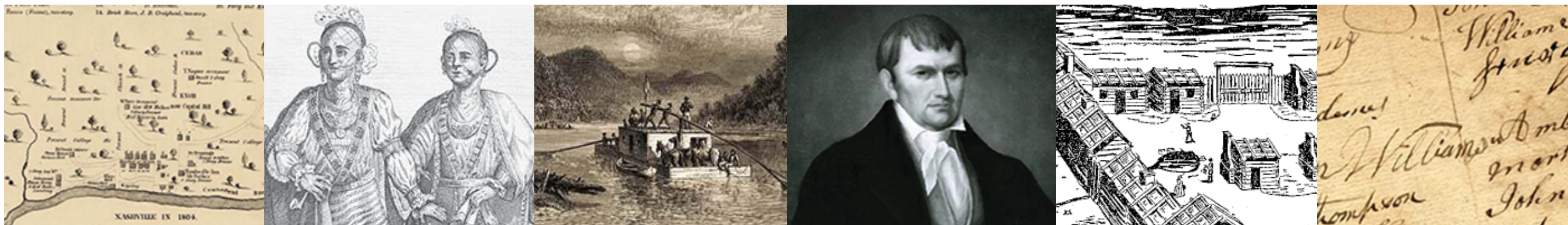


# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE MASTER PLAN

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**FINAL**

**NOVEMBER 2013**

PREPARED BY

**ENCORE INTERPRETIVE DESIGN, LLC**  
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NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H





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F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H



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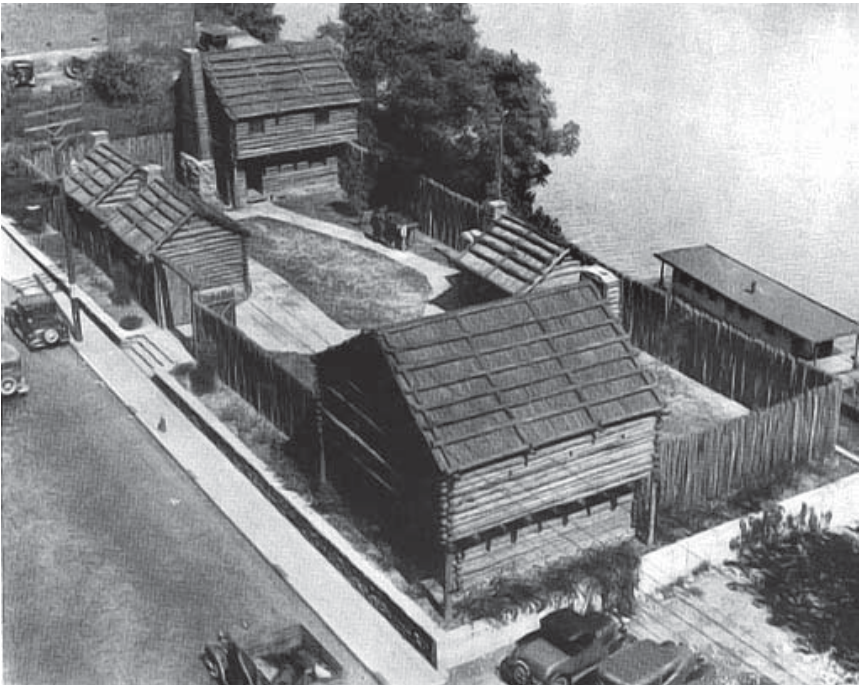


F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H

# THE PLANNING PROCESS



# INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF FORT NASHBOROUGH



*Fort Nashborough (c. 1935)*

Located on the west bank of the Cumberland River along what is today First Avenue in downtown Nashville, Fort Nashborough, or the Bluff Station as it was known at the time, was originally constructed in the 1780s as a settlement post, a stockade-bounded series of log cabins and corner blockhouses that served as a fortification to defend white settlers in the area from Native American attacks during the period. The station was virtually abandoned and left to decay by the early 1800s as the threat of Indian reprisals waned and the town began to expand beyond the banks of the river. The exact location was never clearly defined and landmarks from the period have all but disappeared.

## 1930s

In the 1930s a smaller replica of the fort was built close to the location of the original station by the city of Nashville using state and local funds, as well as contributions from the Daughters of the American Revolution, to celebrate Nashville's sesquicentennial. Working with architect Joseph Hart, Lizzie Elliott, a local historian and DAR member, led the research effort to build the Fort Nashborough replica. Once completed, the reproduction stockade and log structures were used as an educational and tourism facility where visitors could learn about the founding of the city and the customs of the earliest Anglo-American settlers. Plaques were added by the DAR to the facility when it opened that highlighted events, such as the "Battle of the Bluffs" and individuals, including James Robertson, John Donelson, and Richard Henderson, who played an important role in the settlements early history. Artifacts and reproduction props from the period were displayed inside the cabins and blockhouses.

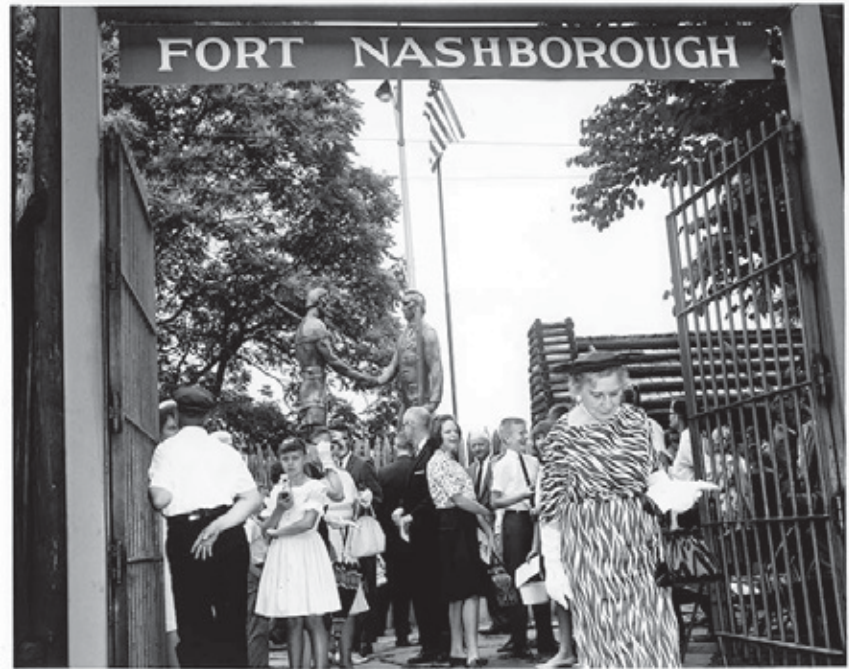
## 1960s

In 1962, the fort was rebuilt again by the city due to decay of the log structures. Following a plan by the architectural firm Billis and Johnson, the Council appropriated \$115,000 to cover construction costs. Mayor Ben West stated at the time that "this pioneer stockade is a valuable part of our city's heritage. The old logs have rotted away but we intend to save this bit of history for future generations through a complete rebuilding." The buildings and palisade walls were constructed out of native black locust using what was believed at the time to be the building techniques of the early settlers. The site was staffed by

Metro Parks during the 1970s and a living history interpretation was offered as part of Fort Nashborough's educational programming. <sup>1</sup>

## Today

Over the past fifteen years Fort Nashborough has fallen into disrepair and suffered further decay to the point of affecting the general safety of visitors. In 2011, the site was listed on the National Register as an important Colonial Revival site from the 1930s/60s. A year later a structural analysis was conducted by Gary Grau Construction to evaluate the deteriorated state of the facility and offer a cost for reconstruction. Metro Parks began the process of planning for a new facility in late 2011.



*Reopening in 1963*







## PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to develop an Interpretive Master Plan (IP) for Fort Nashborough that creates a blueprint for the construction of a new interpretive facility that tells the story of early Nashville. The IP will expand the scope of programs beyond the current fort replica and explore the incorporation of other interpretive opportunities for Fort Nashborough while tying the interpretation at the site to existing recreational programs and the designs proposed for new riverfront projects on the West bank. It will identify the long-term interpretive needs and objectives for the new facility and evaluate opportunities to create a cohesive and integrated interpretive program for Fort Nashborough and corresponding site improvements.

In all, the IP provides a vision for an engaging and meaningful visitor experience at the site and defines goals, objectives, primary themes, sub-themes, and messages conveyed to a multiplicity of audiences. It matches the themes and messages to the interpretive media that will best connect the visitors to the resource. Interpretation is accomplished through a combination of touchpoints and assets, such as signs, kiosks, websites, social media, audio visual productions, publications, and programs. The combined use of these interpretive resources will foster an appreciation of the area by educating and connecting visitors to early Nashville's historic past. The IP also includes the development of Design Guidelines that will be used to ensure that all interpretive media are visually consistent, embody the essence of the Fort Nashborough experience, and relay sub-themes and messages in an engaging, easy-to-understand manner.

*This pioneer stockade is a valuable part of our city's heritage. The old logs have rotted away but we intend to save this bit of history for future generations through a complete rebuilding.*

**Mayor Ben West, 1962**

## VISION STATEMENT

The Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center will serve as a resource to visitors and community members, provide history education for all ages, and connect our community to the city's historic past. The Center will encourage learning and foster an appreciation and understanding of Nashville's earliest settlers and their interactions with Native Americans in the area. The design, development, and management of the Center's grounds will showcase how these settlers lived, worked, and were interconnected with their surrounding environment.

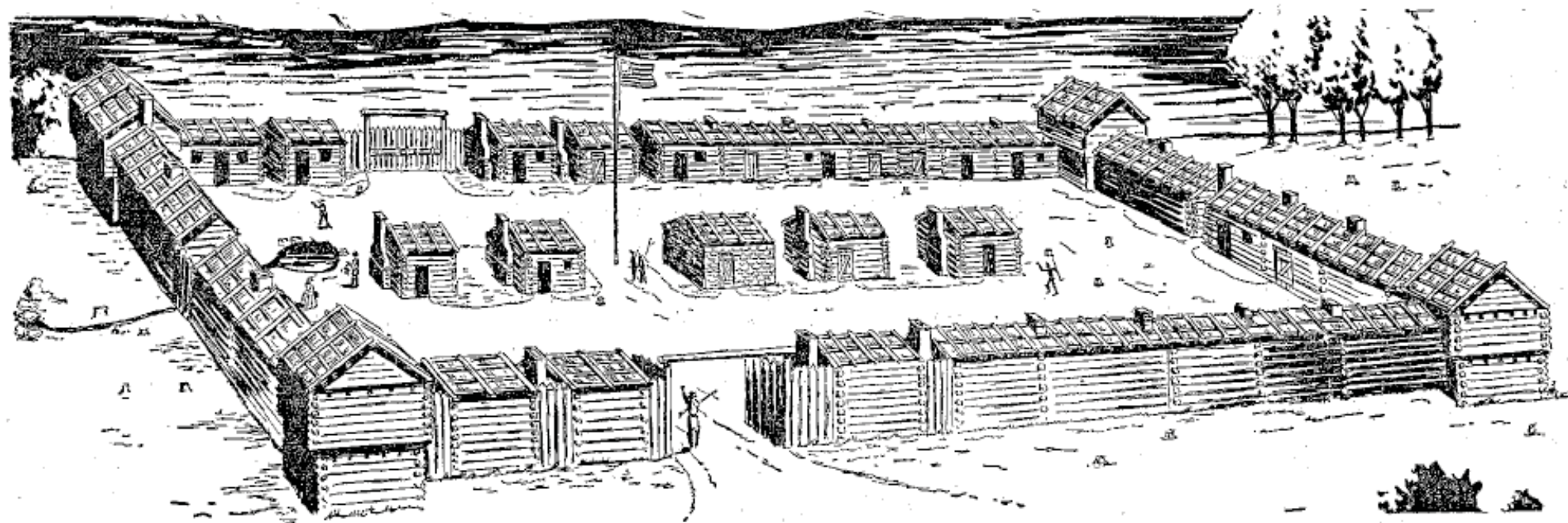






## GOALS FOR THE FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE PLAN

- Orient readers to the history of the Cumberland Settlements
- Orient readers to the design of the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center
- Identify the goals and objectives for the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center
- Identify potential audiences
- Define interpretive themes, interpretive media, and areas of interpretation
- Outline a phased approach for development and construction of the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center
- Outline educational guidelines and programs



*Drawing based on Andrew Castleman's memory of Fort Nashborough*

## PLANNING TEAM

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Metro Parks

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Metro Historical Commission

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## THE PLANNING PROCESS

### Fort Nashborough

Since the 1990s, Fort Nashborough has been in decline as an historic resource. Interpretive programming at the site stopped in the 80s, but the structures continued to house a variety of props representative of the earliest settler's life within the Bluff Station. The props were removed and the buildings closed in April 2013 due to serious deterioration and the potential for visitors to be injured. Metro Parks began the planning process to replace the fort in 2013.



Encore Interpretive Design was hired in April 2013 to develop an Interpretive Master Plan for the reconstruction and interpretation of Fort Nashborough. The team also included Ashworth Environmental Design and Moody Nolan, Inc. Encore held a series of public meetings with Metro Parks and the Metro Historical Commission, along with representatives from the Tennessee Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution between June 1 and August 30, 2013. The DAR was a leader in the 1930s and 1960s replica construction of the fort, and their participation and insight were crucial to the overall scope of the project. Encore also consulted with Paul Clements, Nashville's leading historian on the Cumberland Settlements and early Nashville history. Finally, Native American representatives were engaged to discuss interpretive themes associated with the history of Indian tribes in the region. In all, the process produced a comprehensive Interpretive Master Plan for the new Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center located in Riverfront Park.







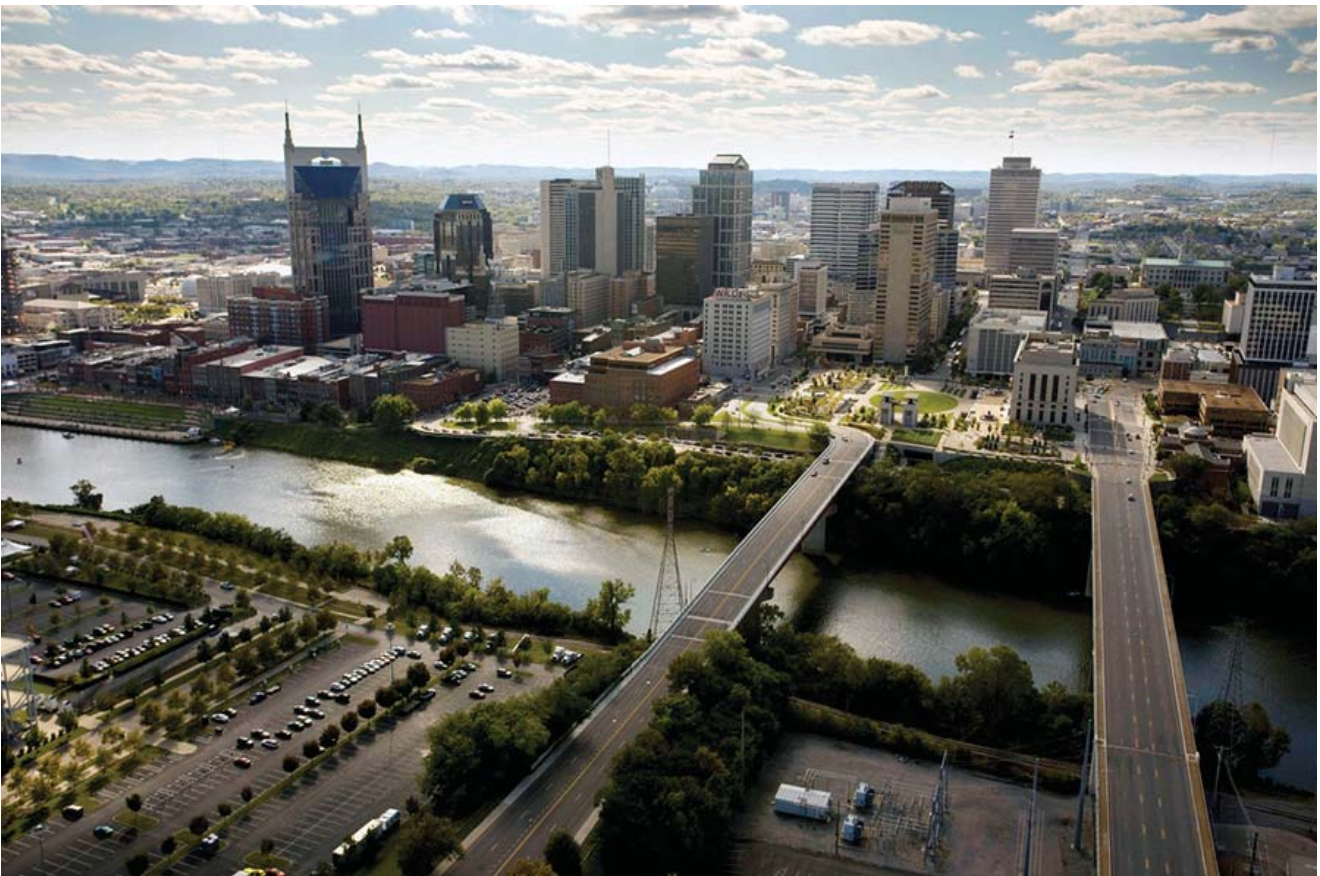
F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H

# CURRENT CONDITIONS





# NASHVILLE: WHO WE ARE



If there was ever a city on the move in 2013 it's Nashville, Tennessee. Television shows, country music capital, professional sports, major universities, inviting nature centers, parks, a zoo, and both an unemployment rate and cost-of-living below the national average. The New York Times recently called Nashville the new "it" city. With a population of 650,000, Metropolitan Nashville is the fourth largest city in the southeast. When you include the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), a combined 13 counties in middle Tennessee, the number of those living in the region expands to 1.7 million. Overall, since 1980, the population has doubled in the MSA. The area's growth and excitement has attracted people from all over the world to both live here and to visit.

## Hospitality and Tourism: What We Offer

An important component of Nashville's economic diversity is the hospitality and tourism industry. Though the city's business engine is driven primarily by music, education, and healthcare, more than 50,000 jobs are directly related

to the hospitality industry. In 2011 alone, 11.0 million people visited Nashville, generating upwards of \$4 billion in revenues for the city. Two major convention centers spearhead the drive to attract visitors. The Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center is now the largest non-gaming hotel property in the United States with 2,881 rooms and 288,999 square feet of exhibit space. Music City Center, Nashville's new downtown convention facility, is a 1.2 million-square-foot structure and features more than 350,000 square feet of exhibit space, 128,000 square feet of meeting space, two ballrooms, a business center and a 2,500-seat theater. Supporting hotels downtown and at Opryland enhance the area's accommodation choices, giving the city over 36,000 hotel rooms.

## Country Music

Conde Nast Traveler, a leader in travel recommendations and reviews, listed Nashville as one of the Top Five Cities in the world to visit in 2013. As the country music capital of the world, hundreds of thousands of visitors flock to the city every year to see, listen, record, and experience the atmosphere associated with the activities and events driven by and for the music industry. Besides the dozens of live music venues in the downtown area, and the additional venues around the city, several major music-oriented attractions sit just below the Nashville's skyline.

## CMA Festival

The largest annual event on Lower Broad and the riverfront is the Country Music Association Festival. Each June the festival entertains tens of thousands of country music fans. The 2013 event welcomed 80,000 fans from all 50 states and 24 countries to see 450 artists perform in more than 200 hours of concerts.

## Visitor Demographics

Demographic data gathered from various sources in Nashville's tourism industry reveal several consistent trends amongst the Nashville tourist population. Overall, visitors to Nashville are trending to be younger and more affluent than 10, or even 5, years ago. Since 2007, the average age of a visitor in Nashville has trended down from 50.3 to 46.5, and in 2011-2012, the average household income for a visitor was almost \$82,000/year. Families make up a substantial portion of yearly visitors, with the average visitor group size holding steady over the last decade at 3-4 members. Almost half (48%) of visitor traffic is a result of tourism, as opposed to business or other family-related travel. Out of the total population of visitors, almost 62% are in town for the first time. And over the last decade the Nashville 'experience' has improved for visitors, with just under 92% of visitors saying that they would be likely to return.

While the honky tonks that make Nashville so unique are certainly a draw for tourists, more family-friendly options also thrive. In 2012, the Country Music Hall of Fame broke attendance records with 565,000 visitors, up from 507,510 in 2011. This number is forecast to spike even higher in 2013-2014 with the additions of the Music City







# NASHVILLE: A COMPLETE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Center and adjacent Omni Hotel. Historic sites like The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, pulled in approximately 180,000 visitors in 2012. Even historic sites, such as Fort Negley, which arguably suffers a geographical disadvantage as opposed to other attractions, reported over 12,000 visitors in 2012.

### Current Trends in State & Local History Museums

With current Smartphone saturation estimates moving above 50% in the U.S. by the end of 2013(1) , more and more museums and cultural institutions are rethinking the way in which they engage their visitors both inside and outside the confines of historic sites. What was once an industry that depended on capital-intensive static and even more expensive digital interactive exhibits, is increasingly becoming an environment where patrons are engaging in their own ‘visitor experience’ on their own Smartphone or tablet devices. This is a trend that many industries have dubbed “BYOD”, or Bring Your Own Device. BYOD allows for several benefits that museums and cultural spaces find appealing. First, it eliminates the need for the institution to bear the burden of expensive equipment that needs continued maintenance and frequent updating. Second, in many cases, the interactive experience can be tailored to the individual guest and sheds itself of the requirement that it be a ‘public’ experience, as is the case with large touch-screen exhibit displays. Third, and most importantly in the minds of many museum administrators, it allows the museum experience to extend beyond the walls of the institution. It opens the opportunity for continued engagement and reciprocal support in the form of memberships and donations. While memberships and donations may not be relevant to Fort Nashborough, recognition of these trends and adoption of current practices will be a factor in the visitor experience outcome.

### What Does This Tell Us

The conclusion that is drawn from this demographic data, along with the stated attendance figures, is that Nashville is ripe for more family-centric entertainment targeted towards a more sophisticated and affluent visitor. Historic sites traditionally draw from this visitor base and parallel the profiles of those most likely to adopt and utilize Smartphone technology to enhance their visitor experience. It also tells us that based just on the current visitation figures alone that an interpretive facility located in Riverfront Park has the potential to attract over 100,000 patrons per year. If you adjust for those who would frequent the site as part of the greenway system, that number could rise to over 150,000 people. As the city adds resources to the downtown area, a new family-friendly educational facility at the river could almost immediately become an icon because of the unique story it represents.

### A Complete Experience

Besides music, Nashville has a variety of tourist and cultural attractions and events that not only bring visitors to the city, but give locals opportunities for both leisure and educational experiences. Several of these sites are associated with historic characters (\*) who were part of Nashville’s earliest settlement period.

#### Cultural attractions in the area include:

- The Frist Center for the Visual Arts
- Ryman Auditorium
- Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame
- The Tennessee State Museum \*
- Riverfront Park
- The Nashville City Cemetery \*
- Fort Negley
- Downtown Public Library
- The Parthenon
- Centennial Park \*
- Cumberland Park
- Nashville Zoo
- Bicentennial Mall \*
- Adventure Science Center
- Shelby Park
- Travellers Rest Plantation and Museum \*
- The Hermitage \*
- Belmont Mansion
- Cheekwood
- Lane Motor Museum
- Belle Meade Plantation

#### Sports/Concert Venues Downtown:

- LP Field
- Bridgestone Arena
- Music City Center







# NASHVILLE'S NEW RIVERFRONT



The 20-year masterplan vision for riverfront redevelopment produced “The Nashville Riverfront Concept Plan.” In 2010 the city undertook a further refined design process that focused on the core downtown riverbanks. In 2011, the detailed schematic design plan was released for the New Riverfront Park improvements. The overall goal of the project was to “transform Nashville’s downtown riverfront into a distinctive, active, lively and sustainable destination that connects people to the river and becomes a vital part of city life.”

