelby, who owned much of the original land. Shelby, who served as army surgeon under Andrew Jackson, was given 640 acres by his father as a Christmas present in 1818. The name Shelby Park was first used at the turn of the twentieth century by a real estate development company which operated an amusement park on the site. The Park Board bought the first 151 acres of land in 1909 and opened the park on July 4, 1912. Many of the original structures — Sycamore Lodge, the Mission House, and several log cabins now gone — were designed by Major E.C. Lewis, a prime force behind the Tennessee Centennial Exposition and the building of Union Station. Nashville's first municipal golf course opened in Shelby Park in 1924, and its first city park baseball league was organized by the YMCA here in 1915. Shelby Park's swimming pool, constructed in 1932, was used during the Second World War by the Army for river assault boat training.

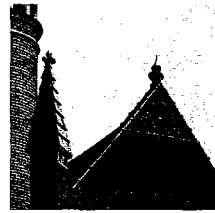
**Shelby Park is located at South Twentieth Street and Shelby Avenue on the Cumberland River.**



**WARNER PARKS**

Covering 2,664 acres of land, the Warner Parks constitute one of the largest municipally operated parks in the United States. Acquired between 1927 and 1930, the parks resulted from the efforts of three men, Luke Lea, Percy Warner, and Edwin Warner, who were instrumental in raising funds for and interest in the parks. During the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration added many improvements still used today, including seven limestone entrances, two stone bridges, miles of dry-stacked stone retainer walls, a steeplechase course, picnic shelters, scenic drives and overlooks, hiking trails, and bridle paths. The entrance gates at Belle Meade Boulevard were a gift of Mrs. Percy Warner and were designed by Nashville architect Edward Dougherty. Directly behind these gates, a multi-tiered allee designed by Bryant Fleming climbs 875 feet up the first hill of the park. In 1973, a nature center was established for environmental education; this facility now includes the C.E. Farrell Natural History Museum and Gardens. In 1984, the Warner Parks were listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**The Warner Parks are located in southwest Davidson County, with entrances on Belle Meade Boulevard, Highway 100, Chickering Road, and Old Hickory Boulevard. The Nature Center is located at 7311 Highway 100, just south of Old Hickory Boulevard.**

**CHURCHES**

The first record of a church in Nashville appeared in 1796. A small stone structure built on the Public Square, it was commonly known as the "Methodist Church."

According to Putnam's *History of Middle Tennessee*, the city deeded the land to the "religious society" for their meeting-house "so far as to give a right to their ministers to preach therein, but not to debar other denominations, unless when immediately occupied by said society." McKendree Methodist Church, the descendant of this first church, stands today on Church Street in downtown Nashville.

In addition to the Methodists, Baptists and Presbyterians were among the earliest congregations to form here, followed later by Episcopalians, Catholics, Jews, and others. By the beginning of the Civil War there were also black congregations, including two Methodist Episcopal churches and one Christian church. Congregations have continued to increase, and now there are over 750 churches in Nashville.

The influence of Nashville's churches is evident throughout the city. It was clergymen and church leaders who led in the establishment of educational institutions such as Vanderbilt University, Peabody College, Belmont College, and David Lipscomb University, among others. Religious publishing houses have made Nashville a printing and publishing center. And the strong presence of organized churches has also supported the growth of the gospel music industry in Nashville.

The churches selected for this section are among the oldest and most architecturally significant church buildings in Nashville. All are open to the public, but many request that arrangements for visits be made in advance.

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# 13

## CATHEDRAL OF THE INCARNATION

Completed in 1914, the Cathedral of the Incarnation became the mother church of the Nashville diocese. The yellow brick, Italian Renaissance-style church has a red tile roof and a bell tower copied after St. Martin's of the Hill in Rome. Thirty-two columns and pilasters of Scalioli support the roof; and the beamed ceiling, the first of its kind in the country, is resplendent in gold leaf. The holy water fonts are miniatures of those by Michaelangelo in St. Peter's in Rome. The Cathedral was one of three buildings designed by Asmus and Norton under the direction of Thomas Sebastian Byrne, bishop of Nashville from 1894 to 1923. The other two buildings are the rectory, a representation of the Farnese Palace in Rome, and the three-story school, in simple Roman style. Both buildings were completed in 1908.

**The Cathedral of the Incarnation is located at 2001 West End Avenue and is open for services only; tours must be arranged in advance. The cathedral is wheelchair accessible.**



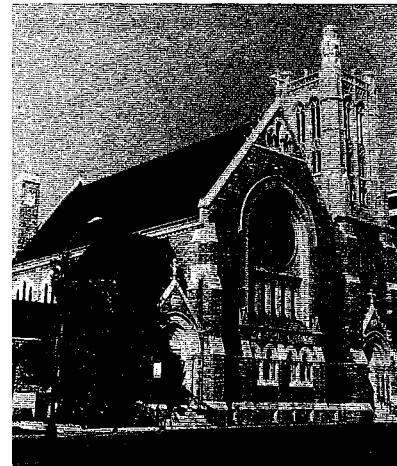
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# 14

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Located ten blocks from the State Capitol, Christ Church stands in what was once a residential area in downtown Nashville. Built between 1887 and 1892, the Episcopal church is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture. Designed by New York architect Francis H. Kimball and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the church is built of Sewanee sandstone, a gift of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee. Stone gargoyles, unique in Nashville, peer from the upper reaches of the building. Although originally planned in 1890, the tower was not added until 1947 under the supervision of Nashville architect Russell Hart. The interior of the church has a distinctive early English atmosphere and is noted for its unusual handcarved woodwork and beautiful stained glass windows, including two groups of windows designed by Louis Comfort Tiffany. Called the "School for Bishops," Christ Church has sent eight rectors to ordination as bishops; two of them, bishops of Tennessee and the other six, bishops of Arkansas, Georgia, Delaware, South Carolina, Atlanta, and New York.

**Christ Church is located at 900 Broadway. The entrance off the parking lot is wheelchair accessible.**



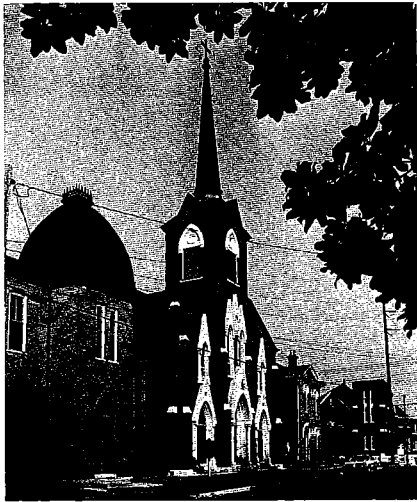
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# 15

## CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION

The Church of the Assumption is the second oldest Catholic church in Nashville and the only church in the United States to have one of its members appointed to the Roman Curia. Samuel A. Stritch, a native of Nashville and the Germantown neighborhood, was named to the Curia by Pope Pius XII in 1958. The first Catholic Church in Nashville — Holy Rosary — stood on the hill now occupied by the State Capitol. In 1859 bricks from Holy Rosary were used in the construction of the new Romanesque church. The Church of the Assumption became the center of the life of the German community in North Nashville; German was spoken for the services here until after World War I. During the Civil War, the church was commandeered by the Union Army; soldiers pillaged the church, taking the sacred vessels, vestments, statues, and interior decorations. In 1882-87, the Romanesque facade was altered to Gothic to reflect the architectural taste of the Victorian period. The present tower, installed in 1986, is a copper-clad replica of the original spire; the same cross has crowned each of the church's three successive spires. The Church of the Assumption is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**The Church of the Assumption is located at 1227 Seventh Avenue, North. The church is wheelchair accessible. Tours must be arranged in advance.**



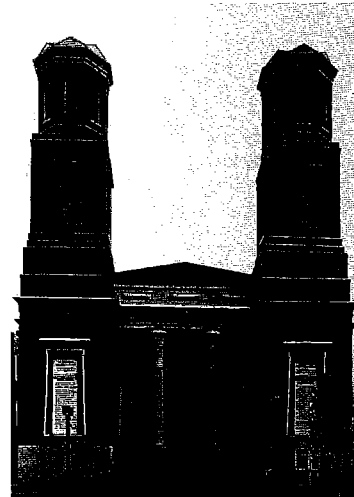
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# 16

## DOWNTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Built in 1851, the Downtown Presbyterian Church — until 1955, the First Presbyterian Church — is the third church building to occupy this Fifth Avenue site since 1816. Designed by William Strickland, architect of the State Capitol, the Downtown Presbyterian Church is one of the largest and best preserved examples of Egyptian Revival architecture in the United States. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the church was used as a hospital by the Union army during the Civil War; beds filled the sanctuary and ground floor. The building underwent extensive remodeling after 1865. Adelia Acklen, the mistress of Belmont, donated the 4,000 pound bell which served as the city's fire alarm from 1874 to 1897. In 1881, the interior was painted with colorful, symbolic designs and perspective painting of Egyptian columns creating the impression of an Egyptian temple. The winged globe, repeated throughout the church, is the symbol for the Egyptian sun god Amon-Ra and signifies eternity. Original box pews were also removed during this time, and the present curved walnut benches installed; the stained glass windows were added in 1887.

**Downtown Presbyterian Church is located at 154 Fifth Avenue, North, at Church Street. Tours of the church are scheduled during the summer. From September to May visitors should call or go to the church office to arrange a visit. The church is wheelchair accessible.**



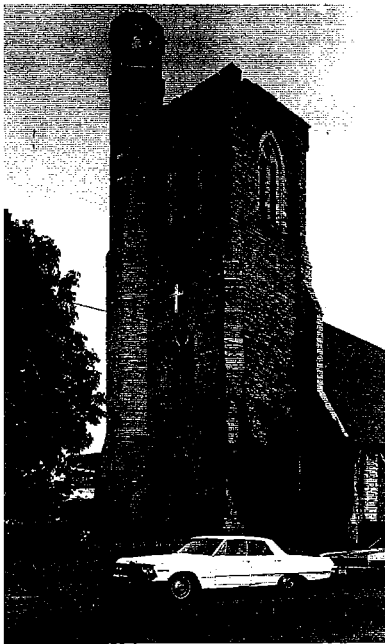
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# 17

## HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, an unusually fine example of Gothic Revival architecture, was designed by Frank Wills and Henry Dudley of New York, who understood completely the medieval precedents favored by the Anglican Church. Were this building standing in the English countryside, one might have to look twice to be certain that it was not a thirteenth century structure. The building is constructed of limestone with a gable roof and large square tower centered on the facade. The interior is divided into nave and sanctuary, and the roof structure is exposed. Christ Church's first mission church, Holy Trinity is one of seventeen churches built in South Nashville, the city's first suburb, incorporated in 1850 and annexed four years later into Nashville. During the Civil War, Union troops used the building to store powder and stable horses, causing much damage and delaying construction of the tower, not completed until 1887. By the turn of the century, the building had been restored and is now listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Holy Trinity Church is located at 615 Sixth Avenue, South. Tours are by appointment only.**



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# 18

## LINDSLEY AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

This Church of Christ congregation traces its origins to a service held in 1855 by David Lipscomb, one of the founders of David Lipscomb University in Nashville and one of the most important figures of this locally strong and influential denomination. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the building itself was built by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1894. South Nashville was then a prosperous residential and academic community because of its proximity to the University of Nashville, Vanderbilt Medical School, and other prominent educational institutions then located in the area. Designed by local architect Robert Sharp, the two-story Victorian Gothic building's irregular outline and lively silhouette are complemented by a great deal of decorative detail in stone, brick, and terra cotta. Its decorative exuberance — particularly on a building of modest scale — is unmatched in existing Nashville churches.

**Lindsley Avenue Church of Christ is located at the corner of Lindsley Avenue and Second Avenue, South. Tours are by appointment only.**



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## 19

### ST. MARY'S CHURCH

St. Mary's was the first permanent Roman Catholic Church in Tennessee and is the oldest standing church in Nashville. Widely believed to have been designed by William Strickland, architect of the State Capitol, the church is now known to be the work of Nashville architect Adolphus Heiman. The Greek Revival church was constructed between 1844 and 1847 under the direction of Bishop Richard P. Miles, the father of the Catholic Church in Tennessee; his tomb lies in the Penance Chapel. St. Mary's served as the headquarters of the diocese under the first six bishops of Tennessee. During the Civil War Battle of Nashville, the building was converted to a hospital as were the Downtown Presbyterian Church and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church. In the 1890s, St. Mary's was remodeled; new stained glass windows and electric lights were installed at that time. In 1925, the north and south sides of the structure were veneered with brick, and the whole front of the edifice was finished in stone. In spite of these alterations to the interior and exterior of the original building, the church is in good condition, and the elegant classic lines of the design make it an ecclesiastical gem. St. Mary's is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**St. Mary's Church is located at 328 Fifth Avenue, North, at the corner of Charlotte Avenue.**



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## 20

### ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was founded in 1891 to accommodate Nashville's growing Irish Catholic population. Irish-born Reverend Timothy C. Abbott, who received the title of monsignor from the pope in 1929, organized and built the church, remaining its pastor until his death in 1932. Designed by B.J. and M. Hodge, St. Patrick's served as a church school and center for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day in the diocese. At Reverend Abbott's invitation, Irish gypsy clans made annual pilgrimages to St. Patrick's to bring their dead kinsmen for final rites and burial at Calvary Cemetery on Lebanon Road. St. Patrick's Church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**St. Patrick Church is located at 1219 Second Avenue, South, and is open for services only. The building is wheelchair accessible.**



**TULIP STREET METHODIST CHURCH**

Originally located at the corner of Russell and Fifth streets, Tulip Street Methodist Church was established between 1859 and 1860 to serve the rapidly developing city of Edgefield. The church's membership outgrew the first building in 1869, and Thomas L. Dismukes and J.E. Woodward designed the new church in its present location. Construction was completed in 1892, and the carillon chimes, originally part of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, were installed in the bell tower at the turn of the century. The massive church's wide entrance arch, vaulted ceiling, and terra cotta ornamentation exemplify the Richardsonian Romanesque style named for architect Henry Hobson Richardson. Nashville's Union Station was also designed in this architectural style popular in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Tulip Street Methodist Church is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Tulip Street Methodist Church is located at 522 Russell Street in East Nashville. The Sixth Street entrance is wheelchair accessible. Tours may be arranged through the church office.**

**NEIGHBORHOODS**

When the Robertson and Donelson expeditions arrived in Middle Tennessee in 1779 and 1780, they were at the edge of the wilderness, at the western frontier of the American colonies. The first settlers spread over the land quickly, living in small groups and building stations or walled forts for protection from the Indians. Fort Nashborough became the main station, situated on the bluffs of the Cumberland River.

By the early 1800s, the settlers had a growing sense of permanence and stability. Just south of Broadway, Rutledge Hill, known earlier as College Hill, saw the development of Nashville's first residential community. In the mid-1800s, other neighborhoods grew to the north and east, and finally to the west, encircling what is now Nashville's downtown area.

By the mid-twentieth century, these early inner-city neighborhoods had declined due to the passing of time and outward growth and expansion of the city. In the early 1970s, however, a back-to-the-city trend began to grow, spurred by interest in historic preservation and the search for more affordable housing in convenient locations. People began moving into older neighborhoods and joining those who had never left. Neighborhood groups formed to solve problems and to market the special qualities of inner-city areas.

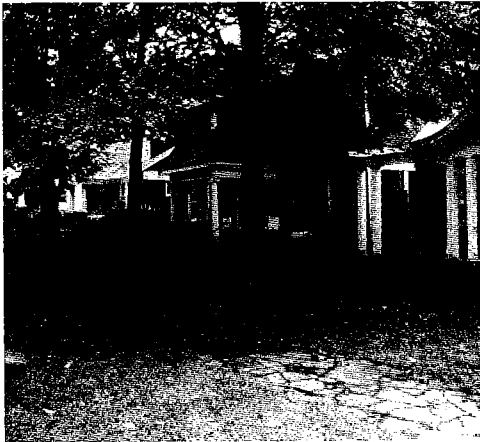
The neighborhoods contained in this section chart the growth of Nashville from the mid-1800s to the 1930s. Their historical and architectural significance has made many of them eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Several have local historic or conservation zoning overlays for their protection.