*The New Riverfront improvements are designed to provide new public attractions, parkland and waterfront access, giving residents and visitors a reason to come and enjoy both banks of the Cumberland River. When fully implemented, the project area will be ten times the size of the existing Riverfront Park. These modifications include public features such as fountains, spraygrounds, boardwalks, overlooks, piers, performance spaces, wetlands, plazas, new docking facilities, increased bikeways, and open play space.*

*A restructured and expanded riverfront will be an astounding recreational and visual attraction for residents and visitors. It will draw more people to downtown along both sides of the river. The possibilities of adding public features, recreational opportunities, and improving the environmental quality of the land and water allows Nashville to turn and face the river once again; to give it back to the people and attain its full potential for future generations.*



**West Bank of the Cumberland River**







# NASHVILLE’S NEW RIVERFRONT

## Fort Nashborough

The Fort Nashborough Interpretive Master Plan fits within the context of the New Riverfront Park redevelopment. Positioned just north of the terraces, the interpretive center and plaza area are one of the first major improvement projects to the west bank.

**The Terraces**  
*Bookended by the proposed Church Street Pier and the Broadway Pier, the Terraces will be the front porch of downtown. They include an interactive river fountain, outdoor dining capability along First Street, smaller more frequent lunch-time and after-work programmed activities, an accessible spiral boardwalk connecting the existing Fort Nashborough replica to the City Wharf, historic interpretation and improved mooring for riverboats and event stages. These improvements ensure the Terraces will continue to receive and host visitors, and provide a more urban park-like setting for residents and downtown workers. The proposed piers will extend the geometry of the street grid out over the riverbanks to provide river views and fishing. The piers will offer additional program space for gatherings, mobile concessions and street performances that will add a dynamic presence to downtown during both day and night.*



F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H



*Fort Nashborough within the context of the New Riverfront Plan*





F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H

# THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE



# THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

A primary function of the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center is to create a meaningful and positive visitor experience. People who go to museums, historic sites, or cultural attractions seek an experience that is personal, relevant, and authentic. And their expectations are more sophisticated than ever. They want their visit to be entertaining, thought-provoking, and meaningful. In order to be successful, the experience at the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center must fulfill these expectations. To start, the visitor experience has to deal with more than just the information one might learn from a visit. It must also confront the emotions, impressions, and relationships visitors may or may not experience when engaging the site’s interpretive resources, be they wayside exhibits, orientation brochures, or directions to the nearest restroom. That experience must also be maintained with virtual visitors, those who do not physically journey to the site, but instead visit through a website, or through a mobile device.

## Goals For Providing A Meaningful Visitor Experience

Visitor experience goals describe opportunities for the public to engage the resource, and the community in various ways. They can also determine how those that participate, become stewards of, or visit the site think, feel, or act as a result of the experience. Understanding and responding to the diversity of audience needs and expectations is a challenge and calls on the creative energy of all those who seek to meet those expectations. One has to remember that every person arriving at the Interpretive Center brings with them his or her own unique story and set of expectations. There are several important constants, however. Visitors want services and interpretive resources to be readily available, easy to find, and not complicated to use.

The concept of **touchpoints** helps us to understand the visitor experience as a multi-faceted whole comprised of a variety of contact areas. Each place or event where the visitor makes contact with the community or the resource is a touchpoint and an opportunity to influence their overall experience. For example, wayfinding signage, exhibits, and practical preservation of historic resources are a few of the most extensive touchpoints in communities that help to create the full richness of a visitor experience. Each and every engagement should be seen as an opportunity to create a positive experience for visitors.

## STAGES OF THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

**Desiring:** The prospective visitor is aware of and wants to experience a community or its historic resources (like a museum), the opportunities available in the community, and the resulting experiences that may occur.

**Planning:** The prospective visitor is researching a destination that best meets their interest, needs, and expectations. The visitor must have access to information involving the potential visit, which can include information on its history, attractions, relevance, the weather, nearby accommodations, fees, and directions.

**Traveling:** The prospective visitor makes their way to the destination. Directions and signage to the site, or “wayfinding,” needs to be straightforward and clear.

**Arriving:** The visitor enters the community. They receive orientation and informational materials about the interpretive resources or opportunities available.

**Visiting:** The visitor participates in, enjoys, and learns from the programs, services, and facilities they are exposed to. An important part of visiting the community is the opportunity for discovery: following the interpretive driving tour using a hand-held device that highlights information about the communities historic past, or visiting a temporary exhibit at the museum. These opportunities can help to create and reinforce a positive and memorable experience.

**Leaving:** The visitor had an enjoyable, meaningful, satisfying, safe, and entertaining visit. There is a distinct sense of personal fulfillment at departure.

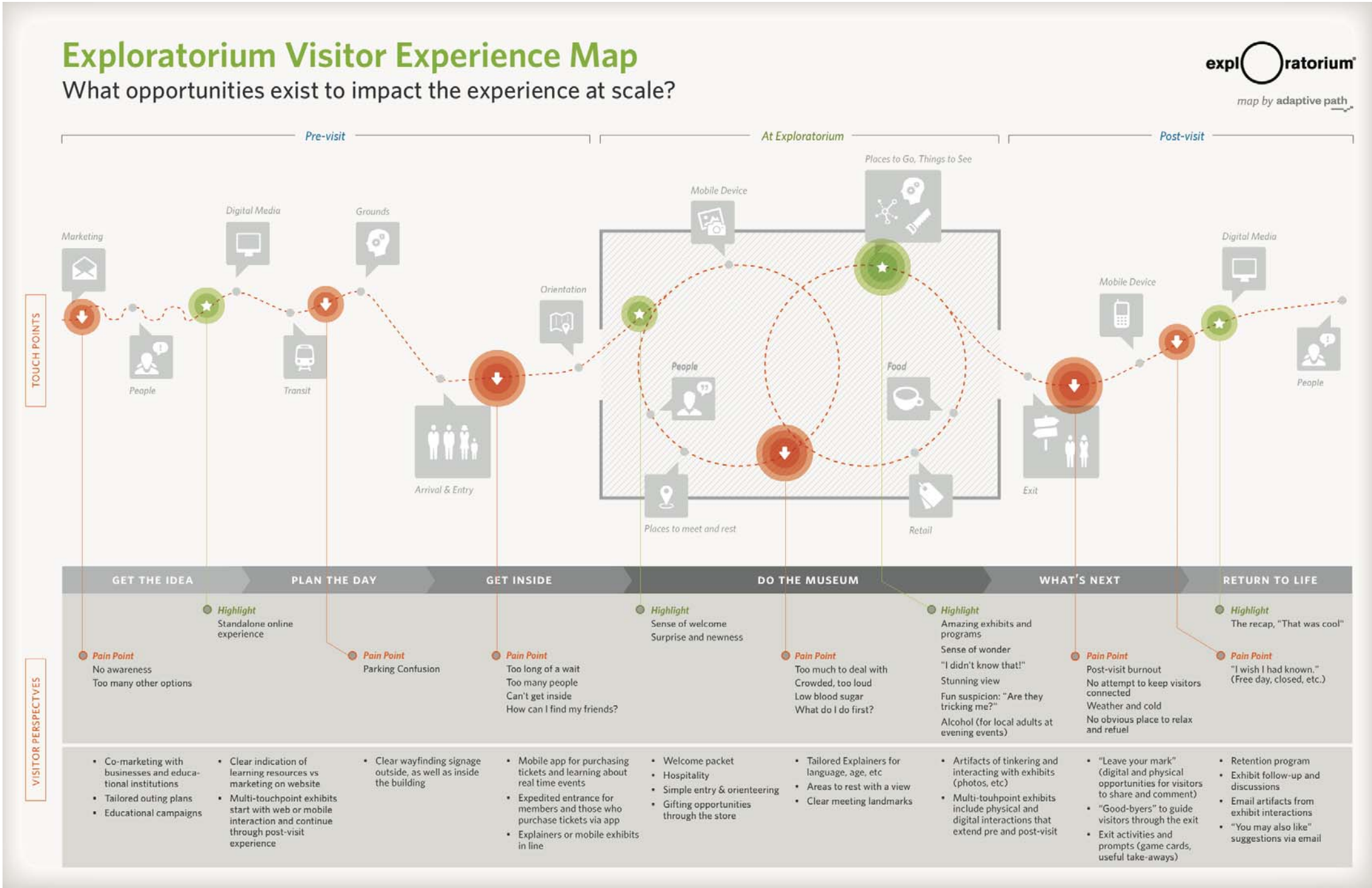
**Remembering:** The visitor shares the details of their visit through pictures, stories, and materials they have collected with others. Their memories are filled with positive recollections of the community. Follow-up communication through websites, emails, and social media can lead to a return visit or financial support for the association and their efforts.







# THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE



"Maps of a customer experience focus on how things will be experienced, not how they're made. They help you and your organization see the experience from the outside-in, helping you see and talk about how changes in operations, technology, and organization can bring about a better experience. Experience maps, similar to their travel map equivalents, help your organization get the lay of the land by revealing in visual terms where to go and how to get there."

**Brandon Schauer**  
CEO, adaptive path

Visitor Experience Map for the Exploratorium (2013)







# THE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

All visitors, whether in-person or virtually, seek on a base level a particular understanding of the events and occurrences that took place at Fort Nashborough. The more meaningful way that need to engage the story of the settlement is fulfilled the more successful the encounter. To the right are goals to be met in the engagement process and should serve as a guide for developing a meaningful visitor experience. They suggest how wayfinding/interpretation may change the way the public thinks, feels, or acts as a result of the experience.



*4th of July Celebration on the Riverfront*

## FUNDAMENTALS OF ACTIVE ENGAGEMENT

**Wayfinding:** Visitors will be provided with a clear, easily followed guide to and around the Interpretive Center. This guide will be available both at the site, at contiguous venues, at state visitor centers, at the CVB, in downtown businesses, at other Metro Parks interpretive facilities, and online.

**Planning:** Visitors will have the opportunity to engage a variety of touchpoints to plan for their visit to Fort Nashborough.

**Interpretation:** Interpretation will be based on scholarship and follow the themes as prescribed in the interpretive plan.

**Interpretive Media:** Interpretive media will be diverse and engage multiple audiences on multiple levels, extending beyond the Interpretive Center to online venues, including individuals who are handicapped (ADA). They will also receive current information about programs and activities at the site.

**Points of View:** Visitors will be able to engage interpretive media from multiple perspectives – Native American, African American, Euro-Centric, Hispanic.

**Memorable:** Visitors will leave with an understanding of the significance of early Nashville and why this was an important place. They will depart with a clear understanding of the site’s interpretive themes.

**Quality:** Visitors will receive high-quality wayfinding and interpretive materials within all areas of engagement.

**Commemoration:** Visitors will have the opportunity to contemplate the meaning of Fort Nashborough and the people who lived in the Cumberland Settlements.

**Input:** Visitors will have the opportunity to give their opinion about the sites interpretive programming and their overall experience.







# AUDIENCES

Visitors to historic sites, museums, and interpretive centers come in all shapes and sizes. They also come with various expectations about the topics and stories they seek to understand.

## Colonial History Aficionados

One of the largest segments of the American Revolution tourism industry is aficionados, or buffs. They can consist of organizations, heritage groups, and individuals (some descendants). All have a unique passion for the subject, a wide variety of backgrounds, and demand a high level of interpretive expertise. Providing informative tours and unique experiences for these visitors is one of the keys to success. A few of the better known groups are the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, the Contemporary Longrifle Association, and Living History or Reenactment Groups.

## School Groups

There are two types of groups related to education and schools. The first is local teachers seeking to enliven their classroom experience by venturing on field trips. Through the use of sites, they hope to enrich the subject matter for their students by visiting places associated with historic events or characters.

The second, and often overlooked crowd, are youth organizations, such as scholastic organizations, bands, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, or sports teams, outside the area. They often try to find secondary attractions to expend time while involved with their special extracurricular or school-related trips.

## Locals

The activities of local residents are a key ingredient in developing a sustainable heritage tourism market. Addressing this audience with special programming and involvement in planning activities generates enthusiastic supporters.

## Heritage Travellers

This audience seeks history associated sites and activities. They demand in-depth interpretation, much like Civil War aficionados, but have a wider array of interests. Often they combine sites visits with dining, shopping, and recreational activities. They also have a higher level of family travel.



## Recreational Visitors

This audience seeks recreation first, but looks for opportunities to visit nearby historic sites that add to the overall experience of the trip. Walking, backpacking, and biking trails, along with camping and water-sport activities are seen as enhancements to these visitors.

## Internet Users

Approximately 90 million American adults used the internet to plan travel in 2009. Seventy-six percent of those planned leisure trips online. Most online travel planners are somewhat or extremely satisfied with their experiences in using the Internet to plan their trips. The primary tools for travel planning are online travel agency websites, search engines, company websites and destination websites. Airline tickets, overnight lodging accommodations and car rentals are the dominant travel products and services purchased online by travel planners.

Visitors to destination websites may choose to not make a physical visit to the battlefield, but instead seek information about the story for various purposes. An undervalued and underemphasized audience type, visitors who hit history-related websites can be the best repeat customers. They seek various types of multi-media experiences and can direct others to these opportunities.

## Group Tourists

They can be anything from tour buses, to elder hostels, to church groups. Their activities are often driven by cross-marketing with other trendy sites, or are vacationing on tailor-made packages.

## Drop-Ins

This is the most unpredictable group. They often show up by chance, either off the main highway or visiting someone in the area.







## INTERPRETIVE MEDIA

The minimum threshold to any engaging visitor experience is a captivating story. People will experience Ft. Nashborough and the stories that are told in a variety of ways. Thus, how you want visitors to experience the site is important when determining everything from the design of the facility, to staffing, to the type of personal and media interaction you enlist. A wide variety of tools are available for interpretation that can reach a wide variety of audiences. Each has an appeal based on a number of factors, including ease of use, cost, maintenance, staff capacity, durability, and practicality. When investing in interpretive media it is important to consider the overall visitor experience that you want audiences to take away from their engagement with the site. Being cognizant of each and every place you engage the visitor is important in achieving a positive visitor experience.

### Types of Interpretive Experiences

#### Guided

The most expensive to maintain, guided interpretation is more personalized but labor intensive. When done in combination with self-guided materials, it can produce a rewarding experience for audiences.

#### Tours

Two of the most common types of tours are guided facility tours at historic sites or museums, and step-on guided tours for individuals or groups moving between locations. Both are a labor-intensive enterprise. Itineraries and scripts have to be developed, docents or guides trained, and programs evaluated to be effective. These types of tours are personalized, and locals familiar with the area and the historic resources can be employed to help. However, training and availability can be a problem that will have to be overcome.

#### Living History

First-person dramatic performances, like those employed at Williamsburg or Plimouth Plantation in Massachusetts, are one of the most effective learning experiences for visitors. They can involve local actors or students, or can employ military and civilian reenactors to demonstrate battlefield maneuvers, camp life, or the use of weaponry.

#### Self-Guided

This type of audience interaction does not involve direct contact between staff, volunteers, or interpreters and audiences. Less expensive and can reach a larger audience.







# INTERPRETIVE MEDIA - PRINT/STAGED

## Indoor Exhibits

Exhibits, whether permanent or travelling, can produce an excellent, self-directed experience for all audience types. They have the ability to convey an abundance of information, can be low-maintenance, and have the capability to replace the expense of human interpreters. Exhibits and kiosks can also be interactive, adding a supplement to passive displays and create an exciting pathway to learning.



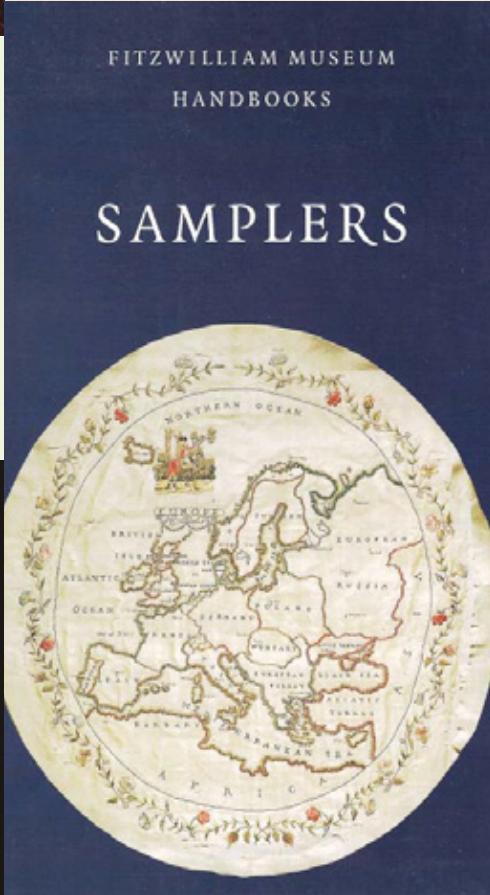
## Interactive Exhibits

Museums and historic sites are increasingly creating interactive exhibits as a way to heighten audience engagement. These exhibits can be used within static exhibits, as stand-alone assets, or on a mobile device. The interaction gives both the visitor and the site flexibility. Building interactive exhibits can be a powerful tool to enhance the visitor experience and their engagement with the resource or story.



## Exterior Wayside Panels

Exhibits can be produced for outdoor experiences in the form of interpretive panels. Located at specific places at the facility, these panels can direct, inform, and educate audiences who want to fully experience the visual and environmental elements of the site. At Ft. Nashborough, wayside interpretive panels expand the opportunity for visitors to learn about the fort and the Cumberland Settlements.



## Publications

Printed materials are one of the most cost effective ways to promote and educate audiences on the historic resource, especially at sites like Ft. Nashborough where there are no cost efficient ways of engaging visitors through direct interaction. These materials can come in many shapes, sizes, and forms.

**Brochures** - a fold out interpretive piece that can be a combination of background information with a map of the battlefield and directions on how to access the site.

**Rack Cards** - typically a two sided brochure made available at welcome centers, contiguous sites, businesses, tourism offices, motels, etc. for background information and directions to the site.

**Guidebooks** - comprehensive booklet that gives a detailed understanding of the events surrounding the historic events complete with maps and images to offer audiences more than just an overview of the resource.

**Maps** - similar to a brochure, however, the map drives the interpretation through an intense orientation of the events as they took place in the region. This map can also be an accompaniment to a brochure or guidebook, but is also meant as a stand-alone piece.

## Dramatic Performance

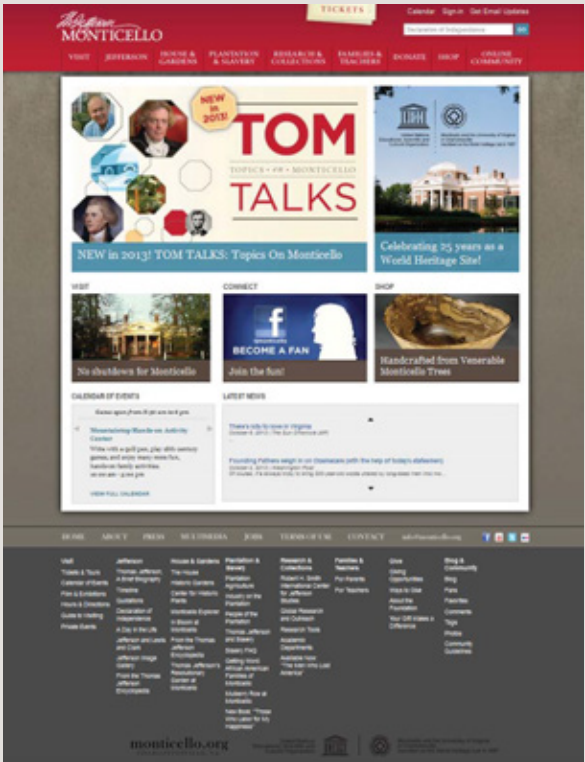
Combining history and the arts is becoming more commonplace today than it has been in the past. Theater performances based on historic or historical events can attract audiences who seek both entertainment and information.







# INTERPRETIVE MEDIA - DIGITAL



## Websites

Still the most cost effective means to reach a large audience who wants to experience the site or access information about the resource, websites can serve several purposes, from interpretation, to information, to programming (podcasts), to promotion. Effective websites address all of these objectives.

Website blogs are also a new phenomenon that historic sites can take advantage of. These types of sites are similar to online journals and allow others to interact through commentary or images with the material on the site. Websites are also an excellent opportunity to gather information about visitors or potential visitors to the site. Establishing an email database for further contact with this audience can enhance fundraising, programming, interpretive, or visitation opportunities for the site.

## Podcasts

Podcasts offer a way for visitors to access a wide variety of information about the battlefield without actually visiting the site. Podcasts are digital media files that can be accessed through the Internet. They can be easily recorded and quickly uploaded. Events like the symposium or audio tours can expose audiences to information and interpretation via their computer, smart phone, mp3 player, or other digital media players.



## Social Media

The use of social media outlets, like Facebook, Twitter, Foursquare (location), YouTube (video sharing), Flickr (photo sharing), have added a new and exciting layer of information and interpretation to historic sites. They have the ability to attract audiences that would be considered non-traditional, such as those under the age of 25 who visit historic sites in relatively few numbers. They do, however, enjoy making their observations, opinions, and criticisms known to the world through social media outlets.



## Smart Phone Applications

Today smart phones carry applications that can perform all types of functions. One useful application is GPS-based location mapping. Museums and historic battlefields are now taking advantage of this hand-held technology to devise tours where audiences are their own tour guide. One of the newest applications to use this technology is the Gettysburg Battle App. Social media is also accessible through smart phone applications. Fort Nashborough could create an app for touring the downtown area.

## Documentary and Promotional Films

Films and videos have an emotional appeal few physical venues can compare to. If well done, they can convey a mood, recreate a setting, or interpret a relationship. Film and video projects, however, are expensive to produce. Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield has a high quality interpretive film of the battle that relies on 3D fly-through to show the role terrain played.



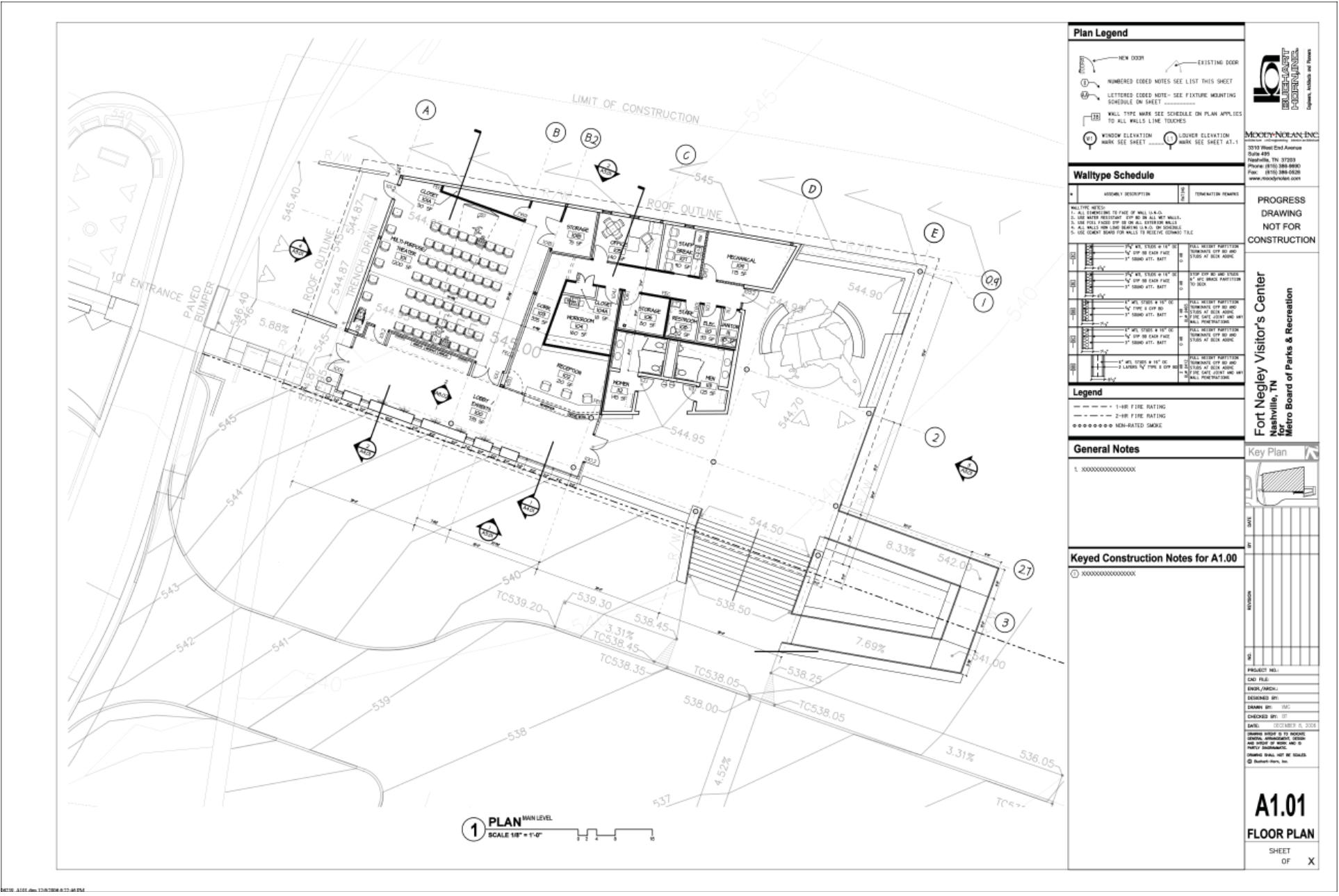
These types of media can also be used on the Ft. Nashborough website, or by uploading to social media outlets such as YouTube or Vimeo. Guest speakers or demonstrators are two ways to make use of an educational program that can then be broadcast over the internet.