**BELMONT-HILLSBORO**

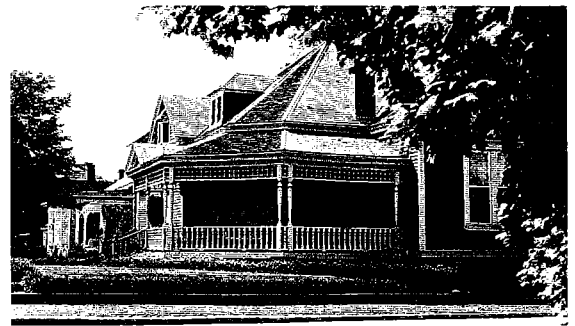
For much of the nineteenth century, the Belmont-Hillsboro area was part of two large plantations: the Belmont estate of Colonel and Mrs. Joseph Acklen, where Belmont College is today (See Belmont Mansion), and the Montgomery Plantation, owned by Colonel A.B. Montgomery. The oldest building within the district is the Montgomery plantation outbuilding located at 1806 Cedar Lane. The main plantation house, which burned during the Civil War, was located nearby. The overseer's house still stands behind the Christian Science Church at 2911 Hillsboro Road. The neighborhood was first subdivided in 1890, but development was slow until 1901, when the region became a "streetcar suburb" of the Belmont Boulevard street railway line. The housing of the neighborhood exhibits a variety of architectural styles typical of the early twentieth century, a mix of bungalows, four-squares, craftsman cottages, and English Tudor Revival houses. The houses and apartment buildings of Belmont-Hillsboro, with a few exceptions, are middle-sized, comfortable homes, a vivid and nearly intact reflection of average American lifestyle from 1890 to 1930. A portion of the Belmont-Hillsboro neighborhood is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**The Belmont-Hillsboro neighborhood is located between Twelfth and Twenty-first avenues, South, from Magnolia Boulevard on the north to the I-440 overpass on the south.**

**EAST END**

Originally known as the East Edgefield Addition, this section of Nashville was an outgrowth of the old city of Edgefield. The neighborhood takes its name from the East End United Methodist Church at 1212 Holly Street, completed in 1910, and a fine example of Romanesque Revival architecture. The East End Church sponsors the oldest scout troop in the state of Tennessee, Scout Troop #3, chartered the year scouting began in the United States. The East End area was subdivided in the 1870s and contains excellent examples of large and small houses from the Victorian era as well as turn-of-the-century cottages and four-squares. Hugh C. Thompson, architect for the Ryman Auditorium, designed and lived in the Eastlake-style house at 1201 Holly Street; the house was built in 1889. The East End area is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is part of a locally designated conservation zoning district.

**The East End neighborhood is located between South Tenth and Fourteenth streets from Woodland Street on the north to Shelby Avenue on the south.**



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## 24

### EDGEFIELD

The city of Edgefield, incorporated separately from Nashville from 1868 to 1880, grew up as a quiet, fashionable residential community, set apart from the clamor and dust of industrial Nashville. The opening of a suspension bridge in 1853 at the present site of the Woodland Street Bridge spurred the development of the area with families of prominence building stately Victorian residences on its narrow lots. Nashville's greatest fire disaster occurred in this area on March 22, 1916, devastating large sections of the neighborhood. The area subsequently declined until its revitalization in the late 1970s. Many of the elegant Victorian houses of the nineteenth century survive, however: among them, Italianate and Queen Anne style houses, as well as four-squares and bungalows constructed in the early twentieth century. Fatherland, Boscobel, and Russell streets have a more concentrated number of Victorian houses close to downtown than can be found elsewhere in Nashville. Edgefield was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977 and became Nashville's first locally-zoned historic district in 1978.

**Edgefield is located from South Fifth to South Tenth streets along Russell, Fatherland, and Boscobel streets.**



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## 25

### GERMANTOWN

The first map of Nashville, drawn by land surveyor David McGavock in 1786, shows this section of North Nashville as originally part of 960 acres granted to McGavock's brother James. In the 1830s and 1840s, the agricultural nature of the area began to give way to residential development. Many of the families moving into the neighborhood at this time and later in the 1870s were German and included skilled craftsmen, tradesmen, and business people. Butchery emerged as an important cottage industry in the area, leading to the formation of packing houses in the early twentieth century. As the packing houses grew and public attitudes toward German culture changed as a result of World War I, the neighborhood began to change. Original owners moved away; much of the area declined. In the 1970s, interest in historic preservation and inner-city living encouraged the revitalization of the neighborhood, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Residences in Germantown range from ornate Italianate townhouses to smaller duplexes and workers' cottages reflecting the diversity of the area when families of all economic levels lived side by side. Original wrought iron fences and brick sidewalks remain, lending the area an old-world flavor.

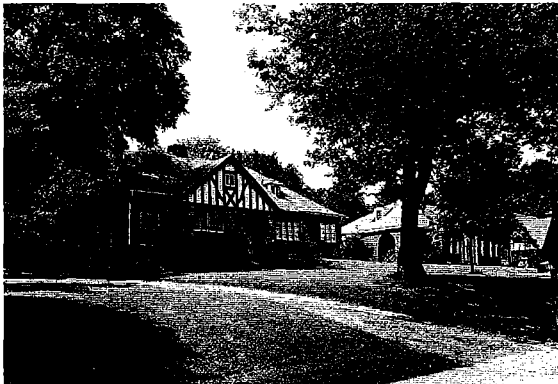
**Germantown is located between Jefferson Street, Third Avenue, North, Van Buren Street, Taylor Street, and Eighth Avenue, North.**



**HILLSBORO-WEST END**

The Hillsboro-West End district was developed after 1908 in response to the growth of Vanderbilt University and the subsequent need for housing. The region, primarily residential, was at that time located outside the Nashville corporation line. The oldest home in the area was built in 1854 by Reverend Charles Tomes, English-born rector of Christ Episcopal Church, who was also responsible for building Holy Trinity Church. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Glen Oak is one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in Middle Tennessee. The house is located at 2012 Twenty-fifth Avenue, South. Aside from Glen Oak, the houses in the area are primarily of brick and stone masonry construction, representing most of the architectural styles popular since the turn of the century — bungalows, craftsman cottages, Tudor Revival, and later Colonial Revival and ranch-style houses.

**The Hillsboro-West End neighborhood is bounded by Twenty-first Avenue, South, and West End Avenue from Blakemore Avenue on the north to I-440 on the south.**

**LOCKELAND SPRINGS**

The Lockeland Springs residential area takes its name from Lockeland Mansion, built in the early 1800s by Colonel Robert Weakley, a surveyor and one-term U.S. Congressman. Water from the Lockeland estate's mineral springs won a prize at the St. Louis Exposition in 1904. The Lockeland Springs area was first subdivided in the 1880s and 1890s, when the country retreats built by many prominent families here were sold. Although Lockeland Mansion was demolished in the 1940s, the area still contains Victorian cottages, large four-square brick homes, and bungalows. Much of the Lockeland Springs neighborhood, like East End, is a local conservation zoning district.

**Lockeland Springs is located from Eleventh Street on the west to Shelby Park and South Twentieth Street on the east, between Eastland Avenue on the north and Shelby Avenue on the south.**



**RICHLAND-WEST END**

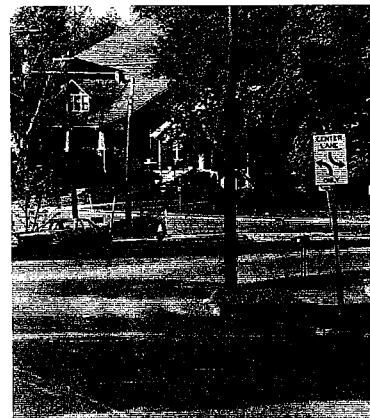
A National Register Historic District, the Richland-West End neighborhood consists of homes representative of architectural styles from 1900-1930, including four-squares, cottages, and bungalows. The bungalow is the predominant building type, and the neighborhood has one of the largest and best preserved concentrations of this style of architecture in Nashville. The name Richland probably originates from an early recognition of the beauty and quality of land in the area. On Westbrook Avenue stands the John Brown Craighead House, a Federal-style residence built in 1812. Craighead first married Jane Erwin Dickinson, widowed in 1806 when her husband was killed in a duel with Andrew Jackson. After her death, he married Lavinia Robertson Beck, the daughter of General and Mrs. James Robertson, two of the original founders of Nashville. Mrs. Robertson spent the last two years of her life in this house. Also located in this neighborhood is the Free Will Baptist Bible College. Two of the school's buildings are especially handsome: the Alumni Building, a pure Georgian Renaissance house at 3606 West End Avenue, and the Welch Library, a neoclassical stone building with extensive formal gardens to the rear.