# INTERPRETIVE MEDIA - VISITOR/INTERPRETIVE CENTER



**Interpretive Centers**

The most important job of interpretive centers is to introduce and orient visitors to the resources available, whether historic or accommodative. They can deal with either broad or narrow interpretive themes and can employ creative interpretive tools, from interactive kiosks to introductory videos. Centers are also flexible enough that existing facilities, such as the Chamber of Commerce, Libraries, archives, businesses, or welcome centers can be used to guide visitors to their destinations. All exhibits within the center should be professionally designed. The average cost is between \$250 and \$400 per square foot.





F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H

# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE PLAN





# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Interpreting the earliest history of Nashville is both a unique and challenging opportunity. To tell the story of the Cumberland Settlements experience is, at the least, a re-envisioning of over eighty years of previous work by the city and supportive orgnizations such as the Daughters of the American Revolution. In the past, that story was tied exclusively to the replica of the station. Beginning in 1930, in the middle of a renaissance in historic preservation in the United States, city leaders and the DAR saw the site as an occasion during Nashville’s sesquicentennial to educate and inform citizens on the struggle by settlers to establish a beachhead on the western frontier during the tumultuous years of the American Revolution. That interpretation relied heavily on primary source documents available at the time. The major interpretive themes revolved around heroic characters such as James Robertson and John Donelson. Robertson’s trek across the plateau and Donelson’s river-born flotilla made these men and their families the first permanent white settlers in the area. Much of the story of Native Americans and their impact on the region, however, was overlooked. Other than the bloody engagements, such as the Battle of the Bluffs, the interaction between Indians and white settlers was non-existent.

The intent of this Interpretive Master Plan is to create a blueprint for telling the entire story of Nashville’s earliest settlers within the context of their overall experience on the frontier and their interaction with Native American tribes who also claimed ownership over the region. Because of the state of decay at the current facility, a new Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center is proposed that will give visitors an authentic experience based on location, making the new facility and surrounding grounds an active participant in the interpretation of early Nashville through design, construction, and programming, and a resource for the community as active civic space.

## Interpretation

Interpretation is a form of communication that attempts to provoke, relate, and reveal. It offers insight into what makes a place, person, object, or mood important. To tell the story of Fort Nashborough in an effective way, the interpretative assets made available to the public must engage visitors on a personal level, offer a safe and inviting space to learn about and experience the resource, and contribute to the surrounding environment. Visitors to historic sites make a multiplicity of choices about whether to engage an interpretive resource or not. Those choices are influenced by time, availability, functionality, safety, environment, cost, etc. The ultimate aim of this interpretive master plan is to effectively balance visitor needs and interests with the needs and interests of the redevelopment of the riverfront. It is hoped that a new interpretive center will address all of these factors, telling the story of Nashville’s founding while enhancing the city’s overall objective to make the riverfront a vibrant and active attraction.

## THE BASIS OF INTERPRETATION

Freeman Tilden, the father of modern interpretation, described his six principles of interpretation in the late 1950s as:

Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.

Information, as such, is not Interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based on information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.

Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical, or architectural. Any art is to some degree teachable.

The chief aim of Interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.

Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part, and must address itself to the whole person rather than any phase.

Interpretation addressed to children (say, up to the age of twelve) should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.

These principles still hold true today. The history of the Cumberland Settlements and the founding of Nashville can engage visitors on a number of levels. It is a story of courage, fortitude, survival, and compromise. The narrative that follows relects those qualities.







# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

## Native Americans and the Cumberland River Valley

Native Americans have been part of the Cumberland River Valley for thousands of years. Though no formal history of the earliest peoples was recorded – Paleo-Indians (12,000 BC), Archaic (8000 BC – 1000 BC), Woodlands (1000 BC – 1000 AD) Mississippian (1000 – 1400 AD) – the remains of their presence are evident still today in the form of archaeological sites associated mostly with villages and burials. When the first Europeans traversed the region in the 16th and 17th century, the last dominant pre-Columbian civilization in the region, the Mississippians, had all but disappeared.

By the end of the 17th century, much of the Cumberland River valley was used as a hunting ground by several Native American tribes, including the Cherokee, Shawnee, Chickasaws, Choctaw, and Creek. Filled with game that gathered to use the salt licks in the area, the valley served a dual purpose: animal skins for trade and protein for the Native American diet. More than any other tribe, the Cherokee laid claim to middle Tennessee. This, however, did not keep other tribes from using the area to hunt for food and skins, especially the Shawnee. Though no real permanent settlements existed after the late 1600s, the Shawnee were the most active, especially with the introduction of French fur traders to the area. The French presence during the 17th century enhanced the valley’s importance to each of the competing tribes. For more than 150 years Natives engaged small European and Euro-American trade and hunting parties bent on expanding the reach of their home countries. Westward expansion by colonials following the French and Indian War created more tension among Native tribes, especially the Cherokee, Shawnee, and Chickasaws. By 1750, the Shawnee were driven from middle Tennessee by roving bands of Chickasaw and Cherokee. The region became known as “the dark and bloody ground” because of hostile attacks and reprisals by the competing tribes. Both trade and military alliances between these tribes and their European/Colonial counterparts led to continual conflicts among belligerent Native cultures, like the French and Indian War and the American Revolution, as each resolved to forge alliances and control the contested Cumberland River valley environs. All found the allure of Colonial and European goods hard to pass up when it came to fulfilling not only their needs, but their wants as well.

Traditionally, the Cherokee refer to themselves as Ani-Yun-Wiya, a name usually translated as “the Real People,” or “the Original People.” The Cherokee language is linguistically related to that of the Iroquois, the native tribe of the northeast. The Cherokee did not move to the Appalachia area of Tennessee until the 15th century or later. The earliest

historical data locates the Cherokee in areas of the southeast that includes the current states of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. In 1735 they were estimated to have sixty-four towns and villages, and 6,000 warriors. Smallpox epidemics broke out among the Cherokee in 1738 and 1739. Nearly half their population died within a year.



**The Cherokee laid claim to the Cumberland River Valley**







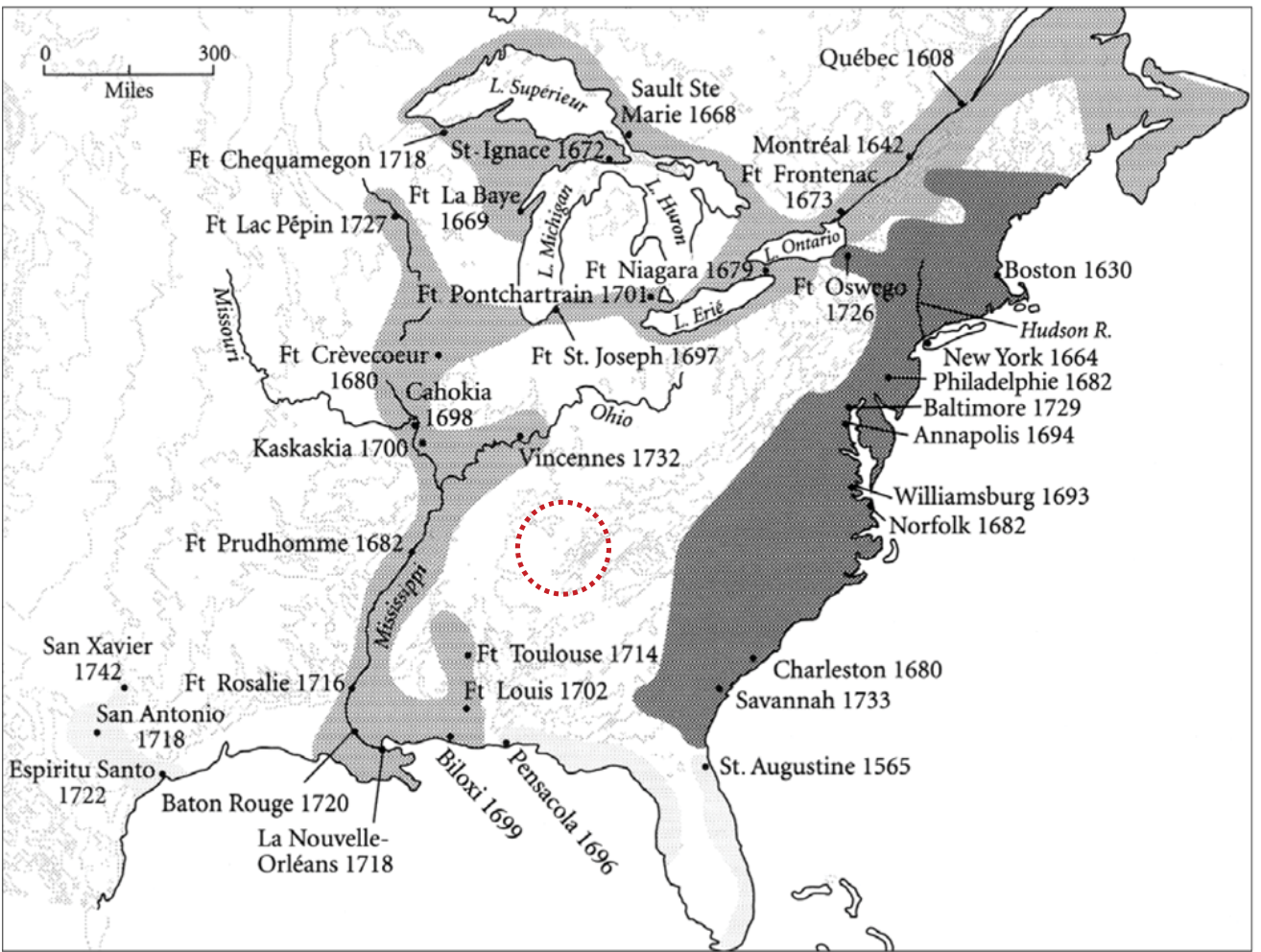
# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

## The Fur Trade and Early Exploration

French fur traders were the earliest Europeans to explore middle Tennessee in earnest. Though some arrived in the late 17th century, Jean du Charleville was the first to establish a trading post in the vicinity of Nashville around 1714. Charleville’s store was built upon the remains of an old Shawnee settlement. The post, however, was short-lived due to hostilities between the Chickasaw and the Shawnee. By 1740 few Europeans inhabited the area. Timothy Demonbreun, a French-Canadian fur trader from Quebec who came to Canada with the French army during the French and Indian War, hunted the Cumberland River valley in the early 1760s. While scouting game in 1766 he rediscovered residual salt deposited by sulphur springs where buffalo and deer gathered at the mouth of a small creek entering the Cumberland River just north of the current downtown Nashville. Demonbreun spent his winter months in the area living in a cave hidden in the river bank before building a cabin he used as a base for fur trapping expeditions. He traded furs as far south as New Orleans. Eventually, Demonbreun moved one of his two families to the area. The other lived in Illinois. His son, William, is believed to be the first “white” child born in middle Tennessee.

## British Colonial Exploration

In July 1749, Thomas Walker, a Virginian, founded the Loyal Land Company along with Peter Jefferson, father of Thomas Jefferson. This came on the heels of receiving a royal grant of 800,000 acres in what is now West Virginia and southeastern Kentucky, an area occupied by Native Americans. A physician by trade, he was appointed to lead an expedition consisting of surveyors and “longhunters” across the Appalachian Mountains the following year. They ventured through the Cumberland Gap and as far west as the headwaters of the Cumberland River in Kentucky. The party did not advance into middle Tennessee, but they mapped the mountains, gap, plateau, and river. Before Walker the Cumberland River was called Wasioto by Native Americans and Rivere des Chaouanons, or “river of the Shawnee,” by French fur traders. Following the expedition he renamed the plateau, gap, and river for Prince William, Duke of Cumberland. Walker became the legal guardian of Thomas Jefferson after Peter Jefferson’s death in 1757. He served as an adviser to Jefferson on what became the former Virginia governor’s book, Notes on the State of Virginia (1785). Walker was one of the most influential land speculators in Virginia. He helped persuade Parliament to remove some of the restrictions on settlements west of the boundary demarcated by the Proclamation of 1763. This served to open up the Ohio and Cumberland River valleys for westward expansion.



Great Britain issued the Proclamation of 1763 following the end of the French and Indian War (1755–1762), a struggle for control of land west of the Allegheny and Appalachian mountains in the Ohio and Cumberland River valleys. The purpose of the decree was to organize English land acquisition following the defeat of the French in North America and to stabilize relations with Native Americans through regulation of trade, settlement, and land purchases on the western frontier. European and colonial land speculators had precipitated conflict with Natives over new settlement areas in the west both before and during the war. The proclamation outlawed private purchase of Native American land. This not only angered speculators who had already invested in western lands, but Natives who were allied with the French and now had to switch their loyalties to Great Britain.





# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

Not even before the ink on the proclamation dried English colonists, including Thomas Walker, joined with land speculators in Britain to lobby the government to move the line further west. As a result, the boundary was adjusted in a series of treaties with Native Americans. The Treaty of Fort Stanwix and the Treaty of Hard Labour (both 1768), and the Treaty of Lochaber (1770) opened much of what is now West Virginia and Kentucky, as well as parts of east Tennessee to British settlement. With the Lochaber treaty, the Cherokee relinquished all claims to land extending west from the North Carolina and Virginia borders to six miles east of Long Island of the Holston, an island in the Holston River in present day Knoxville, Tennessee, and the mouth of the Kanawha River, at present day Point Pleasant, West Virginia. The North Carolina–Virginia border at this time was along the 36° 30’ parallel in present-day Tennessee. The south fork of the Holston River became the southern boundary due to settler’s confusion of where the parallel ran.

As much as anything, the Cherokee cessions were a matter of debt. First and foremost, British colonists often bartered with alcohol, rather than necessary goods like guns and ammunition, when trading with the Cherokee for deerskins. This led to a large deficit between traders and the Cherokee. Thus, the cession of land became the only valued commodity to pay off what they owed. Second, by the 1770s the Cherokee favored their trade alliances with the English colonists over their relationship with other native tribes, especially the Iroquois. In their world, the value of English and colonial trade goods took precedence.

## The Longhunters

The arrival of “longhunters” in middle Tennessee in the 1760s precipitated what would eventually become the principal migration west of English-speaking settlers in the 1770s and 80s. One of the first was Henry Scruggs and his five brothers who made their way to the area between 1762 and 1769. A party led by Daniel Smith, which included Uriah Stone, travelled from Virginia that same year to the banks of the Cumberland and on to its mouth at the Ohio River. They named Stone’s River after Uriah Stone. Isaac Lindsay and four others also reached the mouth of Stone’s River, where they met Michael Stoner from Illinois, a friend of Daniel Boone, in 1767.

In 1768, twenty longhunters ventured from North Carolina and Virginia through the Cumberland Gap and on to the Cumberland River. The party included Kasper Mansker, a Dutchman born in Pennsylvania who moved to western Virginia in the 1760s. Mansker returned to middle Tennessee in 1769, with John Rains, Abraham Bledsoe, John Baker, Joseph Drake, James Knox, Obadiah Terrill, Uriah Stone, Henry Smith, Ned Cowan, Robert Crockett, Thomas Gordon, Cash Brook, and Humphrey Hogan. Some within the party were from North Carolina, others from Natural

Bridge, Virginia, and still other from a small settlement near Inglis’ Ferry, Virginia. The party was well equipped with guns, ammunition and the supplies necessary for a protracted hunting and exploring expedition.

In the fall of 1771 Kasper Mansker made his third trek to middle Tennessee. He led a party of longhunters to the region north (now Goodlettsville) of what was then known as the French Lick, reportedly named for the earlier French trappers and tradesmen in the area, including Timothy Demonbreun. Among them were many who had previously visited the area. During this expedition most of the licks and streams they came across in the area were named for those in the party; Mansker’s Lick and Mansker’s Creek; Bledsoe’s Lick and Bledsoe’s Creek; Drake’s Lick and Drake’s Creek. During one of these expeditions Mansker canoed down the Cumberland, to the Ohio, and on to Mississippi, where he delivered his furs to Natchez. He made a fourth trip to the area in 1775 and this time brought his wife, Elizabeth White.

## Westward Expansion

Colonial exploration and hunting parties pushed the boundaries with Native Americans west. In 1771, Colonel John Donelson was appointed by the Virginia colony to assess the Cherokee border between Virginia and North Carolina. At the time Donelson was the surveyor for Pittsylvania County, Virginia. He was also a member of the House of Burgesses and owner of the Washington Iron Furnace in Rocky Mount, Virginia. As a result of Donelson’s survey of the Cherokee boundary, he acquired a large cession of land west of the line. He also discovered that the earliest English settlements, the Watauga, along with the nearby Nolichucky, and Carter’s Valley, were on lands still claimed by the Cherokee. British Superintendent of Indian Affairs, John Stuart, ordered the Watauga settlers to vacate the valley and return to British territory.

Donelson followed up his service by attending the Avery Treaty signing between the Cherokee and both Virginia and North Carolina at Fort Patrick Henry, near Long Island on the Holston River in 1777. The Cherokee, however, failed to mention during the treaty negotiations that the land they were selling did not actually belong to them, but the Shawnee. James Robertson, a young speculator and explorer, was appointed as agent by the new state commissioners. In the spring of 1770, Robertson, possibly fleeing the turmoil created by the Regulator Movement in his home state of North Carolina, made an excursion into the Watauga Valley of what is today east Tennessee (Elizabethton). He returned a year later with sixteen family members in tow and established the first “white” settlement.







# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

Robertson’s party drafted a formal governing document that provided guidance for overseeing the settlement and resolving disputes. Though it lasted only a few years and was voided by the state of North Carolina, the settlers created the Articles of the Watauga Association. Some historians have called the Association the earliest attempt by American-born colonists to form an independent democratic government. Others argue it was not intended to create a separate government devoid of British control, but simply to keep the settlement free of debtors and felons. The agreement was, however, said to provide a basic governing structure that likely influenced other western frontier governments in the trans-Appalachian region, specifically the Cumberland Settlements to come. No copy of the document has been found. North Carolina annexed the Watauga settlement area, by then known as the Washington District, in November 1776, less than six months after the state joined the American Revolution. Within a year the area was placed under a county government.

## The Henderson Purchase

In January 1775, Richard Henderson, a merchant and former North Carolina judge who was driven from the bench in 1770 by the state’s Regulator uprising, organized a land speculation company with several prominent North Carolinians in hopes of negotiating a land purchase with the Cherokee for tracts in the Ohio and Cumberland River valleys. Originally called “Richard Henderson and Company”, the name was first changed to the “Louisa Company”, and finally to the “Transylvania Company.” Henderson wanted to create colonies in the west he could sell to settlers from North Carolina and Virginia. In late January he travelled to the Cherokee settlements to negotiate the sale of the land between the Ohio and Tennessee rivers. At first he was offered land previously negotiated by John Donelson and ceded to the state of Virginia by the Cherokee headmen, Oconostata and Attacullaculla, but Henderson refused. He finally negotiated the Treaty of Watauga that gave the Transylvania Land Company over half the area of the present state of Kentucky and the adjacent part of Tennessee. In total more than 20 million acres.

The treaty area was claimed at the time by both the Province of Virginia and North Carolina. Daniel Boone, himself a small-time speculator, was hired by Henderson to establish the Wilderness Road through the Cumberland Gap into central “Kentuckee.” Boone founded Boonesborough in 1775, the designated capital of the Transylvania colony. The settlement, however, officially ceased to exist after the Virginia General Assembly invalidated the Transylvania Company’s purchase the next year. This did not deter Henderson from further pursuing the Cumberland Settlements. Not every Overhill Cherokee was pleased with the treaty. Some felt that too much was given away for too little in

return. Also, the central Kentucky area, like middle Tennessee, was a major hunting ground for both the Cherokee and the Shawnee. As well, with the American Revolution just around the corner, the Cherokee alliance with Great Britain would play a role in exacerbating hostilities in the region. Dragging Canoe, son of Attacullaculla, refused to sign and began a pattern of armed opposition to white settlement. He quickly became the pre-eminent war leader among the Indians of the Southeast as the Revolution pitted Loyalists against American colonials. Following raids into Cherokee towns in the Overhill district Dragging Canoe moved his followers further south to an area near Chickamauga Creek east of present-day Chattanooga. There, in 1777, they established eleven towns and remained antagonistic against the settlements into the early 1790s.

*I am well informed that the first day of March near 200 men, and many families amongst them, are to meet at the Long Island of the Holston in order to go down the river with the design to settle on the Cumberland River.*  
**James Robertson (1779)**

## The Robertson Expedition

Persuaded by the accounts of fertile soil and unlimited game in the region conveyed by other explorers, such as Daniel Boone, James Robertson led a party of ten frontiersmen west from the Watauga settlements into the Cumberland River Valley in early February 1779. The expedition included two brothers, George and James Freeland, William Neely, William Overall, William Fletcher, Zachariah White, James Harris, Robertson’s brother, Mark, and Robertson’s slave, Cornelius. They encamped north of the present downtown square, on land where sulphur springs littered the landscape, giving the area a pungent odor and leaving a residue that included salt. Much as the French traders and English longhunters discovered, the sulphur springs, or French Lick, were a magnet for wild game who consumed the salt as part of their diet. When Robertson first arrived at the bluffs late March 1779 he met with several French hunters who had previously floated down the river from St. Louis. Robertson purchased a skiff from the men and he and several in his party ventured on to the Ohio River, stopping at several abandoned French and Spanish settlements on the Illinois side of the river. Robertson had hoped to meet with George Rogers Clark who held claim to 3000 acres of the Cumberland settlement area at the bluffs. In the meantime, other frontiersmen from Kentucky reached the French Lick well into April, including Kasper Mansker. The men, absent Robertson and three others who ventured to Illinois, constructed “half-face” cabins and proceeded to plant 30-40 acres of corn, which helped to establish ownership, before departing for the Holston settlements. Robertson returned via Kentucky with horses he purchased in Illinois.





# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

## The Cumberland Settlements

In October 1779, James Robertson and a party of 12 to 15 men left the Watauga settlement bound for their second venture to the French Lick, this time to try and create a permanent settlement area near the bluffs along the Cumberland River. A flotilla of flatboats carrying their families and other goods, and headed by John Donelson, would follow in March, drifting down the Holston, Tennessee, and Cumberland rivers to rendezvous with the Robertson party. Driving sheep, cattle, and hogs, Robertson and his men moved on horseback through the Cumberland Gap, into Kentucky, down across to the Barren River, and on to Mansker’s Station just a few miles north of the Cumberland River bluffs. They arrived in late December. The livestock were left at Mansker’s and Robertson moved on to the river. Along the way they were joined by the John Rains party who were driving cattle to settle in Kentucky, but opted to join Robertson instead. Robertson’s party finally crossed a frozen Cumberland River in late February 1780 at French Lick branch and established Freeland’s Station where he lived much of the first year.

Robertson’s company was not the only group of settlers traveling to the bluffs. A second party headed by Amos Heaton left the Holston settlements in east Tennessee around the same time as the Robertson troupe. They, too, ventured across Kentucky to Boonesborough, and moved south, down to White’s Creek just north of the Cumberland. On Christmas Eve Heaton encamped near the river. The Williams and Buchanan party left South Carolina, moved across Cumberland Gap, and followed the headwaters of the Cumberland to the French Lick, arriving in late December where they found twenty-five settlers already preparing lodging for the winter. James Neely and his family ventured down the Tennessee River from their home on the French Broad. Neely himself traveled along the bank with ninety-six head of cattle. His family paddled the river in canoes. They disembarked at Muscle Shoals (AL) and together drove their cattle to the bluff. Unnerved by signs of Natives, they pushed on to Mansker’s Station where they herded their livestock with others, eventually using the area today known as Neely’s Bend to protect the horses and cattle over the winter.

## John Donelson’s Adventure

In the summer of 1779, John Donelson informed the citizens of Halifax County that their home state of Virginia was offering a bounty of 640 acres to any male citizen who would venture to the French Lick and settle. One of the requirements to meet the bounty was to plant a corn crop. On December 22, 1779, he and his party of followers left Fort Patrick Henry for the Watauga settlements. Once reaching the settlement they bivouacked on the Holston River



**Flatboats**

Donelson had two boats. One he called the “Adventure.” Besides Roberson’s family, the aging Virginia surveyor and land speculator carried both his and his son’s family. Fifteen African Americans, probably slaves, were also members of his party. The flotilla rendezvoused with another expedition at the mouth of the Clinch River in early March. The number of boats now totaled forty, with two families on each boat, except for the Cartwright boat which carried three. Upwards of 300 settlers attempted the journey. The fleet also transported goods and foodstuffs. Everything from furniture to kegs of gunpowder accompanied the families. The weapons and gunpowder came into use on several occasions as the flotilla was attacked along the way by Native Americans who sought to relieve them of their bounty. As they moved down the Tennessee River, on March 8, they came to the first inhabited Chickamauga Cherokee town near Chattanooga. John Blackmore’s flatboat was attacked and captured. The entire crew were killed or taken prisoner. The Stewart family, also on Blackmore’s boat, suffered from smallpox. The impact the disease had on those who captured the boat is unknown, but probably ravaged the native population that came in contact with the Stewarts. The attacks continue throughout the lower Tennessee River Valley, all the way to Muscle Shoals.

till late February when three hundred men, women, and children left on a flotilla of thirty flatboats toward the French Lick where they would join James Robertson’s overland expedition. Among the expedition’s participants were Robertson’s wife, Charlotte, and the couple’s four small children. Accompanying Charlotte was her brother, William Reeves, her husband’s brother, Charles, her sister-in-law, Ann, three small nieces, and one of Robertson’s slaves, Hagar. Robert Cartwright brought not only his family, but a swivel gun (brass cannon) and rifles. Also on board were two slave girls, Aliph and Susan, ages 15 and 13.







# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

The flotilla moved on down the Tennessee to its confluence with the Ohio. Several families decided to journey on to Illinois or down the Mississippi to Natchez, the largest trading post before New Orleans. The rest pushed on upstream several miles to the mouth of the Cumberland. The strong current caused some to afix sails to their craft to fight against the northern flow. At places where shoals protruded from the waters some men retreated to the river bank and pulled their boats over the rock-laden streams. Low on supplies from the long voyage, they hunted game and picked early spring greens to sustain themselves as they slowly moved closer to the French Lick.

On April 23, 1780, they reached Heaton (Eaton) Station, one of the first encampments, along with Freeland Station, in the settlement. Before the arrival of the Donelson party few Indian attacks took place. The first of what was to become hundreds of encounters claimed the lives of William Cooper and Joseph Mulligan, both in late March, by a band of Delaware. In early April, Joseph Hay was killed near the French Lick. He was buried just to the east on open ground, possibly becoming the first interred at what would later be the city's initial public cemetery at Sulphur Springs. Throughout the 1780s Indian attacks turned more rampant as settlers tried to build stockaded encampments, or stations, to protect against violent encounters with several bands of Chickamauga Cherokee, Delaware, Chicksaw, and Creek. In all, seven stations were built in various areas along the Cumberland. After the first two years only two remained.

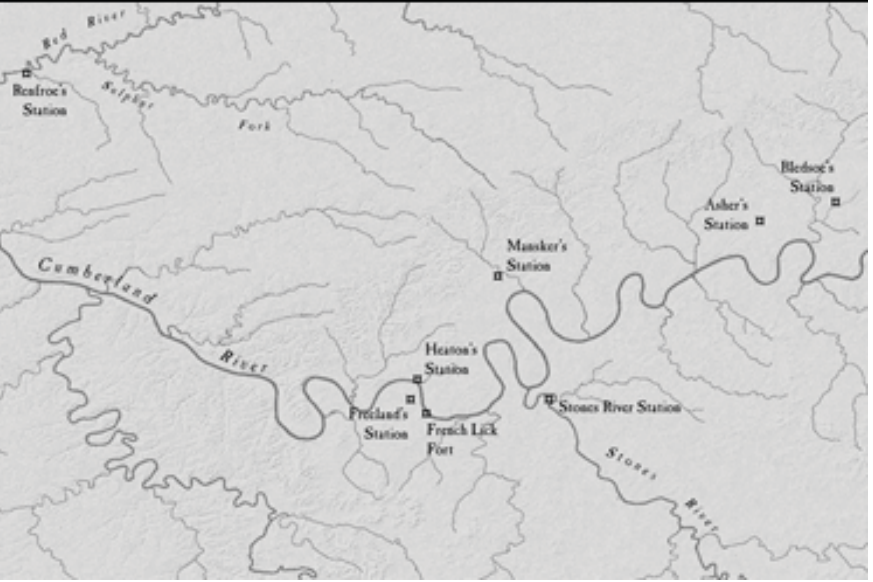
## The Flotilla Arrives

James Robertson met the flotilla near the French Lick on April 24th and welcomed his family to the settlement. Upon his arrival Donelson found “a few log cabins erected by people who had settled there, at some distance from the Salt Spring.” The earliest houses were probably unhewn log cabins. Mary Neely, daughter of William Neely, an early settler, remembered the first living quarters she and her father saw in March or April 1780 when they arrived at the Bluff Station area was an “unfinished pole cabin.” The structure was probably built out of cedar, poplar, or oak. The corners were most likely connected by v-notching and the bark was still on the logs.

Instead of settling at the French Lick, Freeland’s Station, Donelson continued upstream with his family to the mouth of the Stones River. Richard Henderson recommended that he explore the area because of the fertile bottomland and easy access to the Cumberland. The Colonel decided to encamp on the south side of the river at Clover Bottom.



*Robertson-Donelson Statue in Riverfront Park*



*Map of the Station Settlements*



*The Longrifle*





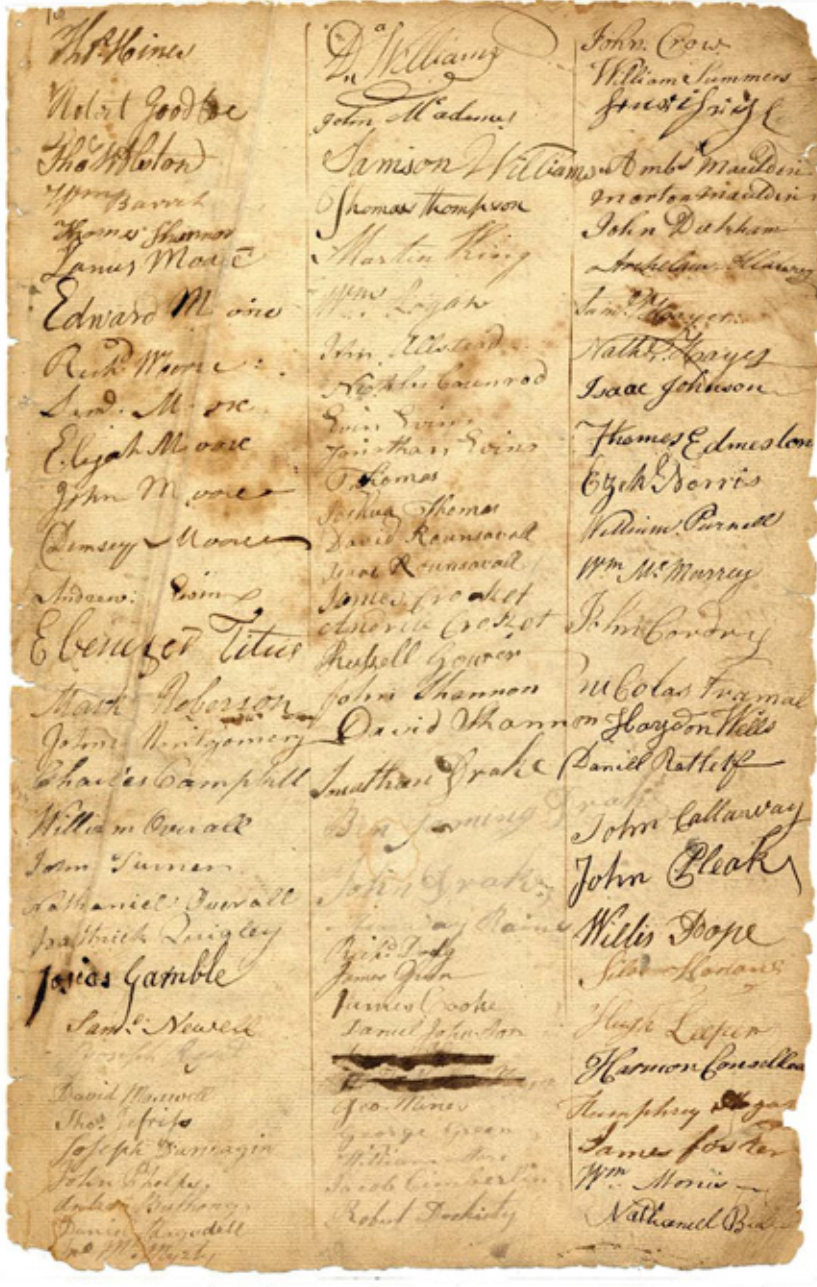


# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

## Cumberland Compact

On May 1, 1780, the majority of the earliest settlers in the area adopted an “Article of Agreement, or Compact Government,” creating a provisional government they defined as an “association”. The document, commonly known as the Cumberland Compact and authored by Richard Henderson, called for the election of 12 representatives from the 8 stations (Nashborough /Bluff, Gasper, Bledsoe, Asher, Stone, Freeland, Heaton, Ft. Union) that existed at the time. This “Tribunal of Notables” dispensed justice, received and dispersed funds, settled claims, and regulated the land office. The Compact also set the parameters for the formation of a militia that consisted of all men over the age of sixteen who were healthy enough to serve. Only a small part of the document, however, was devoted to governance. Instead, its most important feature was establishing a legal framework for land transfers. For instance, it dictated the legal grounds by which title to Native American land would be conveyed to the new settlers, some of whom were land speculators. Additions were made to the Compact on May 13 when 248 signed the document. It should be noted that not all the landowners signed.

The original Cumberland settlers planned eight stations in advance of their arrival. By the end of the first year, however, only two remained, Heaton and Bluff (Nashborough). John Donelson was one of the earliest settlers to leave the Cumberland area. Because of the continual threat of Indian attacks, and the deaths of several in his party, he moved his family and slaves to Kentucky in the fall of 1780. They would return five years later without Donelson, who was killed mysteriously the previous year in Kentucky. Among those arriving back at the Bluff Station was a young Rachel Donelson, the Colonel’s daughter. She would eventually marry Andrew Jackson, who moved into the settlement in 1788 from North Carolina.



A page from the Cumberland Compact

## Battle of the Bluffs

On April 2, 1781, Creek Indians launched a surprise attack against the Bluff Station. After one of the men at the station was fired upon while milking a cow just outside the stockade, James Leeper admonished James Robertson for not giving chase. Robertson felt they were being set up for an ambush in the cane fields below the station. Leeper’s continued challenge to Robertson’s courage, however, pushed the experienced Indian fighter to pursue. Around twenty of the men rode their horses out of the station and moved south along the narrow trail that led to a small creek almost a mile to the southwest. When they got to the creek they were ambushed by some 250 Creek Indians. As the party fell back they were cut off from the fort by about 250 more. The horses that ran back toward the fort became a distraction for some of the force that had moved in from behind to cut off the settlers, and an additional distraction came from an attack by the pack of hunting dogs that were released from the fort. Of

*The dogs, seeing the confusion and hearing the firing, ran toward the branch and came to the Indian line - yet unbroken. They had been trained to hostility against Indians, and made a furious onset upon them.*  
**John Haywood**

Robertson’s party, two were killed outside the station. Six others made it back to the fort on their own, or were carried back. Two of the six died around sunset. One other died three or four days later. Of the last three, two recovered from their wounds. The other wounded man was James Leeper. After a siege of a day or two the Creeks left the area. A large party of Cherokee warriors appeared and the settlers remained within the station till they too retreated, pushed by the firing of a 4-pound swivel gun mounted inside the fort. Two weeks later Leeper died. The victory by Robertson’s party saved the settlements from total destruction, and possibly changed the course of westward expansion in the region.







# THE STORY OF THE CUMBERLAND SETTLEMENTS AND FORT NASHBOROUGH

In 1782, with the Revolutionary War coming to a close, the land claims made by Henderson and the settlers were rendered null and void by the state of North Carolina. Instead, veterans from the American Revolution were given title to property in the settlement as payment for their service. It became a field day for land speculators who bought up land from those unwilling or unable to move west. The following year the North Carolina legislature organized a military reserve and created Davidson County. Robertson negotiated recognition of those lands in the Cumberland Settlement homesteaded by the first settlers who stayed and their heirs who were killed by Indians. One-Hundred-and-Fifty-Two received 640-acre parcels. Robertson also became a land agent for William Blount, appointed the first Tennessee territorial governor in 1790.

## Continued Violence

In November 1783, the Chickasaw signed the Treaty of French Lick ending their attacks against the Cumberland Settlements. The treaty signing took place at the Bluff Station with John Donelson leading the American contingent. The Chickasaws agreed to cede their lands south of the Cumberland River. Cherokee and Creek attacks, however, continued into the 1790s. One of James Robertson’s children, Peyton, was killed. His head was placed on a spike in view of his home. “To see an innocent child so uncommonly massacred by people who ought to have both sense and bravery, has in a measure unmanned me,” stated Robertson. Other stations continued to be attacked as well throughout the decade with hundreds of casualties. Though the treaty with the Chickasaw was a respite, security of the Cumberland Settlements was tenuous, as was the continued relationship with the newly formed United States. Spanish overtures to recognize the western settlements gained momentum in the late 1780s as North Carolina and the United States could offer little protection from continued Indian attacks. A young Andrew Jackson became a participant in negotiating with Spain. By 1790 those overtures became concrete negotiations. With North Carolina finally ceding its western claims to the Federal government in 1789, protection by the United States was a hopeful concern among those in and around Nashville.

## Nashville Chartered

In 1784 Nashville was officially chartered. Like Nashborough, the frontier outpost was named for Francis Nash, a brigadier general from North Carolina in the Continental Army and killed in 1777 at Germantown during the American Revolutionary War. Prior to the war, Nash was a lawyer, public official, and politician in Hillsborough, North Carolina,

and was heavily involved in opposing the Regulator movement in the North Carolina piedmont between 1765 and 1771. He was also a fixture in North Carolina politics, representing Hillsborough on several occasions in the colonial North Carolina General Assembly. One of his best friends was Richard Henderson.

Town planning, though sporadic, continued. Two-hundred acres was set aside and one acre town lots were sold by Andrew Ewing, the first county clerk. Four acres were left open at the crest of the bluff for a courthouse and jail. Streets and alleys were also created. Only a few were interested in purchasing property in town. Most wanted larger holdings in the countryside to farm. The lots that were sold came with a requirement that log structures be built at least sixteen feet square. Unable to meet these requirements many lots were resold time and again. Between 1786 and 1789, forty-three lots changed hands ninety-three times.

The success or failure of government in Nashville was left to the county court and James Robertson. Robertson, as the county’s first representative to the North Carolina legislature, sponsored acts that placed the land office in Nashville, made the town an inspection point for tobacco, and established the first school, Davidson Academy. The sale of lots was used to build the courthouse and jail. Other funds went to employing a jailer, constable, tobacco inspectors, and patrolmen who watched out for stray cattle and runaway slaves. The court also provided a bell to warn against Indian attack or fire. In all, the town grew slowly. Stores opened and farmers bartered crops for goods and services. Nashville, however, was quickly becoming a place for speculators and political operatives with ties to the North Carolina legislature. All were driven by advancing their personal interests.

## A Town Takes Shape

By 1800, Nashville had grown to a population of 345. Almost forty-percent of those were black, and all but three of those were slaves. Of the 191 white residents, only 12 were older than forty-five. The traditional landholding class of the eastern states took hold in Nashville and the surrounding countryside. The Bluff Station, Fort Nashborough, quickly disappeared, having fulfilled its purpose over the prior two decades as a bastion against Indian attacks. By the turn of the century Tennessee was a state, and Nashville a political and commercial hub, albeit small, on the western frontier. Around the town square were taverns, lawyers, merchants, blacksmiths, and the public buildings. Soon to follow were banks and inns. All were either frame or log structures.





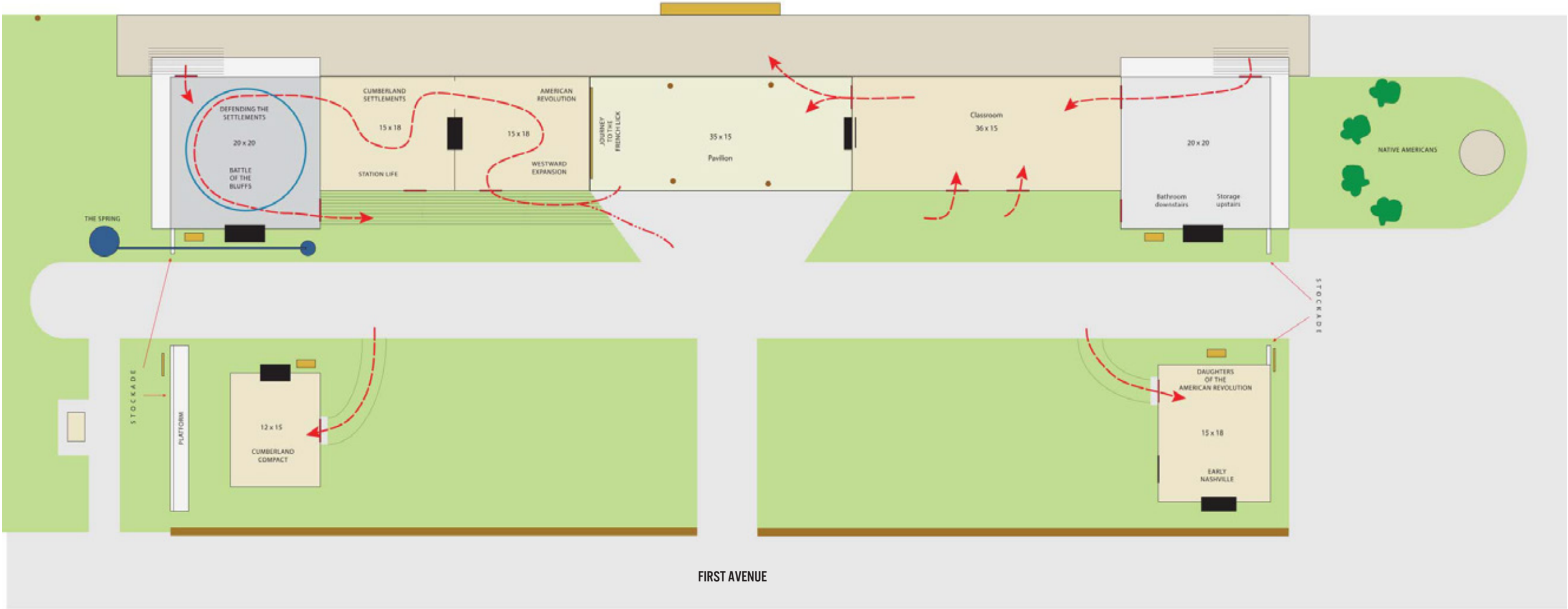
# INTERPRETIVE THEMES

An interpretive theme is the central concept or key idea of any interpretive experience, exhibit or presentation. Not only do interpretive themes provide organizational structure and clarity of purpose for understanding the entire resource, it also has a dramatic effect on all the individual parts of the visitor experience that make up the whole.

Fort Nashborough offers the opportunity to address themes that cover several topics in national, state, and local history. The proposed themes are both broad and comprehensive, and allow the site to tell the full story using a range of interpretive media. First and foremost, the establishment of the Cumberland Settlements in the middle of the American Revolution caused consternation on the part of all parties involved. As was made evident in the opening historical narrative, Westward Expansion set off a series of confrontations between colonial Americans,

their European allegiances, and Native American tribes jockeying for control of the frontier. Overall, the design and construction materials and techniques used in the Interpretive Center create an environment that pays homage to past interpretations, the authentic practices of colonial settlers, and modern conveniences for telling a more complete story of early Nashville. The interpretive themes determine the basis for the types of media used to convey that story.

The interpretive themes for Fort Nashborough are the guiding principle at various locations around the facility. Each venue (cabin, grounds) will contain media based on the subject matter and the story being conveyed. This does not exclude areas of interpretation where multiple themes are addressed.







# INTERPRETIVE THEMES

## Theme: Westward Expansion and the American Revolution

At the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1762, Great Britain issued a proclamation prohibiting colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains or entering into land purchases with Native Americans. The proclamation, however, did little to deter migration west. On the eve of the American Revolution settlements were established in areas of Eastern Kentucky and East Tennessee as longhunters, speculators, and their families moved into the border regions west of the Appalachians.

### Sub-Theme: Proclamation of 1763

The proclamation attempted to head off confrontations over land between colonists and Native Americans, but the edict had little impact of the clash between competing cultures over the control of the expansive environment west of the Appalachian Mountains.

### Sub-Theme: The World of Speculation

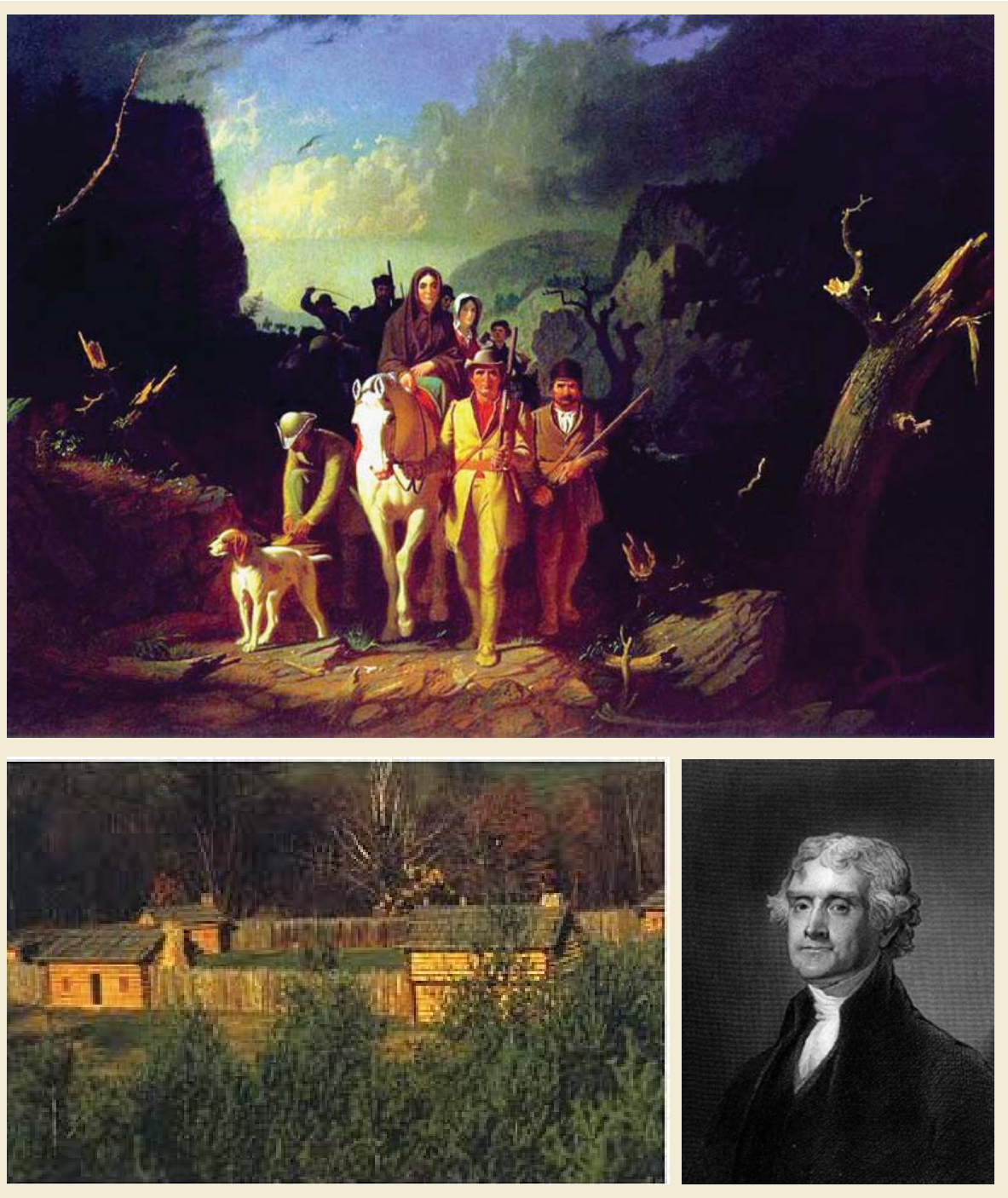
Land speculation drove investors to look west to traditional native areas. Many petitioned the crown to recognize their acquisitions, including those of the Ohio and Cumberland River valleys. North Carolina judge, Richard Henderson, saw opportunity beyond the Appalachian frontier.