**The Richland-West End neighborhood is located between Park Circle and Wilson Boulevard from Murphy Road on the north to West End Avenue on the south.**

**WAVERLY PLACE**

Platted in 1888, Waverly Place is a small, locally designed suburban subdivision laid out in an irregular arrangement of broad, curving streets which complement the gently rolling terrain. The neighborhood is Nashville's only reflection of the late nineteenth century national popularity of suburban developments designed to complement the natural terrain, as pioneered by Frederic Law Olmstead and Horace W.S. Cleveland. The subdivision was the work of James A. Jowett, who also designed the Eighth Avenue Reservoir. Waverly Place developed as Nashville expanded into the farm lands to the south and west of downtown with the advent of the streetcar. The range of architectural styles in the area indicates that development occurred steadily from the area's subdivision through the 1930s. Good examples of the variety of American suburban houses, late Victorian styles, four-squares, and bungalows line the streets of the district. Waverly Place was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

**Waverly Place includes parts of Acklen, Beech, Benton, Bradford, Douglas, Elliot, Glen, and Lawrence streets, and Eighth, Ninth, and Tenth avenues, South.**



**WOODLAND IN WAVERLY**

Designated by the city as a local historic zoning district, Woodland in Waverly takes its name from Waverly Place, the home of Albigeance Waldo Putnam, who wrote a history of Middle Tennessee in 1859. Purchased in the 1830s, the farm was sold in 1858, but the area continued to be called Waverly Place. In the 1880s, the Waverly Land Company began selling lots in the vicinity of the present district. Only one house — 745 Benton Avenue — remains from that period. The present collection of houses represents the development which occurred from 1900 to 1930. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1981, the Woodland in Waverly Historic District contains a mixture of residential building forms ranging from high-style residences to vernacular cottages and bungalows. Residents included ministers, doctors, salesmen, and clerks. Albert H. Roberts, governor of Tennessee from 1919 to 1921, resided at 724 Benton.

**Woodland in Waverly is bounded by an irregular pattern along Roycroft Place, Ridley Boulevard, Benton Avenue, Eighth Avenue, South, Grantland Avenue, and White Avenue.**

**SCHOOLS**

Nashville's commitment to education has been a priority since the earliest settlement. In 1784, only five years after the arrival of the first white settlers, James Robertson, one of Nashville's founding fathers, traveled to Raleigh, North Carolina, to persuade the legislature to deed 240 acres to the city for the establishment of an academy. The new school was called Davidson Academy; it later became Cumberland College and, finally, the University of Nashville.

By 1825, Nashville was a prominent town on the western frontier. Andrew Jackson, hero of the Battle of New Orleans and a candidate for the presidency of the United States, had made the city a center of political activity. Philip Lindsley, acting head of Princeton University, turned down the presidency of that esteemed northern institution and accepted the position of president of the University of Nashville. It was he who, in a speech in 1840, first compared Nashville to the classical Greek center of democracy and scholarship, titling the young city the "Athens of the West." ("West" became "South" as the boundaries of the country stretched past the Mississippi River to the Pacific coast.)

Following the Civil War, Vanderbilt University and Peabody College were founded, both had roots in former departments of the University of Nashville. Fisk University, one of the first private institutions in the United States for the higher education of blacks, was established in 1866. And in 1876, Meharry Medical College, which has educated more black doctors than any other medical college in the world, was started.

Today there are seventeen colleges and universities in Nashville. Included in this section are four with listings in the National Register of Historic Places.

**FISS UNIVERSITY**

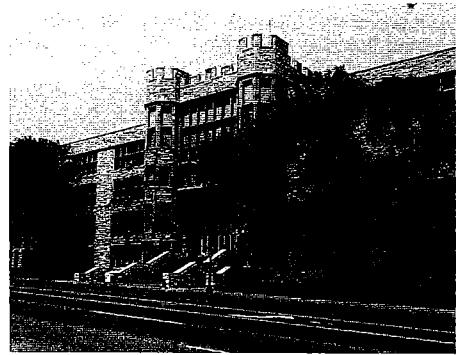
Fisk University began in 1866 as the Fisk School, a free school for blacks in Nashville. The University, chartered in 1867, boasts the first permanent building for the higher education of blacks in the United States. Jubilee Hall, completed in 1876, was constructed with funds raised from the world tours of the university's Jubilee Singers, whose monumental success literally saved the school from financial collapse. A portrait of the original singing group by Queen Victoria's court painter hangs inside the building, one of Nashville's five National Historic Landmarks. Other noteworthy buildings on the Fisk campus include the Little Theater (1860s), originally a Civil War hospital barracks; the Carl Van Vechten Art Gallery (1888, see Museums); and the Fisk Memorial Chapel (1892). The campus is a National Register Historic District.

**Fisk University is located at 1000 Seventeenth Avenue, North, between Charlotte Pike and Jefferson Street.**

**HUME-FOGG HIGH SCHOOL**

When it opened in 1912, Hume-Fogg High School was Nashville's first public high school. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the building stands appropriately on the site of the city's first public school, Hume (1854), named for Professor Alfred Hume, a prominent teacher instrumental in planning Nashville's public school system. A second school, Fogg (1875), named for Francis B. Fogg, the first president of the Board of Education, also stood on this site; hence, the current school's name. Stretching the length of a full city block, the four-story stone building is closest to English Tudor architecture with plenty of Gothic detail. In 1934, Fannie Rose "Dinah" Shore was a cheerleader for the Hume-Fogg "Blue Devils," who never had their own football field.

**Hume-Fogg High School is located at 700 Broadway, at the corner of Broadway and Eighth Avenue, North.**



**VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

Vanderbilt was chartered in 1872 by the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as Central University. The name was changed a year later when Cornelius Vanderbilt of New York granted the school an endowment of \$500,000. Vanderbilt never saw his southern beneficiary, but his son William became interested in the school after his father's death, donating an additional \$150,000 for the purpose of erecting three new buildings. Two are still standing today: the Old Gymnasium and Science Hall. The campus of Vanderbilt, now a private coeducational institution, reflects several architectural styles, the oldest of which are Victorian Gothic. The more well-known structures are the Old Gymnasium (1880), listed in the National Register of Historic Places and now housing the Fine Arts Department and Gallery, and Kirkland Hall (1905). The latter's Italianate bell tower has become the university's architectural symbol.

**Vanderbilt University is located on West End Avenue, between Twenty-first Avenue, South, and Blakemore Avenue.**

**GEORGE PEABODY COLLEGE OF VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY**

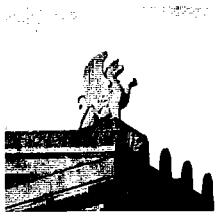
George Peabody College was established in 1875 for the purpose of training teachers to rebuild Tennessee's shattered post-Civil War public education system. Money from the Peabody Education Fund, established by financier and philanthropist George Peabody to assist such efforts, was used to create from the University of Nashville's literary department a separate institution called Tennessee State Normal College. The university was renamed Peabody Normal College in 1889 and, in 1907, George Peabody College for Teachers. Originally located in the building now known as Lindsley Hall on Rutledge Hill in South Nashville, the school moved to its present location in 1914. The Industrial Arts and Home Economics buildings, constructed at this time in the Classical Revival style, are the oldest structures on the campus, now a National Historic Landmark. Peabody merged with Vanderbilt University in 1979.

**George Peabody College is located on Twenty-first Avenue, South, across from the Vanderbilt medical complex.**



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## MUSEUMS



Whether it's coneflowers or cougars, Andrew Jackson or Johnny Cash, cigar store Indians or Picasso that interest you, there are places to see and learn about them all in Nashville. Several of the museums included in this section are housed in older buildings which are themselves visible records of the city's architectural and cultural history. Some have been adapted as art galleries exhibiting the work of local and national artists. One is a working example of an early twentieth century poster and print shop.

Other museums feature collections related to local and regional history. The beginnings of country music and its earliest performing stars; the natural history of the Middle Tennessee area, its native wildlife, trees, and wildflowers; and the social and political development of the state of Tennessee from frontier times to the twentieth century can all be studied and observed in local museums.

Special exhibits are held throughout the year; days of operation vary with each museum. More information is available through the museum offices.