### Sub-Theme: Alliances and Treaties

As Great Britain and the American colonists nurtured alliances with Natives up and down the frontier, speculators formed unlawful treaties with tribes to acquire land. The American Revolution pushed many tribes to recalculate their former allegiances.

### Sub-Theme: A Continent at War

The Regulator movement followed by the American Revolution pushed settlers across the Appalachians and into the Watauga settlements in western North Carolina (east Tennessee). Daniel Boone and James Robertson were leading frontiersmen instrumental in the move west.







# INTERPRETIVE THEMES



## Theme: Native Americans and the Cumberland River Valley

Post-Columbian Native Americans have inhabited in the Cumberland River Valley since the late 1600s. All used the area exclusively for hunting and trade with French trappers and eventually British colonial longhunters.

### Sub-Theme: Native Cultures

Choctaw, Cherokee, Shawnee, Chickasaw, and Creeks were the dominant tribes in a region that stretched from north of the Ohio River into central Alabama.

### Sub-Theme: Associations

Natives struck up alliances among themselves and with both British colonials and French traders.

### Sub-Theme: Fight for Control

Native alliances led to turmoil and eventually war as they clashed over control of the region and trading rights with colonials.

### Sub-Theme: The Longhunters

British colonials in the form of longhunters tilted the balance of power following the French and Indian War as they hunted the Cumberland valley region, eventually settling in the area that was once a dominant native hunting ground.







# INTERPRETIVE THEMES

## Theme: The Cumberland Settlements

Following the purchase by Richard Henderson of the Cumberland Valley lands from the Cherokee a wave of settlers, led by James Robertson and John Donelson, established a series of stations along a bend in the river in close proximity to the French Lick and a rich agricultural region that afforded various natural routes for travel and trade.

### Sub-Theme: The Transylvania Company and the Henderson Purchase

Richard Henderson's Transylvania Land Company led the charge in establishing settlements in Kentucky and Tennessee.

### Sub-Theme: The Overland Trail

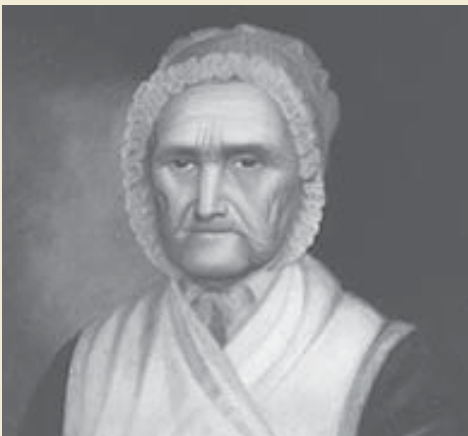
James Robertson led a party of settlers through the Cumberland Gap and into the Cumberland Valley in late 1779. Their journey lasted several months as they drove cattle and horses to their destination.

### Sub-Theme: A Long Voyage

John Donelson navigated the rivers from Virginia and the Holston settlements in the spring of 1780 to join the Robertson party. The families who ventured with him were exhausted from the tumultuous flotilla ride to their new homes in the Cumberland settlements.

### Sub-Theme: The Cumberland Compact

On May 1, 1780, the majority of the earliest settlers in the area adopted an "Article of Agreement, or Compact Government," creating a provisional government they defined as an "association." The document, commonly known as the Cumberland Compact, called for the election of representatives from the 8 stations.







## INTERPRETIVE THEMES

### Theme: Life in the Bluff Station

The success or failure the Cumberland valley settlements was defined by the constant threat of Native American attacks combined with the settlers' ability to feed themselves. Raising and protecting families in the hostile frontier environment proved to be the settlement's biggest challenge.

#### Sub-Theme: The Battle of the Bluffs

In April 1781, an attack by Creek Indians, and then the Cherokee, almost destroyed the settlement at Bluff Station.

#### Sub-Theme: "Around the Family Hearth"

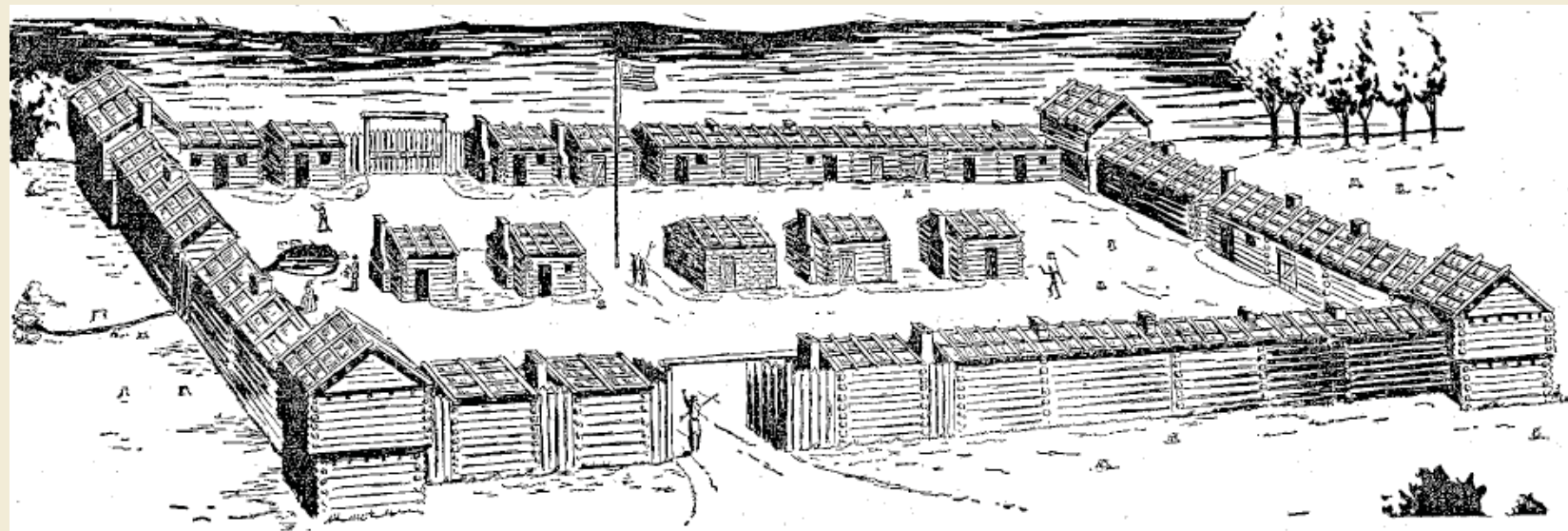
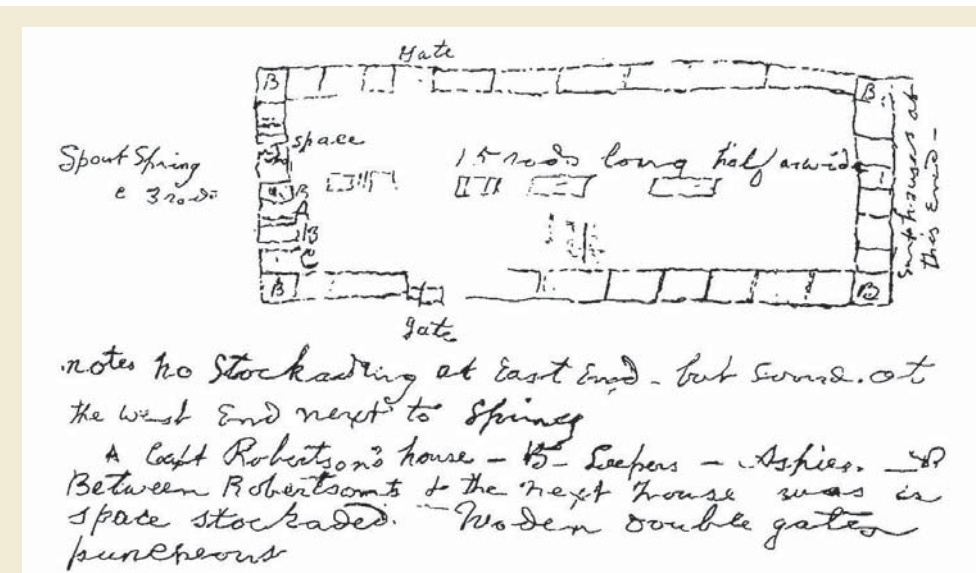
Building a settlement and providing for their families was no small order. The harsh winters and hot summers in the valley brought families closer together.

#### Sub-Theme: Folkways and Foodways

Traditional sowing, harvesting, and preserving foods was as much a necessity as a tradition among settlers,

#### Sub-Theme: If These Walls Could Talk

The first African Americans in Cumberland Settlements were brought by the settlers as slaves, including James Robertson and John Donelson.







# INTERPRETIVE THEMES

## Theme: The Evolution of Fort Nashborough: From Frontier to Founding to the Future

By the end of the 18th century, the Bluff Station was disbanded. Since that time the Ft. Nashborough site has gone through several transformations. Beginning in the 1930s with the first interpretive facility, followed by the restoration of the 1960s, the riverfront venue has been an important backdrop for understanding the history of the Cumberland Settlements.

### Sub-Theme: Early Nashville

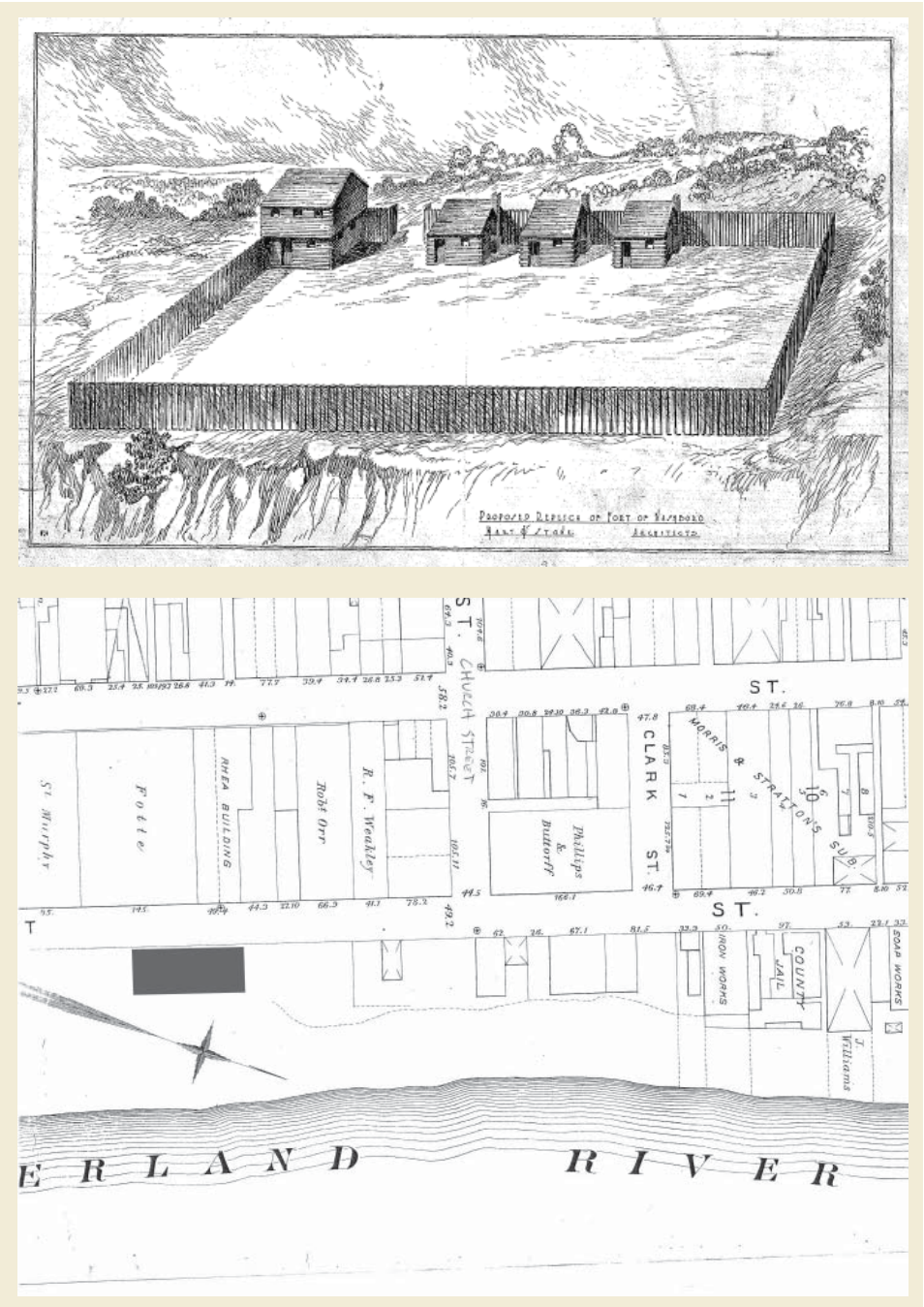
By the early 19th century the Bluff Station was disbanded and the buildings removed or destroyed. The small hamlet incorporated in 1806 as the settlement grew into the town of Nashville.

### Sub-Theme: The Daughters of the American Revolution

The DAR was instrumental in preserving Nashville's early history and as an advocate for building and partial funder the 1930 and 1963 replicas of the Bluff Station.

### Sub-Theme: The Changing Riverfront and Town

The Cumberland River at Nashville has gone through many transformations, some natural, others man-made, over the past 250 years.







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



*The design and construction of the new Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center will be based on the techniques, materials, and types of cabins, houses, blockhouses, and stockading used and built by the inhabitants of the Bluff Station.*

## Locating the Bluff Station

Though no drawings or maps exists that show the exact location of the individual cabins and blockhouses that comprised the Bluff Station, there are two distinctive sketches that reference the general layout of buildings within the site and the overall size of the facility. The best available evidence indicates that the Bluff Station, which later became known as Fort Nashborough, was roughly 248 feet long by 124 feet wide, or a little over two-thirds of an acre. Settlers began construction when they arrived in 1780. When completed, the station ran parallel to the Cumberland River just south of the intersection of present day Church Street and First Avenue North.

The facility consisted of a series of log houses laid out in an elongated pattern and supported at the corners by blockhouses. From the drawing there were three cabins between the blockhouse at the northwest corner of the fort and the small gate used by the settlers to retrieve water from a spring. The spring was 50 or 60 feet beyond the north wall of the stockade and ran parallel to the fort wall before flowing over the side of the bluff and down to the river. The back of the log structures was used for palisading. Stockade walls, twelve feet in height, were erected in areas where log structures were not present, thus completing the enclosed station. Gates were located on the northeast (river bank) and the northwest.

## The Bluff Station Architecture

All of the structures built at the Bluff Station, including palisade walls, were made of local native tree species, including black locust, poplar, oak, eastern red cedar, Virginia or shortleaf pine, and chestnut. The abundance of old growth hard and soft woods in the basin area made harvesting for cabins and other structures easier.

The origins of the log cabin are traced to Europe where they date back thousands of years. The dwellings were first introduced into North America in the 1630s by those Swedes, Germans, and Finns who colonized the area between what eventually became New York and Delaware. British colonials quickly adapted the log form to their needs as a swift means of protection from the elements. Log building construction was well established by the time settlers began migrating to Tennessee in the 1770's, and was common in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas, the source of most of Tennessee's earliest pioneers.

## Building Types

There are two types of log structures associated with early settlement in middle Tennessee; log cabins and log houses. Cabins were crude, built with round logs leaving most of the bark on. The log house was a more refined structure, made of logs hewn square with the adze and broadaxe. The adze blade was set on its handle and woodsmen first cut notches in the top of the log. Then they turned it to the side and cut similar notches. The broad axe was used to slice off the uniform cuts made by the adze. The finished log was usually rectangular. The depth or width depended upon the original tree and tapered from the butt. This made one end slightly wider than the other. Thus, in building the walls the wide ends of the logs were turned first one way and then the other to keep the cabin wall level. The majority of the earliest single pen pole cabins consisted of little more than a window, door, and stick and mud chimney. Some had dirt floors, while others possibly had slab limestone. Door hinges were made from leather straps and the latch from wood.

More advanced cabins, log houses, were constructed of hewn logs with a limestone hearth and chimney, and a wood floor. The logs were 8 to 12 inches in width and used a composite of mud, rock, animal hair, or other bonding materials for chinking. The earliest single structures were probably covered by a gable roof with split shake shingles held in place by a grid of weighted poles. As the station came under more frequent attacks by Indians, cabins that were constructed along the outer boundary of the station typically used the back side as stockade fencing. Instead of a gable roof they were shed roofs with the pitch inward toward the courtyard.

## Construction Techniques

The logs were tied together at the corners using a series of cut notches and saddles. Pole cabins generally used saddle notching. Hewn log structures used half-dovetail notching. Half-dovetail was by far the most common form of notching in middle Tennessee and was found on all types of structures. Open spaces in the logs were chinked with long wedges split from logs, like uneven slices of bread. Clay and sand or grass mixtures were plastered over the chinking to keep out wind and rain.

## Blockhouses

A blockhouse is a small temporary fortification, sometimes two stories, used as a defensive structure against attack. Frontier blockhouses were frequently surrounded by palisades and thus were technically stockaded forts, or stations. The structure was often square or polygonal, typically constructed of hewn timbers with dovetailed or half-dovetailed notches at the corners to provide strong rigid joints. An overhanging upper story sometimes had a pyramidal roof, but in the case of the Bluff Station a gable roof. The second story typically had several small windows with heavy shutters and loophole openings through the walls that permit the firing of guns over a wide range of angles.







## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



The new Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center will not only pay homage to the original Bluff Station (Ft. Nashborough) and twentieth century reconstructions, but will bring a more complex and visually inviting visitor experience to those who desire to learn about Nashville's earliest settlers.

Located within the footprint of the current fort, the new Interpretive Center will be an open air facility that allows for park patrons to engage the site's interpretive facilities without feeling confined by a full palisade wall. The open-air design is meant to give the public a multiplicity of

opportunities to learn about early Nashville and life in the Cumberland Settlements both inside and outside the confines of the log structures.







## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



The overall architectural design of the facility is based on the types and materials used in the construction of log cabins and blockhouses at the original Bluff Station that stood just north of the current site. One cabin unit will contain a climate-controlled classroom with a capacity of 30 people. Bathroom facilities are located in the adjoining blockhouse. The remaining structures are open-air. Each of the cabins will offer interpretive media

opportunities based on the themes proposed in the Interpretive Master Plan. Additionally, a pavilion in the center of the complex opens up to the Cumberland River allowing for outdoor classroom space and will draw visitors to a walkway along the riverfront where they can learn about the importance of the Cumberland as the lifeblood of the settlement. To the north of the facility will be a water feature that recognizes the spring that

was so important to where the original fort was built. The story of those Native American tribes that lived and hunted in the area before the arrival of colonial settlers will be told in the plaza area to the south. In all, the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center will be a unique educational facility and an iconic destination in the downtown area for locals and visitors alike.







## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



*North pole cabin*



*Looking south from north gate*







## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



*Blockhouse at north gate*



*South gate looking north*







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



*From plaza looking north*







## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



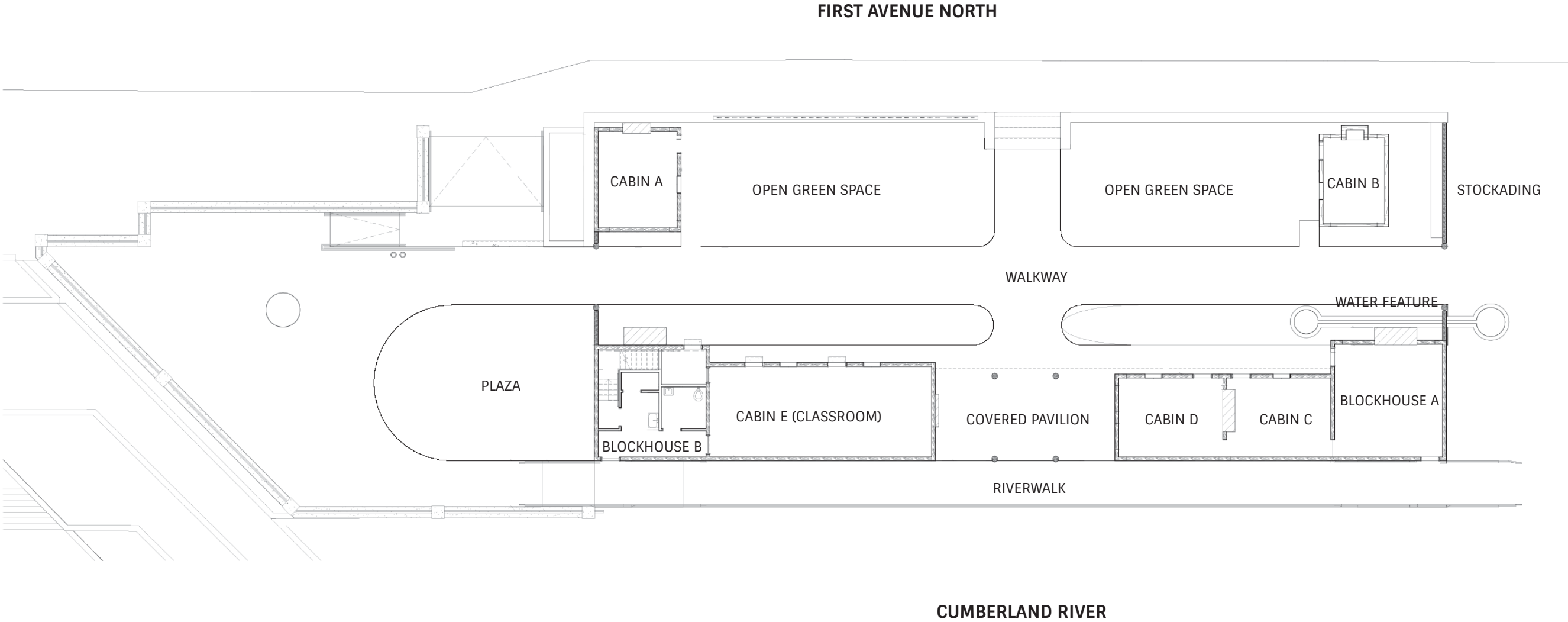
*Pavilion from First Avenue North*







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



The Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center will initially be an unmanned facility. The grounds will be open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, unless otherwise closed for programming, events, or maintenance. The walkway through the center of the grounds is part of the west bank greenway and access should remain unobstructed unless closed for the above mentioned events. The buildings are open during normal park operating hours, such as those

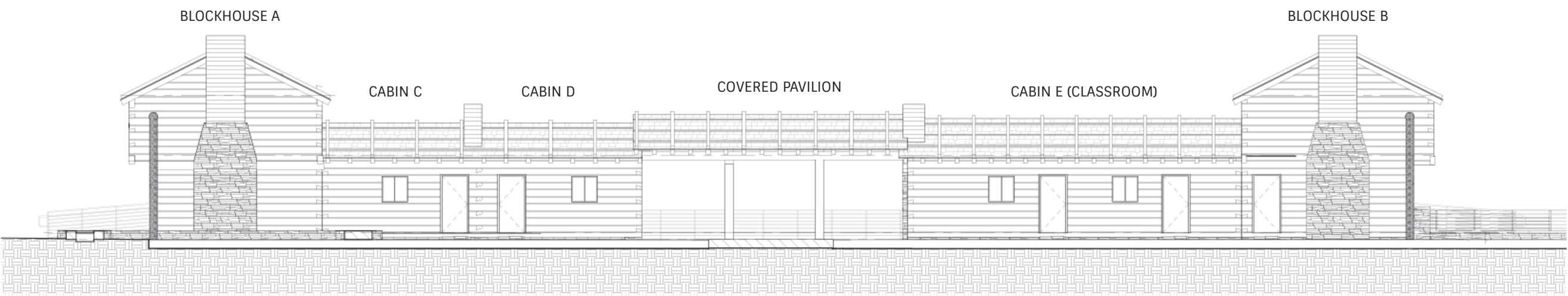
of the Nashville City Cemetery. For use of the classroom, and accompanying bathrooms in the blockhouse, patrons will need to contact Fort Negley for reservations and scheduling. Cabin A will be stubbed out for later use as an office if the facility has on-site staffing.





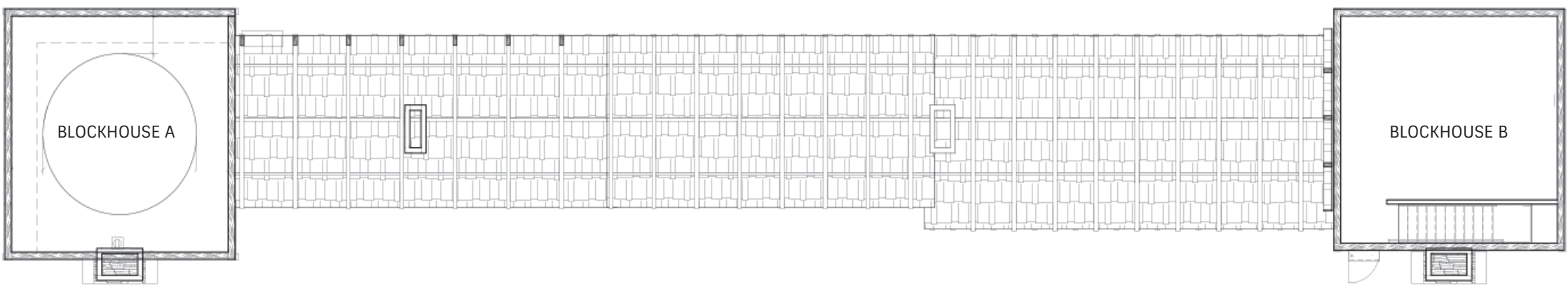


# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER



The Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center rests within the boundaries of the current site and is an important interpretive asset in and of itself. The overall plan is an open ground facility. Structures and stockading will border the site on three sides. There will be no enclosed areas, except for the interior of buildings. Each of the structures that compose the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center will make use of the same native materials that the area's earliest Colonial settlers used to build the station during the 1780s. Blockhouse A, and Cabins C and D are linked

through an interior passage. This Blockhouse and the adjoining Cabins are open-air facilities. They contain no climate control mechanicals. On the exterior, Cabin E (Classroom) takes on the appearance of two cabins. The interior, however, is a single room that can seat 30 people. The Classroom and Blockhouse B are climate controlled rooms that can be used year-round. Each of these structures is ADA accessible.



The facilities architecture is similar to the original Bluff Station in that the structures are built with materials native to the area. Shake roofs with weighted poles were a common feature of log structures during the late 18th century. The second floor of Blockhouse A is open so that visitors can experience the entire building. Blockhouse B contains

a bathroom, Coffee Break Area, Utility Closet, and an upstairs for storage. Structure lighting offers security to the facility along with lighting under the Pavilion and the Riverwalk.

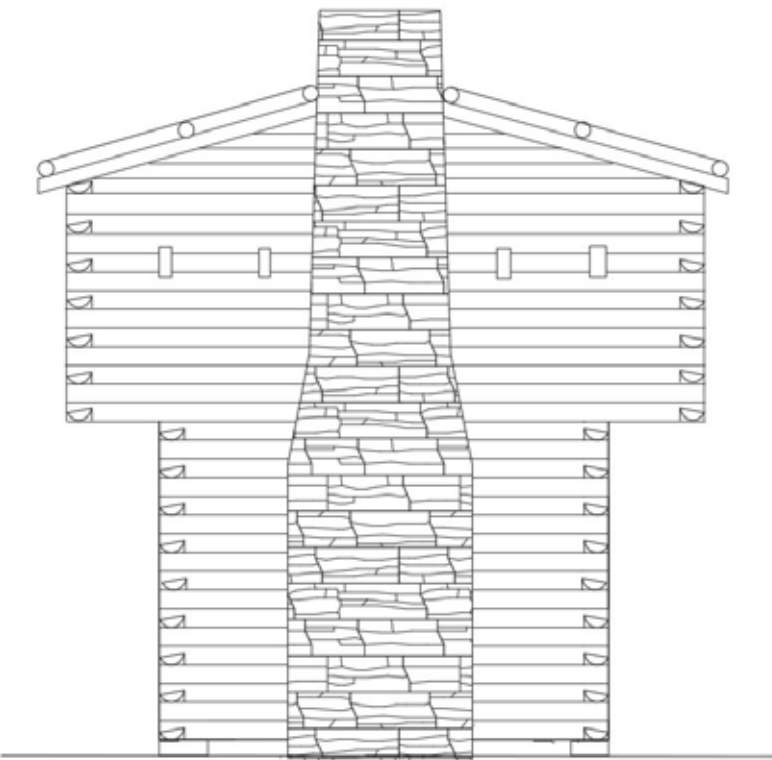




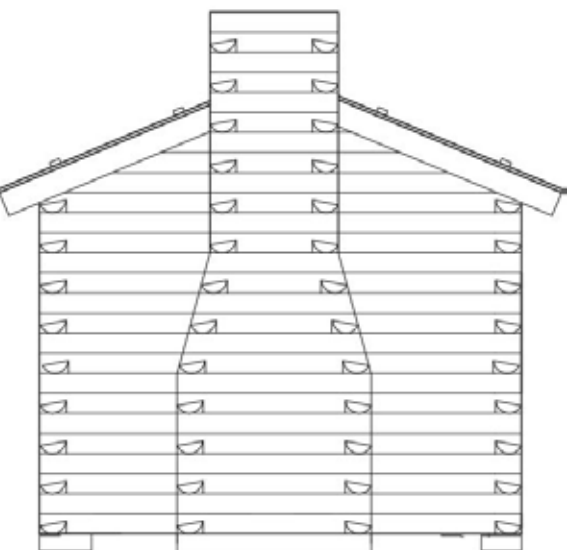


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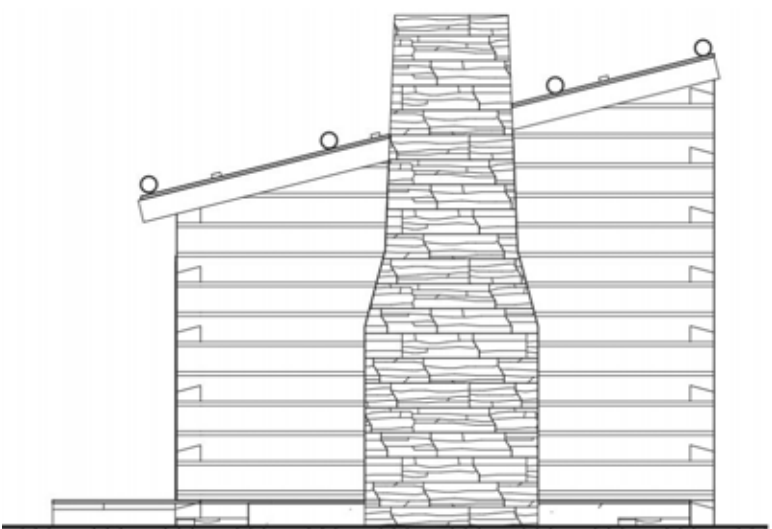
## Building Types & Construction



**HEWN LOG BLOCKHOUSES, GABLE ROOF  
HEWN OAK LOG**



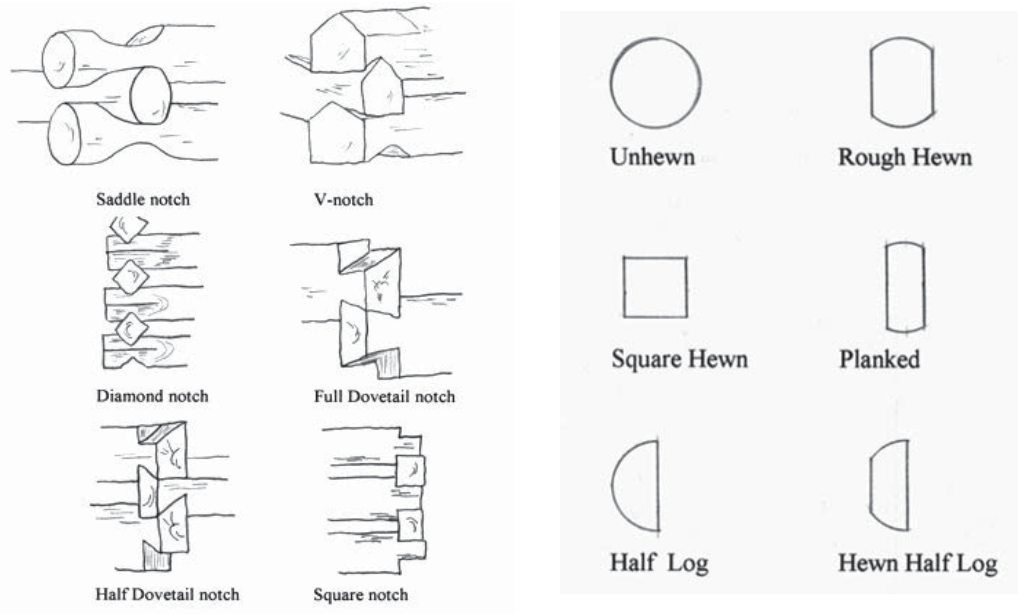
**CABIN B  
ROUND LOG CABIN, GABLE ROOF  
UNHEWN CEDAR LOG**



**CABINS A, C, D, E  
HEWN LOG HOUSE, SHED ROOF  
HEWN OAK OR POPLAR**

## Corner Notching & Log Finishes

The notching used at the Bluff Station on hewn log structures was primarily half-dovetail. The blockhouses and Cabins A, C, D, and E will incorporate this type of construction and notching. A V-notch was used on unhewn log cabins. This type of notching was faster and easier. Cabin B will use the latter construction materials and notching.



## Stockading

At both the north and south entrances to the site a series of stockaded walls will give visitors the feeling of the enclosed station. The stockade wall will be constructed using a combination of unhewn cedar and poplar logs. The wall itself is 12 feet in height. One section will contain loopholes for interpreting their use as a defensive firing position.

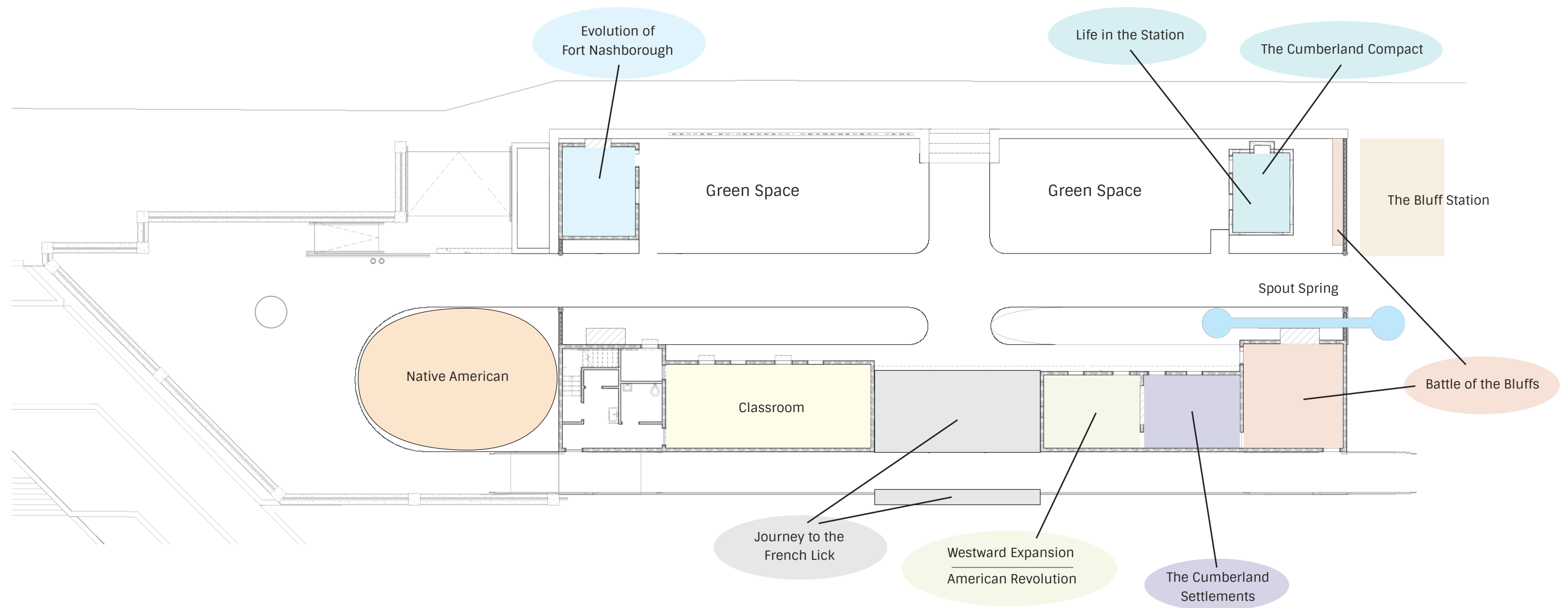






## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

### Interpretive Areas - Interior







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

## Historical Characters

There is a range of historical characters in the Cumberland Settlement or prominent Native Americans during the period whose lives are worthy of exploration. Their stories are the backdrop for engaging visitors on a personal level in every area of interpretive media used at the the site. Most of these characters were witness to the Battle of the Bluffs. They include, but are not limited to:

**James Robertson** – Leader of the settlement, age 38. He was a seasoned frontiersman who strongly opposed pursuing a handful of Indians who had fired on the fort just after dawn on April 2, 1781. His cabin was located on the north side of the fort near the spring.

**Charlotte Robertson** – The wife of James Robertson, age 30. She was the mother of a two-month-old baby and four other children, and less than three months earlier she and her husband had moved their children from Freeland’s Station after it was attacked and abandoned.

**Jonathan Robertson** – The eleven-year-old son of James and Charlotte. On the overland journey to the Cumberland he was responsible for helping drive the livestock, and had frequently been on his own as the party led by his father travelled through the wilderness.

**Hagar** – A slave woman of the Robertson Family, Hagar was apparently born in Africa, and less than a year before, she and Charlotte Robertson rowed the flatboat that transported most of the Robertson family over 200 miles up the Cumberland River. Another Robertson slave, Cornelius, had been killed by Indians in January during the attack on Freeland’s Station.

**Edward Swanson** – A 21-year-old who had first come to French Lick with James Robertson two years earlier. He barely survived the Battle of the Bluffs and would later convey a detailed description of the fort and crucial information about the battle.

**James Leeper** – A young man with a pregnant wife. Leeper lived in the cabin beside the Robertsons, but thought the Indians who had shot at the fort during the Battle of the Bluffs should be pursued. After Robertson expressed his opinion that any pursuers would be ambushed, Leeper questioned Robertson’s courage, which caused the pursuit to be undertaken. Leeper was shot in the back in the battle, and died a few weeks later. Before his death he appointed James Robertson to serve as the executor of his will.

**Polly Dunham** – She was about 12-years-old, and was the daughter of John and Jenny Dunham. She had been partially scalped several weeks earlier at Freeland’s Station, and her mother was shot and wounded when she drove off the Indians with a hoe and rescued Polly. On the morning of the battle her father had been just outside of the fort when he was shot at by the Indians.

**Kasper Mansker** – A frontiersman in his 30s who was of German ancestry and who spoke with a heavy accent. He had first come into the Cumberland wilderness in the late 1760s, and was the most experienced hunter in the

Cumberland Settlements. He was wounded in the Battle of the Bluffs, but would recover.

**John Cockrill** – He was 23-years-old and had recently married James Robertson’s sister, Anne, and was stepfather to her small children. Years later he would record his recollections of the Battle of the Bluffs he barely survived.

**Andrew Ewing** – At 41-years-old he was the most intelligent and educated individual in the settlements. He would serve as Clerk of the Davidson County Court for many years and play a crucial role in establishing local government.

**Susannah Ewing** – The daughter of Andrew Ewing, she was in her mid-teens at the time of the attack, and as an elderly woman she conveyed numerous details about the attack, and recalled that she was attending school in the fort prior to the battle.

**Zachariah White** – He was a native of Pennsylvania and was around the age of 50 at the time of the battle. He had come to the Cumberland when James Robertson made his first trip to French Lick in early 1779, and Whites Creek was named for him. He was slightly wounded in the attack on Freeland’s Station, and he was teaching school on the morning of the attack. He was shot through the bowels when he ran out to reinforce the retreating settlers as they were fleeing to the fort.



**Mincohouma** – known as the “red king,” was reputedly a clan chief who was elevated to king status by the scheming of British traders who desired a ruler more cooperative with their ventures. He earned a reputation for valor in combat and fought with the British against the Spanish forces at Pensacola. He exhibited further military prowess in opposing the later Choctaw aggression against the Chickasaw Nation. In 1783, he was a Chickasaw representative at French Lick in a meeting with the Virginians that ratified a treaty to end Chickasaw aggression against the settlements.

**Dragging Canoe** – was one the Cherokee tribe’s most devoted chiefs. He angrily opposed the terms of the deal in which the

Cherokee Nation signed away some of their land in middle Tennessee. He broke away from the Cherokees in 1776, forming an aggressive wing of the tribe known as the Chickamauga Cherokees that attacked the Cumberland settlements. Their own villages were at various places along the main stream south of Chattanooga known as the Chickamauga Creek.

Most of these characters have never been portrayed in portrait, painting, or sketch. A rendering of each will be created to give visitors a better understanding of they types of clother, weapons, and mannerisms they possessed based on the historical record.







## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

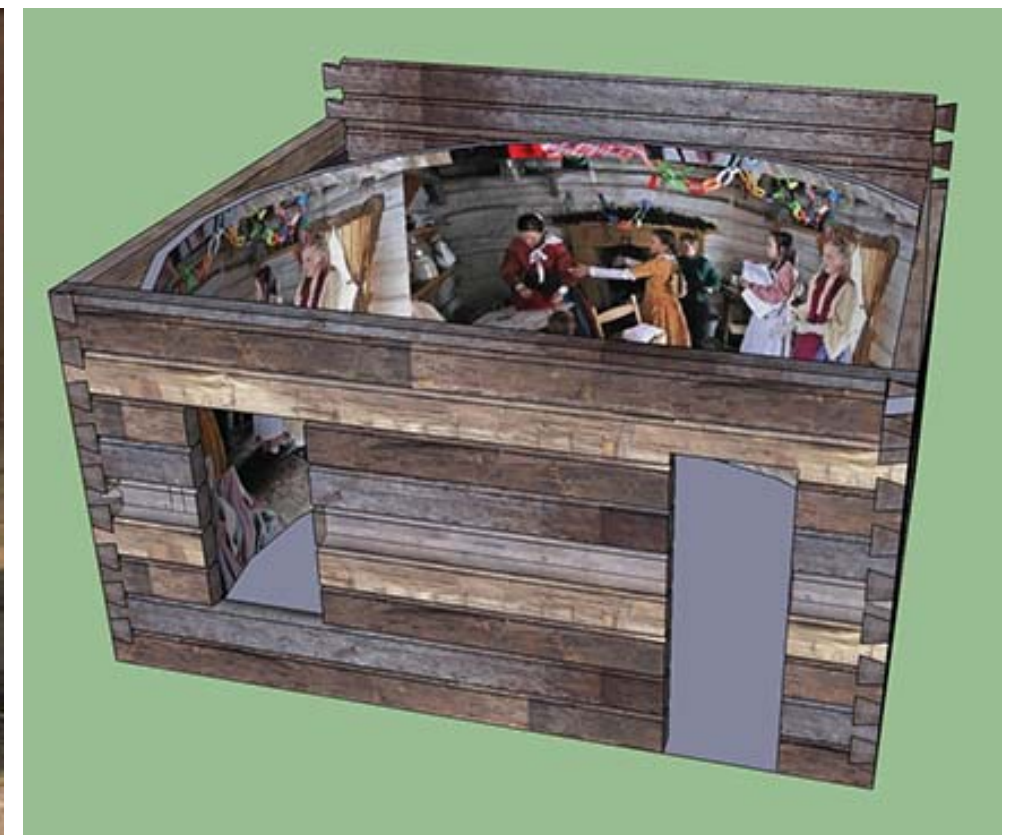
### Interior Exhibits

Each cabin tells part of the story of Fort Nashborough and the Cumberland Settlements using a combination of graphic panels, props, and other interpretive media. The narrative for every asset is based on the site's Interpretive Themes. The combination of interpretive assets will give visitors a three-dimensional feel for what life was like at the station and give them an opportunity to identify with historical characters that lived at Fort Nashborough.

The structures themselves are an important component of the overall experience at the site because of their authentic construction techniques and the materials used to build each. Interpretive media will be used to convey these practices to audiences.

These interior spaces can also be used as part of a living history program. Period artisans can demonstrate crafts and folkways used by both Native Americans and colonial settlers.

In all, the interior exhibits will be climate resistant and self-guided. Because of the mobile app, additional layers of interpretation are available to visitors. Almost 80% of downtown visitors have smartphones making the mobile app available for easy access. Augmented reality will allow us to recreate scenes of station life using the historic characters as guides around the facility.

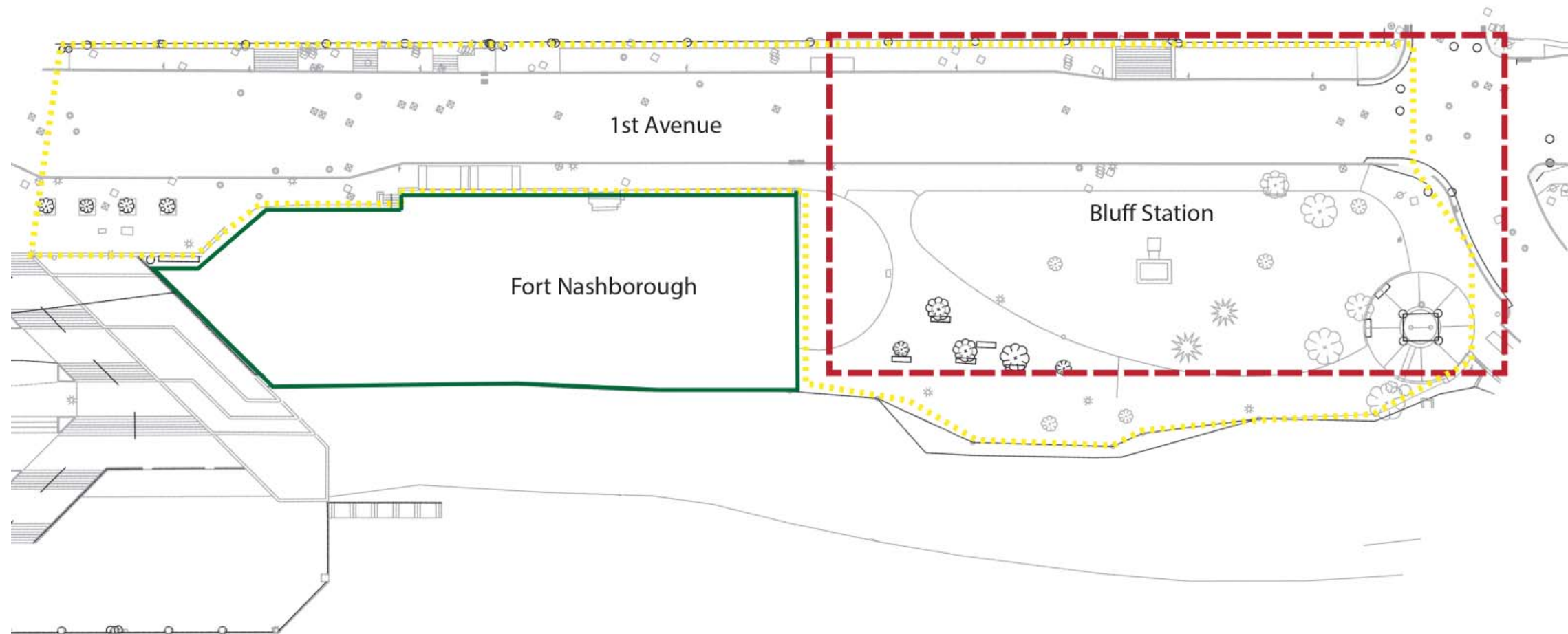






# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

## Interpretive Areas - Exterior



Opportunities exist outside the current boundaries of Fort Nashborough to expand the interpretive zone to encompass the confines of the original Bluff Station and portions of 1st Avenue. During events, such as colonial festivals, 1st Avenue can be closed to create more walking and accommodation space for vendors, demonstrators, and living history reenactors. The park greenspace to the north of the facility is a useful area for demonstration and education programs for students or the general public.