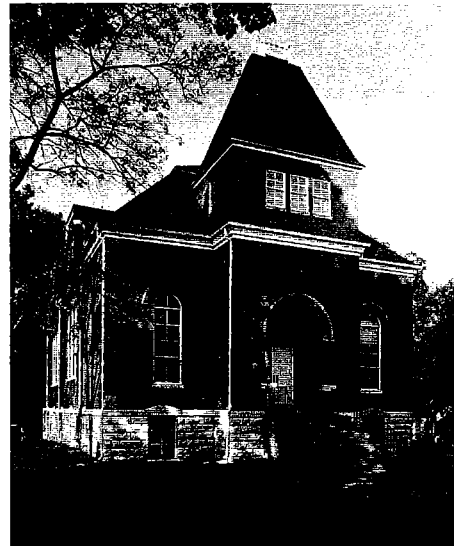
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## 35

### CARL VAN VECHTEN ART GALLERY

The Carl Van Vechten Art Gallery, on the grounds of Fisk University, is named for the New York music critic, art collector, and photographer who inspired the collection's donation to the university. Erected in 1888, the Van Vechten originally served as the university gymnasium — the first gymnasium on a predominantly black campus in the world. Fisk students excavated the foundation for the structure which is a fine example of Victorian Picturesque eclectic architecture. Encouraged by her friend Carl Van Vechten, artist Georgia O'Keefe gave Fisk part of the art collection of her late husband Alfred Stieglitz in 1949 and provided funds for the renovation of the building to house the collection. The Stieglitz Collection includes original works by Cezanne, Picasso, Renoir, Rivera, and O'Keefe, among others. The Van Vechten is part of the Fisk Historic District, listed in the National Register in 1977. (See Fisk University)

**The Carl Van Vechten Art Gallery is located on the Fisk University campus at Eighteenth Avenue, North, and Jackson Street. Admission is charged.**





### CHEEKWOOD/TENNESSEE BOTANICAL GARDENS AND FINE ARTS CENTER

Built in 1929, this Georgian mansion was home for the family of Leslie Cheek, cousin and business associate of Joel Cheek, the inventor of Maxwell House Coffee. Designed by landscape architect Bryant Fleming, the stately limestone mansion stands at the top of a hill, surrounded on its gently sloping sides by graceful formal gardens. Cheekwood's appointments include nineteenth century English crystal chandeliers and mahogany doors, and a fine wrought iron stair railing from Queen Charlotte's Palace at Kew. In 1960, the estate was given by Leslie Cheek's daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Sharp, to the Tennessee Botanical Gardens and Fine Arts Center, a non-profit organization chartered in 1957. The mansion became a gallery for a permanent art collection of nineteenth and twentieth century American works as well as special exhibits. Located on the grounds of Cheekwood is Botanic Hall, home of the Tennessee Botanical Gardens, which maintains seasonal exhibits and permanent displays in surrounding greenhouses. A tearoom and gift shop are located just inside the main gate.

**Cheekwood is located on Forrest Park Drive, 8.5 miles southwest of downtown Nashville between Harding Road and Belle Meade Boulevard. Both the mansion and Botanic Hall are wheelchair accessible. Admission is charged.**



### COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

In 1925, WSM radio began broadcasting the WSM Barn Dance on Saturday nights. Three years later, local announcer George D. Hay accidentally christened the Grand Ole Opry when, after a program of classical music, he introduced the country music program by saying, "For the past hour you've been listening to grand opera. Now, we'll present the Grand Ole Opry." Although Nashville has developed as a recording center for many kinds of music, it is country music that is most often associated with its image as Music City, U.S.A. The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum was built in 1967 to memorialize the industry's outstanding performers and leaders. Managed by the Country Music Foundation, the museum features exhibits covering over sixty years of country music history, including items related to performers such as Hank Williams, Roy Acuff, Dolly Parton, and Johnny Cash, among others. In the Hall of Fame are bronze plaques of every individual, performer, or business executive who has been elected to its gallery of stars. The Foundation also operates RCA's Studio B, Nashville's first major-label recording studio, as a historic site which can be toured at no extra charge by visitors to the museum.

**The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is located at 4 Music Square East, at the top of Music Row (Sixteenth and Seventeenth avenues, South). Studio B is located two blocks from the museum. The museum is wheelchair accessible. Admission is charged.**



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# 38

## GRASSMERE WILDLIFE PARK

Scheduled to open in 1990, Grassmere Wildlife Park will feature native Tennessee animals and an interpretive center which will include an aquarium, a large aviary, and various natural science exhibits. Also on the property is Grassmere, one of the earliest brick residences in Davidson County. Built about 1815 by Michael C. Dunn, an early Nashville sheriff, the Federal-style house, remodeled in the 1870s with Italianate embellishments, sits in a virtually unaltered rural setting on two hundred acres of rolling land with scattered woods and fields. The last residents of the house were the fifth generation of Dunn's descendants, who, at their deaths in 1986, willed the house and land to Cumberland Science Museum for nature study. Renovation of the house, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, will take place after the park is open.

**Grassmere Wildlife Park is located five miles south of town in the 5700 block of Nolensville Road. Admission is charged.**



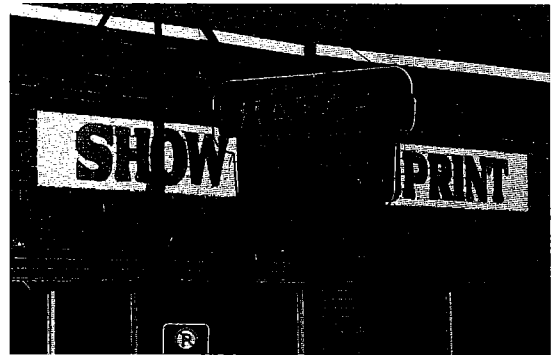
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# 39

## HATCH SHOW PRINT SHOP

Founded in 1879 and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Hatch Show Print Shop supplied promotional handbills and posters for performers and public events throughout the Southeast, including minstrel shows, vaudeville acts, circuses, and the Grand Ole Opry. The small, unadorned one-story building built for the business in 1924 is typical of those built for neighborhood stores in the first three decades of this century. Inside the building, little has changed since the 1920s; tin ceilings, wooden floors, metal windows, shelves, and composing tables are all original. In 1985, Opryland USA bought the business which is now managed as a museum and print shop by the Country Music Foundation.

**Hatch Show Print Shop is located at 116 Fourth Avenue, North. Tours are given by appointment only; admission is free. The building is wheelchair accessible.**



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# 40

## METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE ARTS GALLERY

The current home of the Metropolitan Arts Commission is a late nineteenth century Italianate structure originally designed to house a business on the ground floor and a residence on the second. The Arts Commission Gallery features six exhibits per year and occupies the building's lower level. Renovation of the building was part of a larger project including the former Merchants Hotel on the corner of Fourth and Broadway. (See Broadway Historic District.)

**The Metropolitan Arts Commission is located at 111 Fourth Avenue, South. The building is wheelchair accessible. Admission is free.**



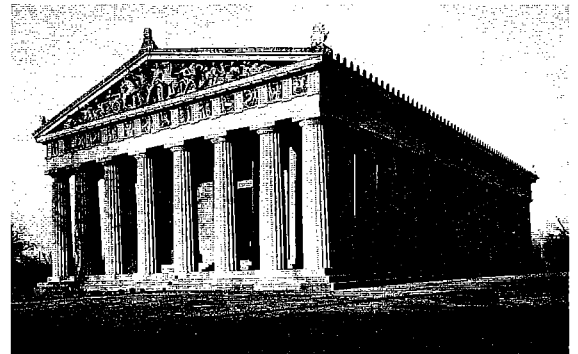
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# 41

## THE PARTHENON

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, Nashville's replica of the ancient Greek temple mirrors the dimensions of the Parthenon in Athens to one eighth of an inch. The city's first Parthenon was built on this site between 1895 and 1897 as the centerpiece of Tennessee's Centennial Exposition and symbol of Nashville's reputation as the Athens of the South. (See Centennial Park.) Because of the building's popularity, the Parthenon was allowed to remain after the fair, and Centennial Park was established around it in 1902. By 1920, the original structure had deteriorated beyond repair, and from 1920 to 1931 the building was rebuilt in concrete. Nashville architect Russell E. Hart worked on the plans with William B. Dinsmoor, a New York architect and archaeologist. Dinsmoor traveled to Greece to study the ruins of the original building and from them put together an interior plan for the Parthenon still accepted by scholars today. In 1988, after a two-year, two-million-dollar renovation project, the Parthenon reopened with state-of-the-art galleries, a gift shop, and office space in the basement. Dominating the East Room of the main floor is a forty-two-foot statue of Athena by Nashville sculptor Alan LeQuire.