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

## Exterior Wayside Exhibits

These interpretive panels orient visitors to the site and are stationed at the north and south gate entrances. They give a general overview of the fort and a short background narrative on the Cumberland Settlements and Fort Nashborough. Constructed using log timbers, these wayside panels will match the overall design of the Interpretive Center.

An area to the north of the fort will designate the original boundaries of the Bluff Station. A 3D model of the fort will be exhibited for visitors to get a better understanding of what the station looked like in the 1780s.

The exterior wayside panels will use QR codes to expand interpretation for audiences with smartphones or tablets. The mobil app will also add another layer of engagement for visitors. Using augmented reality and 2D video presentations, historic characters, such as James Robertson, can lead visitors around the site and narrate or demonstrate what life was like in the Bluff Station.

## Cabins/Blockhouses

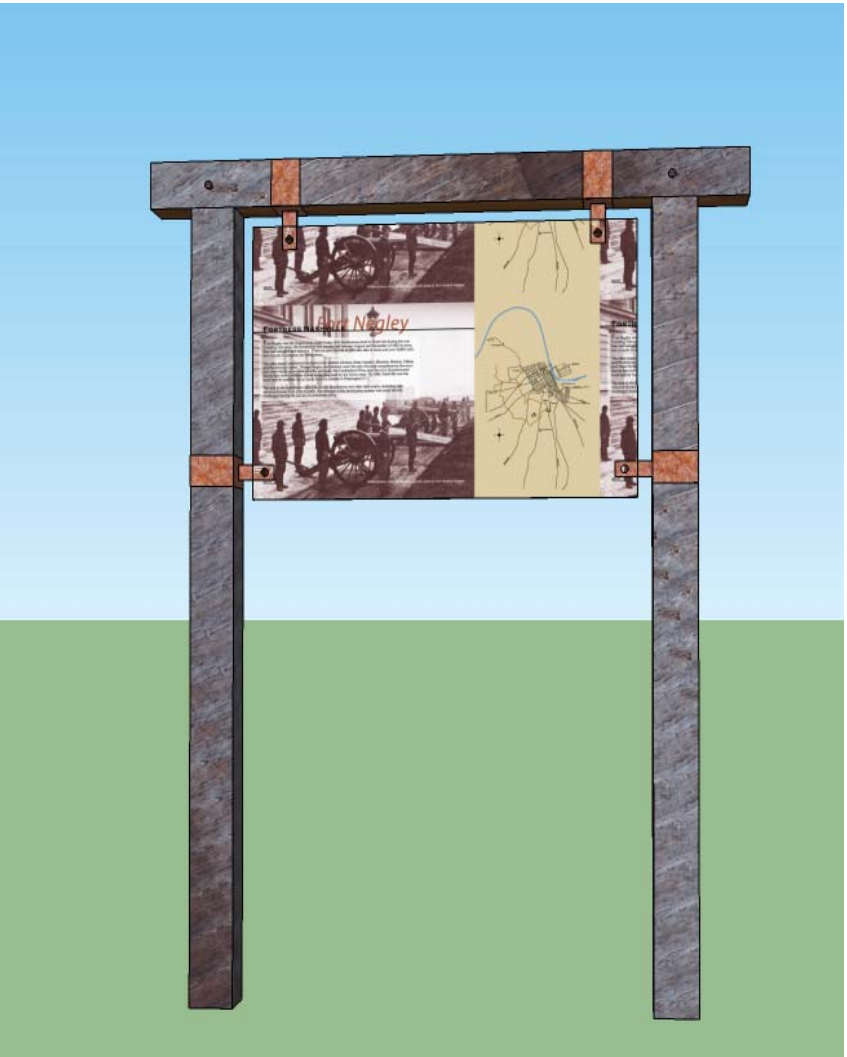
Small wayside panels identify each of the structures on the site and the exhibits contained within. The DAR Markers will also be included in the site interpretation. The bronze tablets will be mounted to limestone slabs and distributed around Fort Nashborough.

Again, 2D videos of historic characters narrating events that took place in the settlements enhance the visitor experience and bring the static structures to life. The historic characters become guides.



## Riverfront Walkway

Just below the pavilion along the riverwalk are wayside exhibits that provide a short narrative of the river and how it was used as a transportation corridor for thousands of years.







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

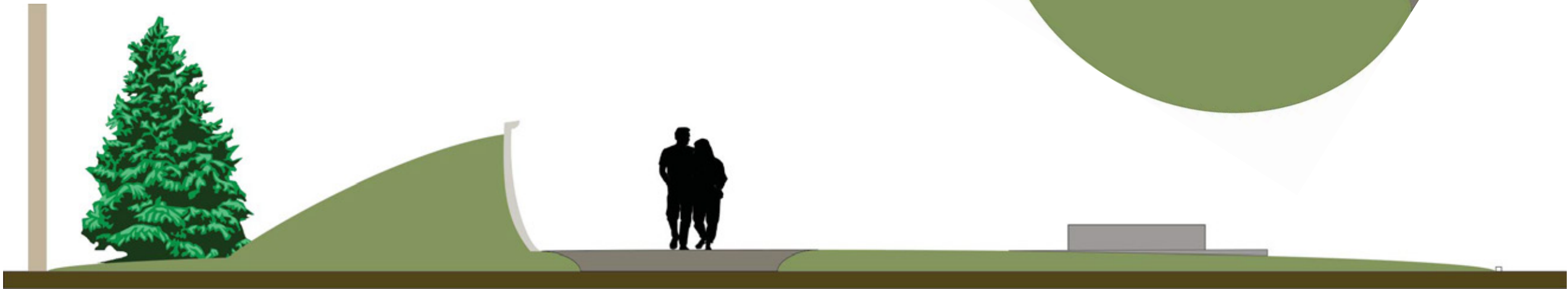
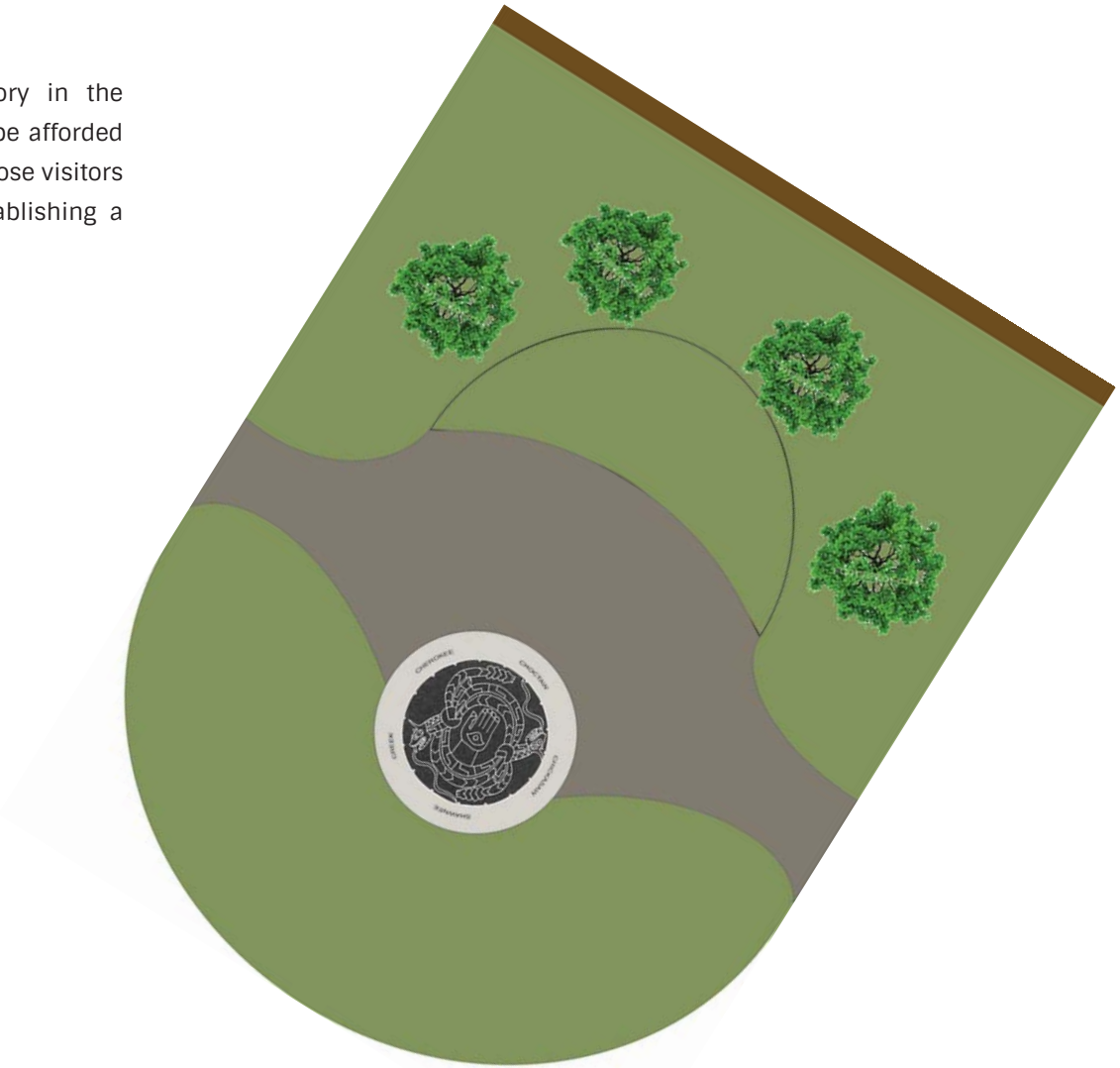
## Native American Plaza



Because of the importance of Native American history in the Cumberland Valley, a designated interpretive space will be afforded in the plaza. This area will contain several assets that expose visitors to life in the Cumberland Basin prior to Colonials establishing a settlement.



Example of a design for an interpretive venue that uses circles and landscape features analogous to Native cultures. A row of trees separates the plaza from the fort.







Interpretive Areas

# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

## Learning Center/Classroom

The Learning Center/Classroom is located in Cabin E. This space will be reserved for school groups, private tour groups, public events and other organizations that would benefit from a docent-led learning experience in a classroom setting. The classroom will contain state-of-the-art equipment that will foster a more enriched learning experience. The room can seat up to 30 people and is climate-controlled.

Users of this room will benefit from the following:

- High-definition Projection Screen
- Audio System
- Integrated PC with wifi access
- Lectern with microphone
- Integrated room control system for projection screen, audio, pc, and lighting
- Ability to run Powerpoint presentations
- iPads (26) for use while in classroom

## The Pavilion

An open pavilion that serves as a breezeway to the riverwalk behind the fort will serve as an interpretive area to tell the story of the Donelson flotilla, an outdoor classroom where up to 30 students can gather for a presentation, and a rest area shaded by a log-framed shake roof. Interpretive panels will be mounted to the exterior walls of the cabins .



## Education Programs

The foundation for student visitation to Fort Nashborough are Education Programs that meet the state's curriculum requirements. Programs developed for Ft. Nashborough should address the core curriculum requirements for Social Studies.

1. Education Advisory Committee (EAC)  
Creation of curriculum-based education programs should be administered through an Education Advisory Committee.
2. The EAC should be composed of both private and public school Social Studies teachers.
3. Fort Negley staff or volunteers will assist with Education Programs and be on-site for security and to assist teachers
4. Education Programs should include a classroom and site visit component.
5. Education Programs should include hands-on activities or demonstrations.
6. Partner with schools to identify projects that expand on the interpretive sub-themes and messages. This could include using the information, audio clips, and video clips gathered as part of the interpretive planning process for documentaries, books, or other educational projects.
7. Partner with schools to identify interpretive materials that can be housed on the Interpretive Center's website or school's websites as downloadable items, which can be used by teachers and students for educational purposes.
8. Stage historical reenactments based on the information gathered during the interpretive planning process.
9. For younger children, create coloring sheets depicting early Nashville's cultural and historical resources. These could be housed on the Interpretive Center's website or a school's website as downloadable items. Possibly have children do a short presentation to the class on the resource they chose to color.

Programs include:

- Westward Expansion and the American Revolution
- Native Americans in the Cumberland River Valley
- Life in the Cumberland Settlements








# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER


## Trading Cards

Trading cards have always been a valuable collectors item. They appeal across a broad spectrum of audiences because of the information, artwork, and photographs they contain. For the Civil War Sesquicentennial, the National Park Service introduced a series of trading cards titled “Civil War to Civil Rights.” The cards are available at NPS sites across the country that were associated with either era or event.

**FORT NASHBOROUGH**



*Dragging Canoe*



FORT NASHBOROUGH

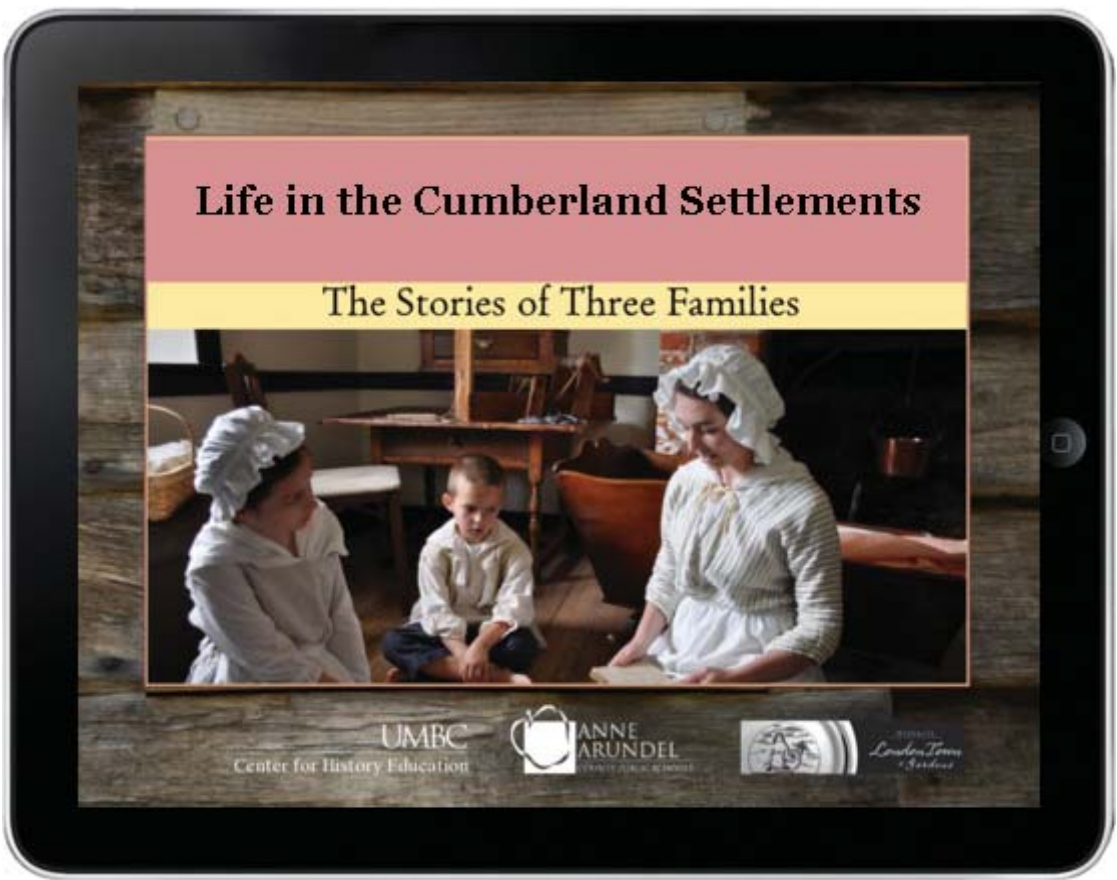
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Dragging Canoe was one the Cherokee tribe’s most devoted chiefs. He angrily opposed the terms of the deal in which the Cherokee Nation signed away some of their land in middle Tennessee. He broke away from the Cherokees in 1776, forming an aggressive wing of the tribe known as the Chickamauga Cherokees that attacked the Cumberland settlements. Their own villages were at various places along the main stream south of Chattanooga known as the Chickamauga Creek.

Creating a series of trading cards based on the historical characters in the Cumberland Settlements or Native Americans who fought against the encroachment of whites into the region is an opportunity for visitors to generate a collection of their own. The cards are available for download on the website or as hand outs at programs. These 2” x 4” cards are small enough to be carried in a wallet and large enough to match the size of similar cards, such as Topps cards or from the National Park Service.

## Education Application

An education application that students can use before, during, and after their site visit enhances their ability to recall information about the settlement and the historic characters highlighted at Fort Nashborough. The application can use reading, math, social studies, or other disciplines associated with core curriculum requirements to convey various understandings and interpretations of the actions and events of the period.





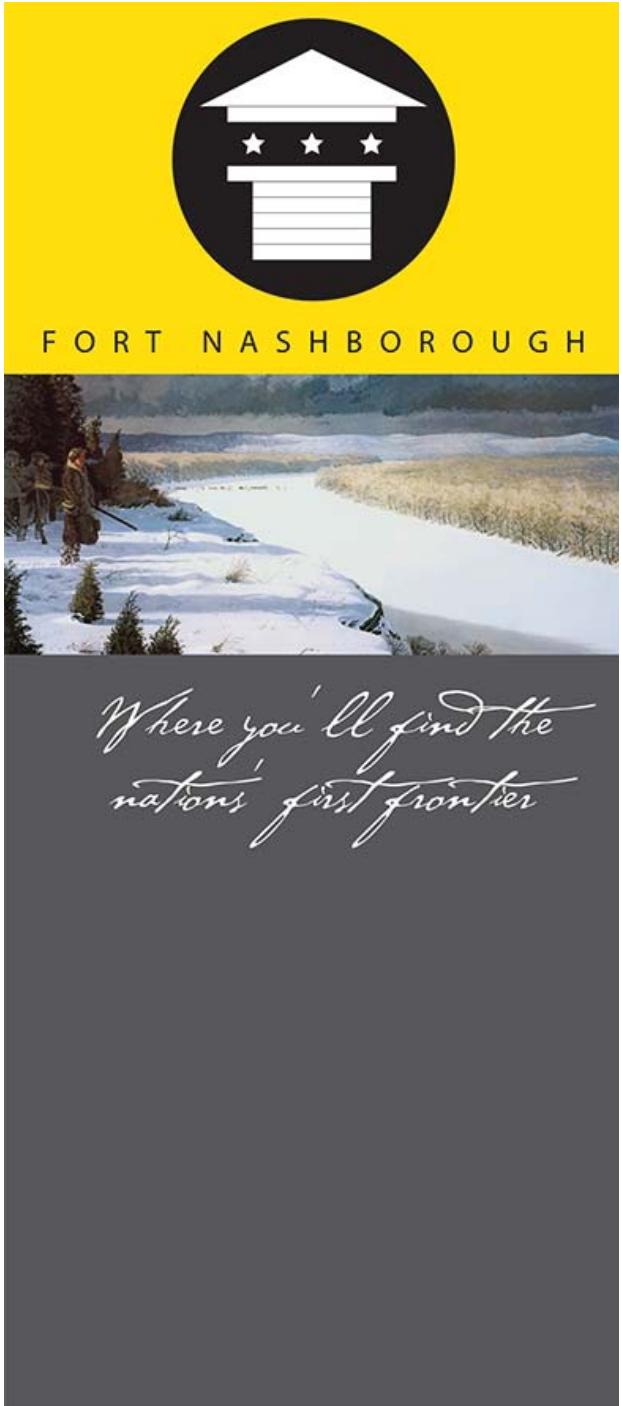


# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

## Print Media

Two types of interpretive print media will be produced for the Interpretive Center. The first is a **rack card**. The rack card will carry information about the facility and a short narrative of the site's historic significance. These will be distributed at historic venues around the city that currently have Metro Historical Commission tourism materials in stock, such as other Metro Parks, the CVB, and partnering museums.

The second type of interpretive print media is a **tour brochure and map** of the facility and downtown Nashville sites associated with the city's early history. The brochure is available at the Interpretive Center and at locations that stock other Metro Historical Commission and Metro Parks materials.



## Documentary Productions

Two documentaries will be produced for the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center. First, the building of the facility offers several opportunities to document construction techniques. Each of the structures will be fabricated using materials used during the 1780s to build the original Bluff Station cabins and stockade. Preparing logs and assembling the buildings takes experienced artisans. This short film will capture that process and be available for educational programs at the site or online.

Second, a documentary of the founding of the Cumberland Settlements will provide visitors to the site or online with a visual story of the site's earliest history. Using primary documents, contemporary videography, interviews, and material culture, this film can bring to life a past that at present can only be read about.







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

## Website

The web site will allow visitors to learn about the Fort’s historical significance and other attributes prior to their visit or continued access after they leave. The web site will give general information regarding visiting the Fort, including a site map and upcoming programming information. In addition, the site will offer a media-rich historical overview, as well as an opportunity to be directed to the appropriate mobile commerce site where the Fort Nashborough Mobile App can be downloaded. The web site will include:

### Home Screen – Navigation Options

- a. General Information – Location/Directions, Hours, Use Regulations, Contact Parks
- b. History – This information may be an abridged version of interpretive information at the Fort site.
  - Background
  - Historical Significance
  - Historical Characters
  - Fort Life
  - Native Americans
- c. Site Map (possibly Interactive)
- d. Guest Book
- e. Mobile App Description and Download

The Cleveland Historical Society tourism website (right) is a good example.



## Social Media

Visitor needs are different than behaviors. Do visitors to sites like Fort Nashborough have a need for community, convenience, or collaboration? Social media tools provide visitors new ways to hear about, research and talk about their needs.

Social media can be used to gather information on visitors and potential visitors. At this time it would be hard to determine you complete demographics because so few people visit the site. Social media, however, gives you an opportunity to begin that process of identifying interested parties.

1. Panorama images of the interpretive center and the riverfront will be uploaded to TourWrist, an iPhone/iPad application for tourists.
2. Images will be uploaded to Instagram and invitations sent to registered visitors to contribute to the catalog.
3. Other social media outlets, like Flickr, will be used to create an image montage of local history for educational and promotional purposes.
4. A Twitter account and a Facebook page will be created to reach younger audiences.