**The Parthenon is located in Centennial Park, West End Avenue at Twenty-fifth Avenue, North. The building is wheelchair accessible. Admission is charged.**



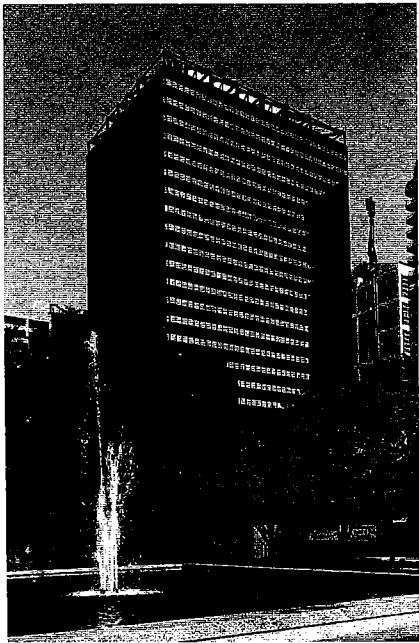
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## 42

### TENNESSEE STATE MUSEUM

Located in the James K. Polk Building, which also houses the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, the Tennessee State Museum features permanent and changing exhibits on the history and material culture of Tennessee. These include prehistoric and historic Indian artifacts, a reproduction of a working grist mill, Civil War exhibits with flags, uniforms, guns, and other artifacts, and collections of early Tennessee portraits, silver, and quilts and coverlets. The museum also has items relating to Tennessee's three presidents, Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk, and Andrew Johnson. Other exhibits display items relating to Reconstruction, the Tennessee Centennial Exposition, Prohibition, blacks, and women's suffrage. The museum's temporary exhibits gallery presents four exhibits annually on art and/or historical subjects with regional and national appeal.

**The James K. Polk Building is located on Sixth Avenue, North, at Deaderick Street. The museum is wheelchair accessible. Admission is free.**



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## 43

### CUMBERLAND SCIENCE MUSEUM

Built and opened in 1973, Cumberland Science Museum features exhibits on the natural world, the universe, health, and cultural history. Live animal shows allow visitors to meet, touch, and learn about native Tennessee wildlife; and the Sudekum planetarium offers regularly scheduled shows on the stars, planets, and galaxies. Special changing exhibits on a variety of subjects are also scheduled throughout the year.

**Cumberland Science Museum is located at 800 Ridley Boulevard, off Chestnut Street, east of Eighth Avenue, South. Admission is charged. The building is wheelchair accessible.**

## 44

### MUSEUM OF TOBACCO ART AND HISTORY

Located in the U.S. Tobacco manufacturing facility, this museum reflects the importance of the tobacco industry in Tennessee through art, photos, and a collection of antique pipes, tools, tobacco jars and boxes, cigar store figures, snuff boxes, and other related artifacts. Tobacco has long been one of the main products of this region.

**The museum is located at the corner of Eighth Avenue, North, and Harrison Street. Admission is free. The building is wheelchair accessible.**

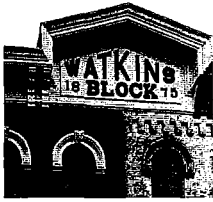
## 45

### OSCAR FARRIS AGRICULTURAL MUSEUM

The Oscar Farris Agricultural Museum is located on the 207-acre grounds of the Ellington Agricultural Center, a property of the State of Tennessee. Housed in a renovated 24,500-square-foot horse barn, the museum contains a blacksmith shop, an extensive collection of home and farm artifacts of the 1800s and early 1900s, and the Tennessee Agricultural Hall of Fame.

**The Oscar Farris Agricultural Museum is located on Hogan Road, eight miles south of downtown Nashville, between Nolensville Road and Franklin Pike. Admission is free. The museum is wheelchair accessible.**

## ALSO NOT TO BE MISSED



This section includes historic buildings, districts, and sites which do not fall into a specific category but are important to the history of Nashville.

Among them are the Ryman Auditorium and Union Station, two of Nashville's most beloved landmarks, and the Tennessee State Capitol building, built over 140 years ago on the highest hill in the downtown area.

Three downtown districts are listed: Second Avenue Historic District, Broadway Historic District, and Printers Alley Historic District. The nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings in these areas, many of which are still in use, are a visible record of the commercial development of downtown, its riverfront beginnings, country music heritage, printing and publishing industry, and entertainment businesses.

There are other sites outside downtown which also merit a visit. Among them are cemeteries with the graves of famous Nashvillians and striking examples of nineteenth century funerary art.

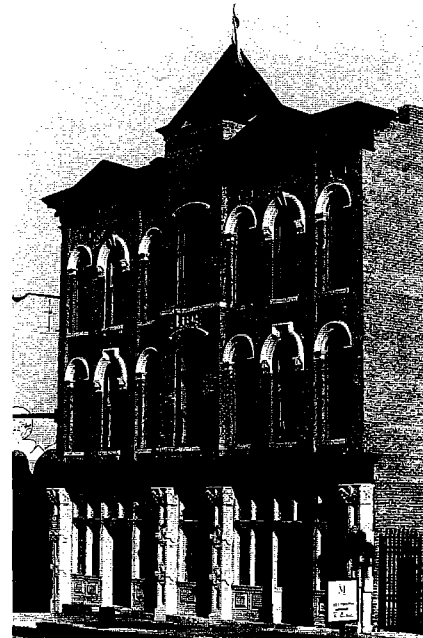
The downtown sites are best seen on foot. A map of the area is provided as an insert to the county map in the back of the book.

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### BROADWAY HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Broadway Historic District is probably best known for the Ryman Auditorium, former home of the Grand Ole Opry, and for the many Opry- and tourist-related businesses that remain in this area. Originally a mid-nineteenth century commercial district of primarily furniture and hardware stores, this National Register Historic District played a key role in Nashville's economy in the late nineteenth century and contains some of the city's finest examples of Victorian architecture. Of particular interest is the former Merchants Hotel, a three-story commercial Victorian building completed in 1892 with a turret and elaborate brickwork. Country music stars Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson were among the Merchants' clientele when the Opry was still performing at the Ryman. Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, 422 Broadway, where the stars and their admirers met over a glass of beer between Opry shows, is legendary in the world of country music.

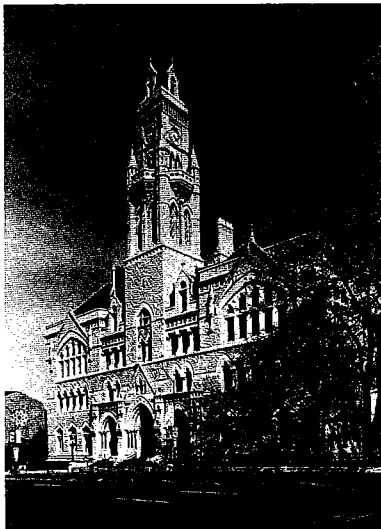
**The Broadway Historic District is located on Broadway between Second and Fifth avenues.**



**CUSTOMS HOUSE**

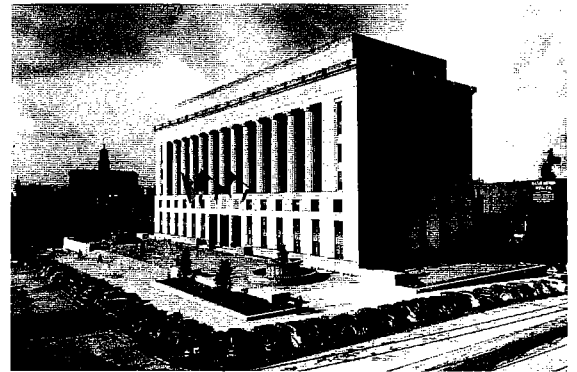
This highly significant building stands as a symbol of the end of Reconstruction after the Civil War. In 1876, the successful election of President Rutherford B. Hayes depended upon his securing the majority of twenty-one contested electoral votes — most of which were in the South — from rival Samuel J. Tilden. If elected, Hayes promised to the South the nomination of a Southerner to his cabinet, the withdrawal of all federal troops, and the end of Reconstruction. He was true to his promises and, as an expression of good faith, came himself in 1877 to lay the cornerstone of a new federal building in Nashville. Like Christ Church, the Customs House with its excellent stone work and carved stone friezes is an exceptional example of Victorian Gothic architecture, here adapted to a secular purpose. In 1977, the federal government gave the National Register-listed building to the city, which in turn leased it to a private developer for renovation into office space.

**The Customs House is located at 701 Broadway across from Hume-Fogg High School. The building is open to the public and is wheelchair accessible.**

**DAVIDSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE**

Completed in 1937, the Davidson County Courthouse is the fourth courthouse to occupy the site set aside for this purpose in the original plans of Nashville. The first courthouse was an eighteen-foot-square log cabin built in 1783 before Tennessee became a state. The current courthouse is one of Davidson County's few examples of Art Deco architecture and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Designed by a team of New York and local architects, the courthouse abounds in symbolism: the carved animal heads on the building's cornice and sculptures on the bronze outer doors symbolize American principles such as loyalty, wisdom, strength, justice, and courage. Inside the main lobby are colorful murals by artist Dean Cornwell. In 1963, the city of Nashville and Davidson County consolidated to form a metropolitan government unique in Tennessee. The offices of the mayor, the council chambers, and the courts are all located in this building.

**The Davidson County Courthouse stands on the Public Square, downtown between Third Avenue, North, and the Cumberland River. The Courthouse is wheelchair accessible.**



**PRINTERS ALLEY HISTORIC DISTRICT**

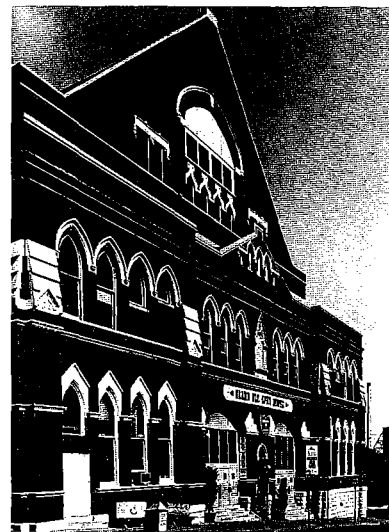
Traditionally the center of Nashville's nightlife, Printers Alley was, in its earliest days, a series of posts where men bound for the courthouse hitched their horses. By the turn of the twentieth century it had become the center of Nashville's printing industry; in its heyday, circa 1915, thirteen publishers and ten printers were located in the area serviced by this alley. Nashville's two largest newspapers, *THE TENNESSEAN* and the *NASHVILLE BANNER*, had their offices here at one time. During the Victorian years, Fourth Avenue, then Cherry Street, between Church and Union was also known as the Men's Quarter. The street contained hotels, restaurants, and saloons, many of the latter becoming speakeasies when Prohibition went into effect in 1909. Today's night clubs are the descendants of these speakeasies which developed into the entertainment district still known as Printers Alley. The district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**The Printers Alley Historic District is bounded by Church and Union streets and Third and Fourth avenues, North.**

**RYMAN AUDITORIUM**

Completed in 1892, the Ryman Auditorium was named for Captain Tom Ryman, a wealthy riverboat captain who was moved to sponsor its construction after his religious conversion at a tent meeting. Ryman intended the building as an all-faith meeting hall for revival meetings; its original name, Union Gospel Tabernacle, can be seen carved into a stone panel above the entrance. In the early twentieth century, the Ryman was the unofficial city auditorium. Many of the legendary greats of the performing arts enjoyed its excellent acoustics and large seating capacity. From 1941 to 1974, the Ryman served as the home of the Grand Ole Opry. The building, listed in the National Register of Historic Places, serves as a monument to the many country music stars who performed on its wooden stage.

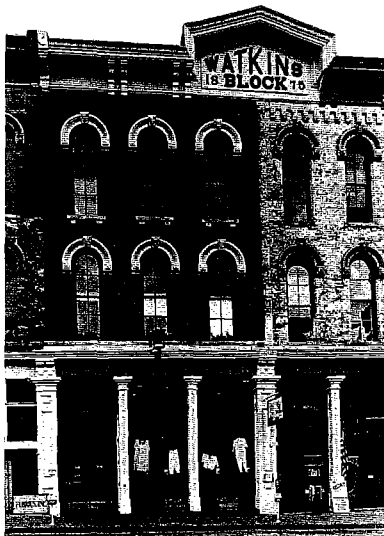
**Ryman Auditorium is located at 116 Fifth Avenue, North. The building is wheelchair accessible. Admission is charged.**



**SECOND AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT**

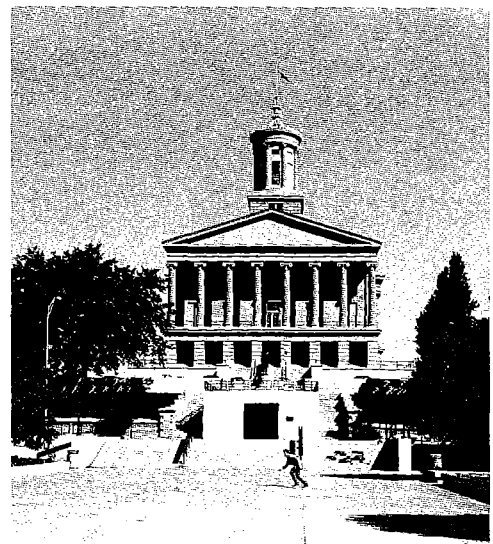
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Second Avenue Historic District is Nashville's oldest downtown district. Second Avenue — or Market Street, as it was known until 1903 — was the commercial heart of the city in the latter half of the nineteenth century. The block-deep Victorian warehouses handled bulk quantities of dry goods, hardware, and groceries, shipped down the Cumberland River, unloaded and received in the back of the buildings on Front Street, and sold out the front doors on Market Street. Most of the two- to five-story buildings date from 1870 to 1890 and provide a striking collection of Victorian commercial facades. As shipping on the Cumberland declined, buildings on Second Avenue fell into disuse or were used only as warehouses. During the 1970s, Nashville's interest in renovation and restoration led to the opening of restaurants, shops, and galleries in the century-old buildings. Especially noteworthy are the Silver Dollar Saloon, on the corner of Second Avenue and Broadway, and Bank Street, Nashville's last cobblestone street.

**The Second Avenue Historic District is located on Second Avenue, North, between Union Street and Broadway.**

**TENNESSEE STATE CAPITOL**

Built between 1845 and 1859, the Capitol — a National Historic Landmark — stands on the highest hill of the central city. The Greek Revival style building was the last and perhaps finest work of architect William Strickland, whose distinguished career began with an apprenticeship to Benjamin Latrobe, architect of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Strickland came to Nashville from Philadelphia to supervise construction of the Capitol building and died before its completion. According to his wishes, he was buried in the northeast wall near the north entrance. On the eastern slope of the Capitol grounds, the front entrance of the building, stand the tomb of President and Mrs. James K. Polk and a bronze equestrian statue of President Andrew Jackson unveiled during the Nashville Centennial in 1880. Identical statues of Jackson can be found in Jackson Square in New Orleans, Louisiana, and in Lafayette Square in Washington, D.C.

**The State Capitol is located on Capitol Hill in downtown Nashville. The building is wheelchair accessible. Tours are conducted Monday through Friday from 9 to 3.**





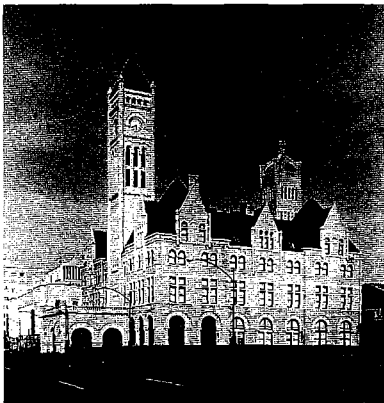
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# 53

## UNION STATION

Built but no longer used by the L&N Railroad, Union Station is one of Nashville's most visible landmarks, testifying to the monumental importance of railroads in the nineteenth century. One of the country's last surviving turn-of-the-century railroad stations, Union Station was designed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style, made popular by H.H. Richardson in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Richard Montfort, chief engineer of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company, designed the massive limestone building and the iron and steel train shed. The shed measures 250 feet by 500 feet with a clear span of 200 feet. Because of the extraordinary engineering of the shed's truss system and the architectural distinction of the station itself, both Union Station and its train shed have been declared a National Historic Landmark. The station was deeded to the city in 1985 and leased to a private developer. It reopened on New Year's Day, 1986, as a 128-room hotel.

**Union Station is located at 1001 Broadway on the western edge of downtown and is wheelchair accessible.**



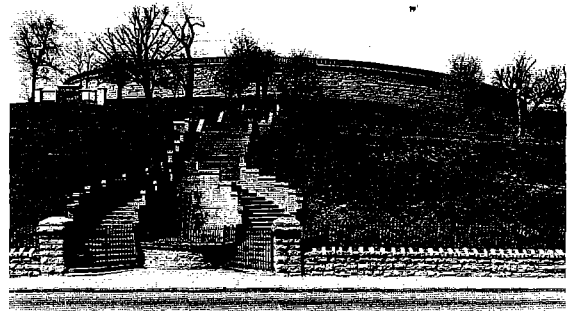
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# 54

## EIGHTH AVENUE RESERVOIR

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the Eighth Avenue Reservoir is part of the Omohundro Waterworks System, built in the late nineteenth century to improve the quality of Nashville's drinking water. Its location on Kirkpatrick's Hill was the site of Fort Casino, used by Union troops during the Civil War Battle of Nashville in 1864. Completed in 1889, the reservoir allowed water from the Cumberland River to be pumped into one side; after the mud settled, the water ran into the other half of the facility for distribution. On November 5, 1912, the reservoir's wall burst, flooding Eighth Avenue, South. Although the wall was rebuilt, the crack is still visible on the south side.

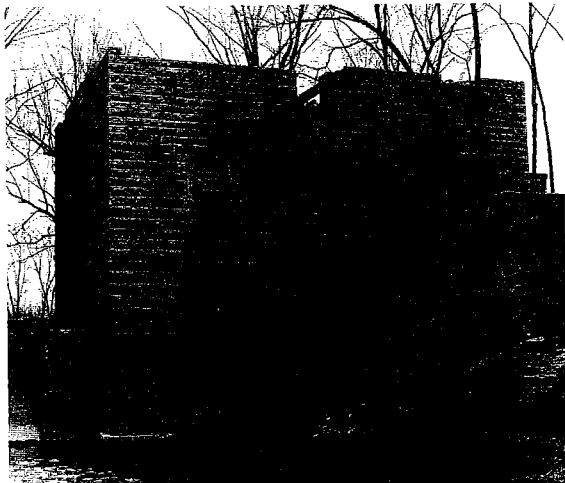
**The Eighth Avenue Reservoir is located on Eighth Avenue, South, south of Edgehill Avenue, and can be seen from Reservoir Park Drive. The reservoir itself is not open to the public.**



**NEWSOM'S MILL**

Constructed in 1862 of hand-dressed limestone blocks, Newsom's Mill is the only existing mill in the Big Harpeth area of Davidson County and an excellent example of the art of the mid-nineteenth century stonemason. Stone for the mill and for the magnificent Newsom family mansion which stood nearby was cut from the Newsom Quarry, a mile south. Newsom stone is also found in many Nashville buildings. This was the second mill built in this area by the Newsom family who came to Nashville in 1800 from Virginia, where they were also known as millers, millwrights, and farmers. For almost a century Newsom's Mill was the center of the small community around it, a testimony to the importance of grist and sawmills to early settlers. The mill also served as a major rail stop (Newsom's Station) on the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad. In 1974, the mill was purchased by the State of Tennessee and developed as a park by the state Department of Conservation. Newsom's Mill is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Newsom's Mill is located on the Harpeth River in southwestern Davidson County on Newsom's Station Road off Highway 70, South.**

**OMOHUNDRO WATERWORKS**

The Omohundro Water Filtration Complex, begun in 1888, was the first step in a tripartite plan to improve Nashville's waterworks system at the end of the nineteenth century. The Omohundro Complex consists of an intake device, a round tower rising seventy-five feet out of the Cumberland River approximately fifty feet from shore, as well as several large, red brick buildings on shore which pump and temporarily store the water. The oldest of these structures, the George Reyer Pumping Station, a handsome Victorian industrial building, was completed in 1889; the Boiler House and the Robert L. Lawrence, Jr., Filtration Plant were built in the 1920s. Of special note is the interior of the filtration plant, highlighted by parallel brick arcades running the length of a central hall, a terrazzo tile floor laid in an alternating diamond pattern, gray marble control stations, and a polished hardwood ceiling. With modifications, these National Register-listed buildings are still used today, pumping ninety million gallons a day throughout Davidson County.

**The Omohundro Complex is located across the Cumberland River from Shelby Park and can be reached from Hermitage Avenue. Tours may be arranged by calling the Omohundro Drive Plant.**



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### GREENWOOD CEMETERY/MT. ARARAT CEMETERY

Greenwood Cemetery was established in 1888 by Preston Taylor, born a slave in Shreveport, Louisiana, and later a preacher and leader in the Christian Church here. At his request, the cemetery is owned and operated by the National Christian Missionary Convention. Many of Nashville's notable black citizens are buried in Greenwood: Cornelia Shepard, leader of the original Fisk Jubilee Singers; DeFord Bailey, the first black performer on the Opry, and civil rights leaders Alfred C. Galloway, Z. Alexander Looby, and the Reverend Kelly Miller Smith, Sr. Located nearby, Mt. Ararat Cemetery opened in 1869. One of the leaders buried here is Dr. Robert Fulton Boyd, a black physician and graduate of Meharry Medical College who ran for mayor in 1893. He later helped found a national association of black physicians, known today as the National Medical Association.

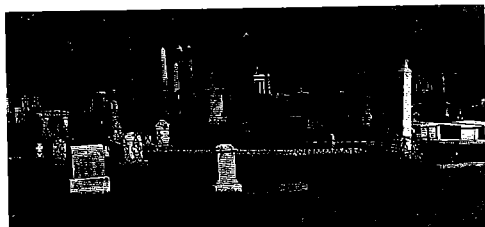
**Greenwood Cemetery is located at 1428 Elm Hill Pike. Mt. Ararat is located in the 800 block of Elm Hill Pike.**

## 58

### THE JEWISH CEMETERIES

The Jewish community of Nashville began with "five families and eight young men," European immigrants who arrived here in 1851. The first official act of the new community was to purchase land for a cemetery. There are now three Jewish congregations: The Temple, the West End Synagogue, and the Sherith Israel Congregation. Each has its own cemetery. The earliest graves are located in a section of the Temple cemetery.

**The Temple cemetery is located at 2001 Fifteenth Avenue, North. Cemeteries for the two other congregations are located across Cass Street.**



**Nashville City Cemetery**

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## 59

### MT. OLIVET CEMETERY

Founded in 1855, Mount Olivet Cemetery consists of 105 acres of beautiful rolling land, landscaped with large evergreen and native forest trees. Notable are the Confederate Memorial, the Egyptian pyramid of Eugene C. Lewis designed by William Strickland, the Stevenson monument copied from Napoleon's tomb in Paris, the Gothic vault of Adelia Acklen of Belmont Mansion, the elevated Furman sarcophagus, simulating the Erechtheum of the Greek Acropolis, and other elaborate Victorian markers on the graves of many prominent Nashvillians.

**Mount Olivet Cemetery is located at 1101 Lebanon Road.**

## 60

### NASHVILLE CITY CEMETERY

Opened on January 1, 1822, the City Cemetery is Nashville's oldest remaining public cemetery, one of few cemeteries in Tennessee to be listed as an individual property in the National Register of Historic Places. General James Robertson, known as the founder of Nashville, is buried here as is Captain William Driver, who gave the name "Old Glory" to the American flag. Two of the original Fisk Jubilee singers, Mable Lewis Imes and Ella Shepard, are also buried here.

**The Nashville City Cemetery is located at 1001 Fourth Avenue, South, at Oak Street. Buses are not allowed inside the cemetery gate.**

## 61

### SPRING HILL CEMETERY

This cemetery was established soon after the founding of Davidson Academy in 1785. Among those buried here are the Reverend Thomas Brown Craighead, Presbyterian minister and first president of Davidson Academy, and Madison Stratton, for whom the community of Madison was named.

**The cemetery is located at 5110 Gallatin Road.**

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*Nashville City Cemetery*  
*Nashville: What's in a Name?*  
*The Civil War Battle of Nashville*  
*The Courthouse*  
*The Warner Parks*

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