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

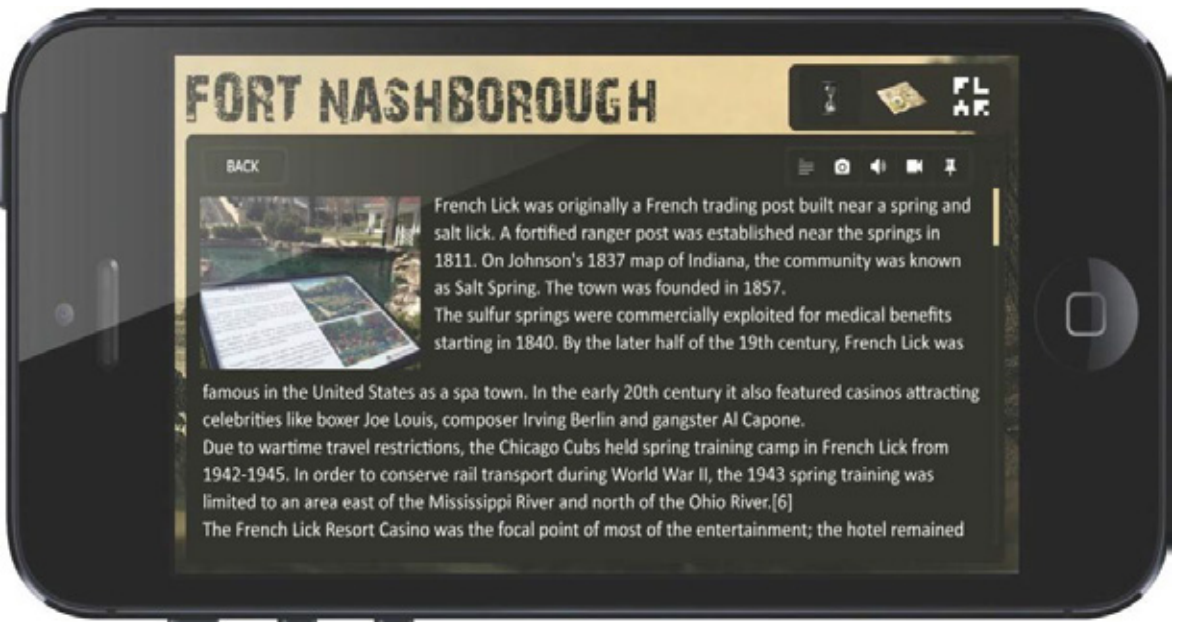
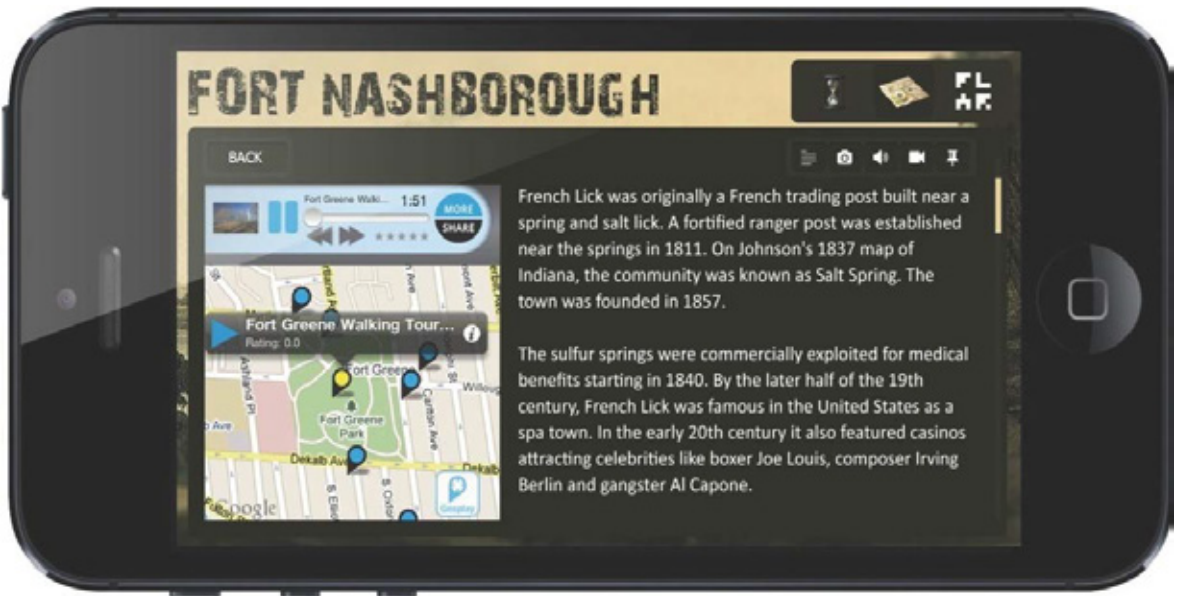
## Mobile Application

A mobile application will allow visitors to access expanded information concerning the Fort, its attributes, settlement, daily life and struggles. One of the key components at the center of this App would be a self-guided walking tour of the Fort and its surroundings. Alternate languages may also be available.

The structure of the mobile app will be similar to the following outline:

Home Screen – navigation options

- a. History – summarized history of the Fort (text with audio narration options)
  - i. French Lick Spring
  - ii. Settlers Movement West
  - iii. Impact on the Cherokee
  - iv. Robertson/Donelson bios
  - v. Fort Construction
  - vi. Early Fort Life
  - vii. Transition from Fort/Settlement to Town
  - viii. Modern Day research of the Fort site
- b. Walking Tour of the Fort reconstruction (text with audio narration options)
  - i. Cabin A (possibly narrated by character associated with structure)
    1. Purpose
    2. Contents
    3. Construction
  - ii. Cabin B (possibly narrated by character associated with structure)
    1. Purpose
  - iii. Cabin C (possibly narrated by character associated with structure)
    1. Purpose
  - iv. Cabin D (possibly narrated by character associated with structure)
    1. Purpose
  - v. Blockhouse A (possibly narrated by character associated with structure)
    1. Purpose
- c. Augmented Reality lens







## FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

### Augmented Reality

Using the portion of the fort that is rebuilt, and possibly other associated markers, Smartphone users will have the ability to download a mobile app specific to the fort, containing information regarding its history, settlement, landmarks, etc. One of the key features of the App will be an AR (Augmented Reality) feature that allows the User to view the fort through a virtual lens (phone/tablet/device) that presents a view of the Fort in its original state in 1779. Depending on whether the AR technology utilizes GPS or marker-based technology (as well as price/budget), there may be the desire to view this from up to 3-5 different perspectives. Assuming the use of a marker-based approach, a user would have the option to utilize the App from a point of view outside the Fort, inside the Gate, from a previous spot where the Fort once stood, and so on. An expanded option would allow the user to move through a timeline, that would show a progression of the settlement, from its earliest days in 1779, through its first 30 years or so, when it transitioned from a settlement/fort into a town.



*The approximate location of the original Bluff Station (Fort Nashborough)*







# FORT NASHBOROUGH INTERPRETIVE CENTER

## Public Programs

Creating public programs gives the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center an opportunity to attract audiences to events that expand the site’s interpretive reach to a multiplicity of diverse audiences. Below are just a few that can be offered in collaboration and conjunction with venues across the city, with the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Sons of the American Revolution, or other civic organizations.

- Founders Day
- Colonial Christmas
- Flatboat Races
- Colonial Fair
- Charlotte Robertson Days

Because of the French and Spanish influence in the area in the 1700s, events can incorporate a range of nationalities.



*Daniel Smith Days at Rock Castle, Hendersonville*

*Colonial Fair at Mt. Vernon*



*Schoenbrunn Village Colonial Fair*







# ACTION PLAN

## Management

In the short term, it is recommended that the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center be managed through Fort Negley, the city’s other major interpretive venue.

This will require:

- 1) Cross-over training of staff necessary to manage the information resources and historic overview.
- 2) The staff at Fort Negley handling reservations for the classroom and blockhouse use.
- 3) Scheduling of Events for Fort Nashborough.
- 4) Working with an Education Advisory Committee to develop Education Programs.
- 5) Creating criteria for living history programs.
- 6) Meeting with the Downtown Partnership on Interpretive Center issues.
- 7) Maintaining relationships with other historic/museum/cultural venues in the downtown area.
- 8) Updating walking tour materials.
- 9) Working with Encore to update the website.

The long-term recommendation is to staff the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center. The facility will be a vibrant attraction in the Lower Boardway area. Traffic at the site is estimated to be in the range of 100,000 to 150,000 visitors per year. To accommodate the potential of staffing the facility, Cabin B is stubbed out for an HVAC system. The second floor of Blockhouse B can also be used as office/storage space.



## Collaboration

The Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center, the Fort Negley Visitor’s Center, and other sites can be linked together in a number of ways.

- 1) Joint-marketing programming for students and/or adults.
- 2) Develop a walking tour between the two sites that includes the Nashville City Cemetery.
- 3) Develop joint trading cards for these and other historic sites or greenways, like Two Rivers, Shelby Bottoms, the Parthenon, Peeler Park, Rolling Mill Hill, Sunnyside, Battle of Nashville Memorial Park, Trail of Tears.







# ACTION PLAN

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## Interpretive Action Plan for The Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center

Much of the interpretive experience is geared to the self-guided visitor. Thus, the design and programming process will take into account that the site will have limited/absent staffing.

1. Determine scale of final funding
2. Complete construction drawings for the Fort Nashborough Interpretive Center
3. Conduct comprehensive research based on the site's interpretive themes
4. Secure web domains: fortnashborough.com, .net, .org
5. Design website architecture
6. Establish design guidelines for exhibits
7. Create sign family
8. Develop Exhibit Plan
9. Create Education Advisory Committee with DAR/Native American Group
10. Establish marketing plan
11. Work with local stonemason on limestone tablets for DAR markers
12. Final Exhibit Design
13. Launch website
14. Fabricate exhibits
15. Develop interpretive print media: rack card, walking tour brochure, trading cards
16. Documentary production: long (18 min.) and short (6 min.) version for classroom/website use
17. Establish social media accounts with Twitter, Facebook, Flickr, YouTube, Vimeo
18. Develop mobile tour/education applications for phone/tablet use (web-based)
19. Develop Education Programs, upload to website
20. Install exhibits once facility construction completed
21. Distribute interpretive print media materials
22. Staff training at Fort Negley
23. Create guidelines for facility scheduling and use
24. Open facility







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F O R T   N A S H B O R O U G H

# **FORT NASHBOROUGH OPINION OF PROBABLE COST**





# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

## Fort Nashborough Opinion of Probable Cost

### Site Design

Architecural/MPE	\$68,950
Civil	\$10,000
Haz Mat Survey	\$6,500
Survey	\$6,000
Landscape Architecture	\$20,000
Design Guidelines	\$20,000
Project Management/Adm	\$50,000

**Design Subtotal \$181,450**

### Construction

Demolition	\$35,000
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### General Contractor

Construction Management	\$165,000
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### Architectural Structures

Cabin A	\$55,000
Cabin B	\$53,000
Blockhouse A	\$129,000
Cabin C	\$50,000
Cabin D	\$50,000
Cabin E Classroom	\$80,000
Blockhouse B	\$129,000
Pavilion	\$30,000
Palisades/Gates	\$116,000
Classroom Buildout	\$125,000
Blockhouse Buildout	\$175,000

### Electrical

Wiring, lighting, boxes, etc.	\$65,000
Landscape Lighting	\$13,500

### Foundations

Cabins	\$70,000
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### Hardscape

Walkways and Repairs	\$84,850
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### Amenities

Seating, water fountain, water feature, etc.	\$52,300
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### Landscape

Grading, sod, trees	\$13,200
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### Irrigation

Meter, Backflow, Controller, Heads	\$4,000
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### Boardwalk

Boardwalk behind buildings	\$71,650
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### Construction Total

**\$1,566,500**

### Site Design & Construction Total

**\$1,747,950**

### Interpretive Environmental Graphic Design

**\$105,000**

### Hardware

Ext. Wayside/Orientation Panels	\$15,200
Structure Signage	\$2,400
Interior Interpretive Panels	\$124,500
Interior standards	\$65,000
Interior Props	\$57,800
Audiovisual equipment	\$26,000
Illustration and models	\$27,000
NA Plaza	\$30,000

### Digital Production

Website	\$25,000
Mobile App	\$28,000
Augmented Reality 2D	\$20,000
Documentary	\$18,600
Education Programs	\$5,000

### Hardware, Production, Fabrication and Installation Total

**\$444,500**

### Hardward and Design Total

**\$549,500**

**Total \$2,297,450**

**Contingency 15% \$344,618**

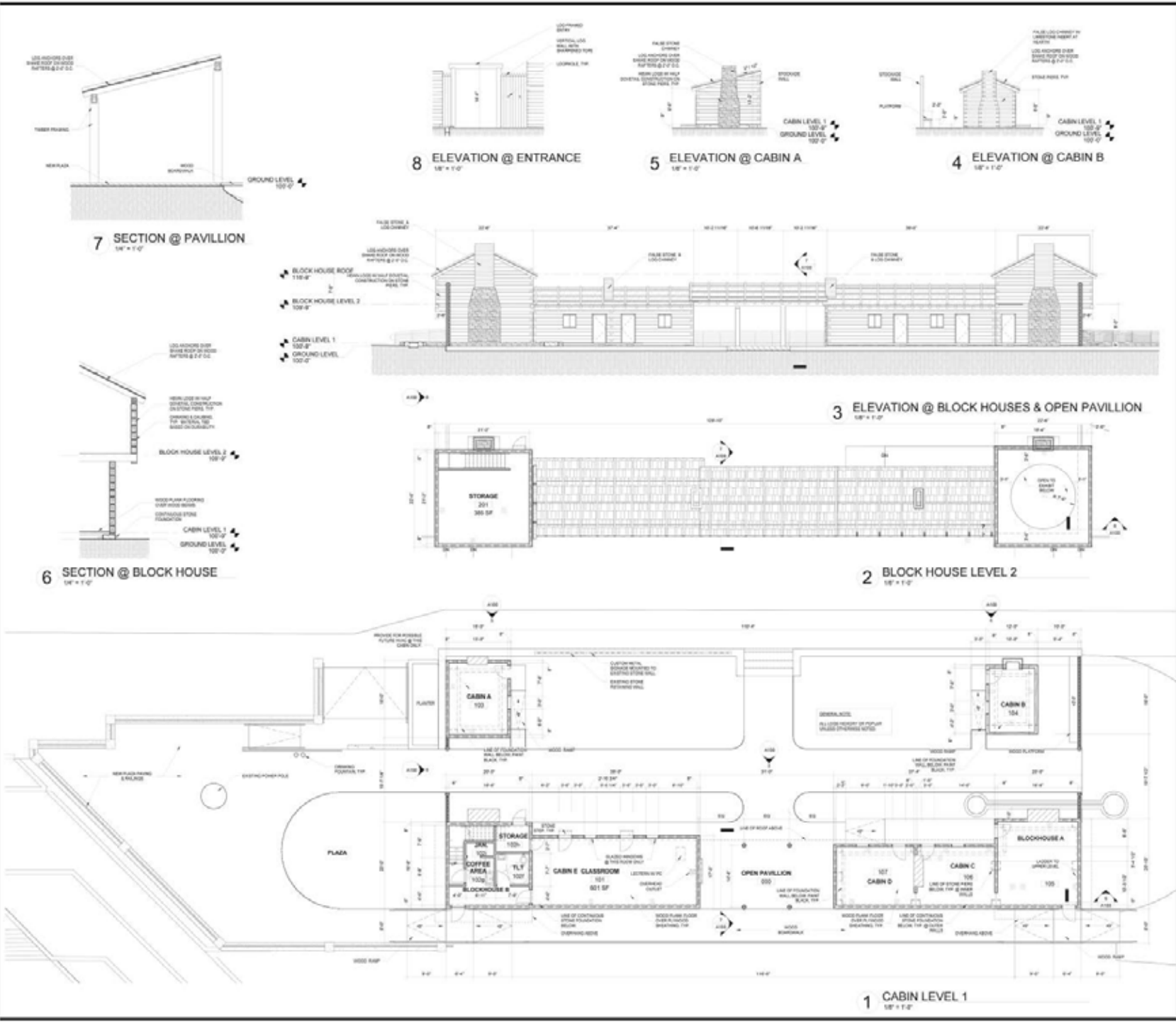
**Grand Total \$2,642,068**







# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST







# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PHASE ONE



## Opinion of Probable Construction Cost - Phase One

<b>Construction</b>		<b>Subtotal Construction</b>	<b>\$674,350</b>
Construction Management		Contingency 15%	\$101,525
Demo		<b>Construction Total</b>	<b>\$775,503</b>
Cabin Foundations		<b>Construction Design/Project Management</b>	<b>\$175,450</b>
<b>Cabin Construction</b>		<b>Interpretive Design</b>	<b>\$26,000</b>
Blockhouse A		<b>Interpretive Environmental Graphics</b>	
Cabin B		Hardware	\$115,000
Cabin C		Digital Production	\$15,000
Cabin D		<b>Subtotal Interpretive/Environmental Graphics</b>	<b>\$130,000</b>
Electrical - 4 structures & site lighting		Contingency 15%	\$19,500
Walkways, repairs, hardscape		<b>Interpretive/Environmental Graphics Total</b>	<b>\$149,500</b>
Seating, water fountain		<b>Total Phase One</b>	<b>\$1,094,703</b>
Grading, trees			
Irrigation			

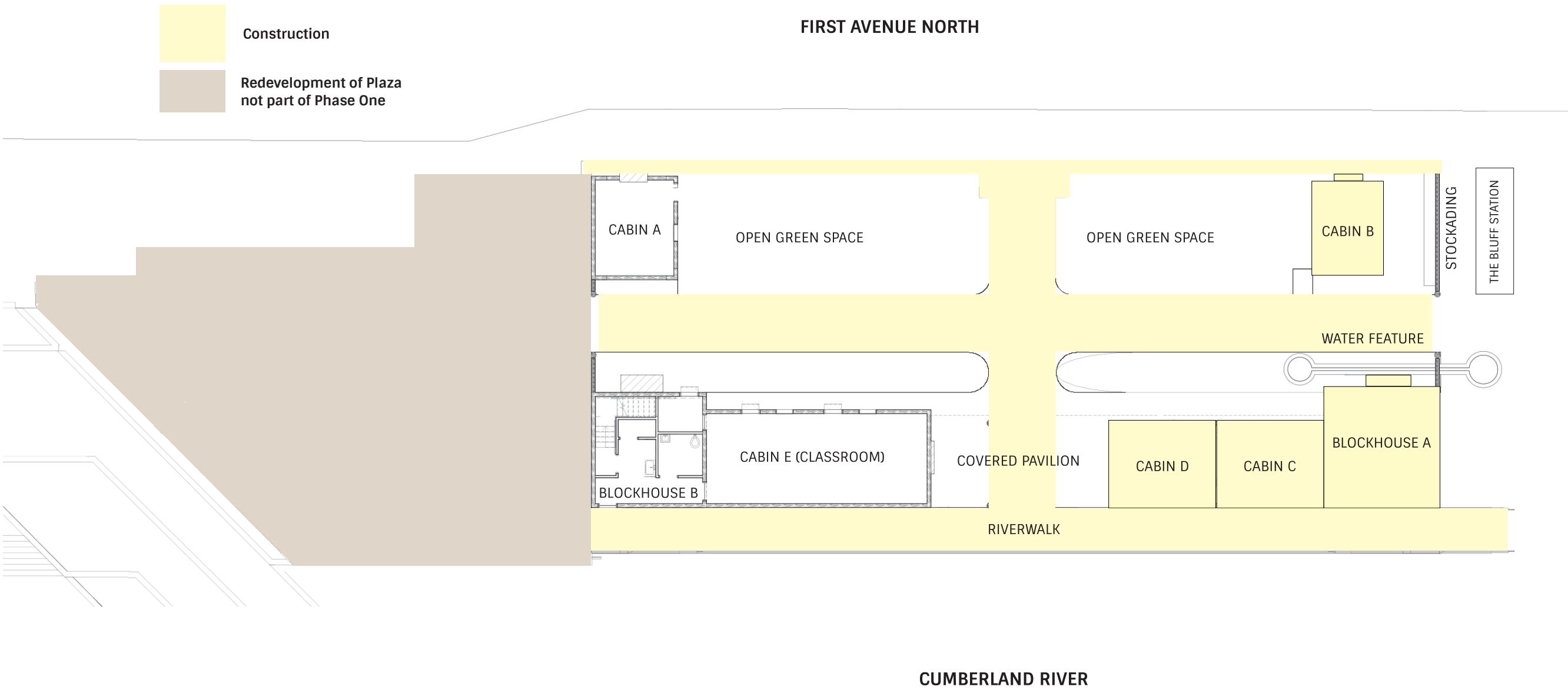






# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PHASE ONE

## Phase One Construction







# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST



## Opinion of Probable Construction Cost

### Construction

Construction Management	\$125,000
Cabin Foundations	\$35,000
Cabin Construction	
Blockhouse B	\$129,000
Cabin A	\$55,000
Cabin E (Classroom)	\$80,000
Pavilion	\$30,000
Palisades/Gates	\$116,000
Classroom Buildout	\$125,000
Blockhouse B Buildout	\$175,000
Electrical - 4 structures & site lighting	\$28,500
Walkways, repairs, hardscape	\$43,850
Seating, water fountain	\$22,300

Garden, trees, repairs	\$8,500
Irrigation	\$2,000
<b>Subtotal Construction</b>	<b>\$975,150</b>
<b>Contingency 15%</b>	<b>\$146,273</b>
<b>Construction Total</b>	<b>\$1,121,423</b>
<b>Construction Design/Project Management</b>	<b>\$56,000</b>
<b>Interpretive Environmental Graphics</b>	
Design	\$79,000
Hardware	\$232,900
Digital Production	\$81,600
<b>Subtotal Interpretive/Environmental Graphics</b>	<b>\$393,500</b>
<b>Contingency 15%</b>	<b>\$59,025</b>
<b>Interpretive/Environmental Graphics Total</b>	<b>\$452,525</b>
<b>Total Phase Two</b>	<b>\$1,629,948</b>

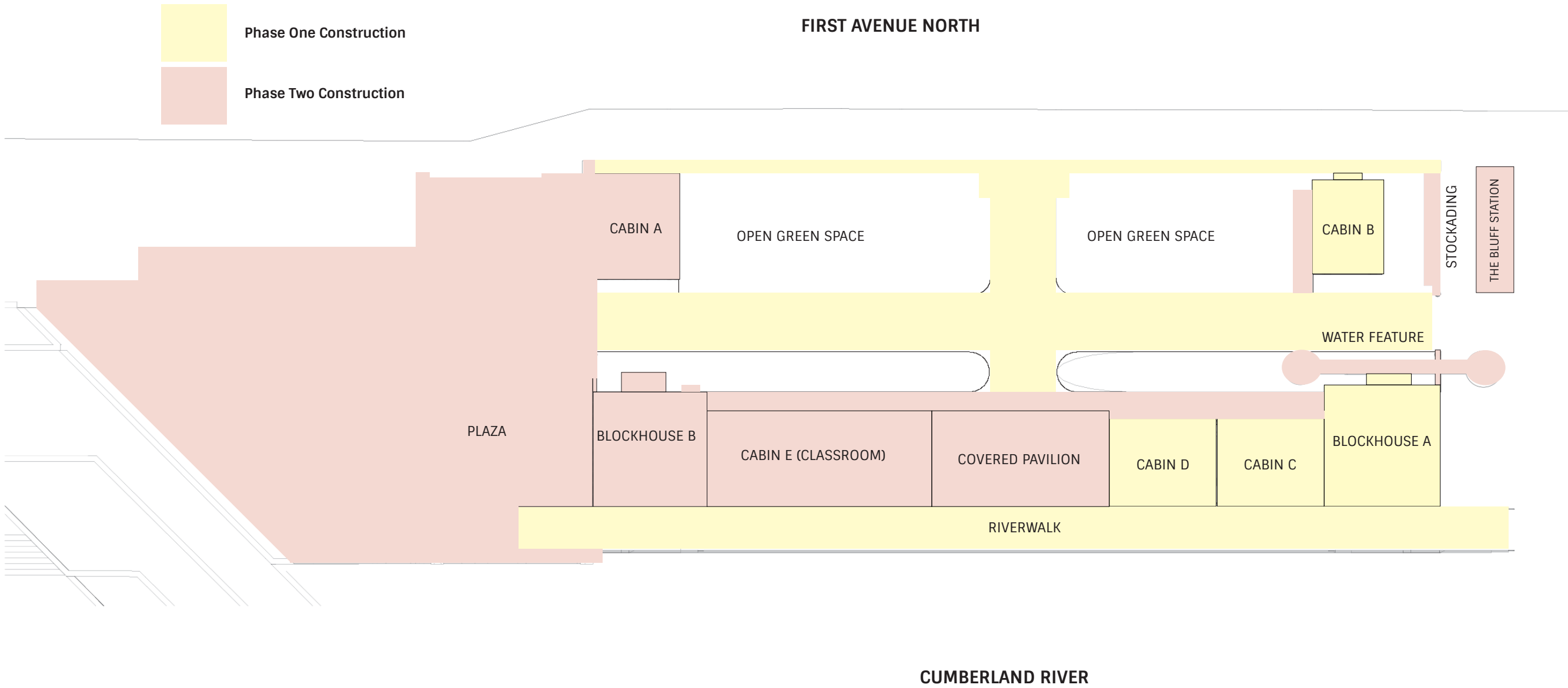






# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST PHASE TWO

## Phase Two Construction

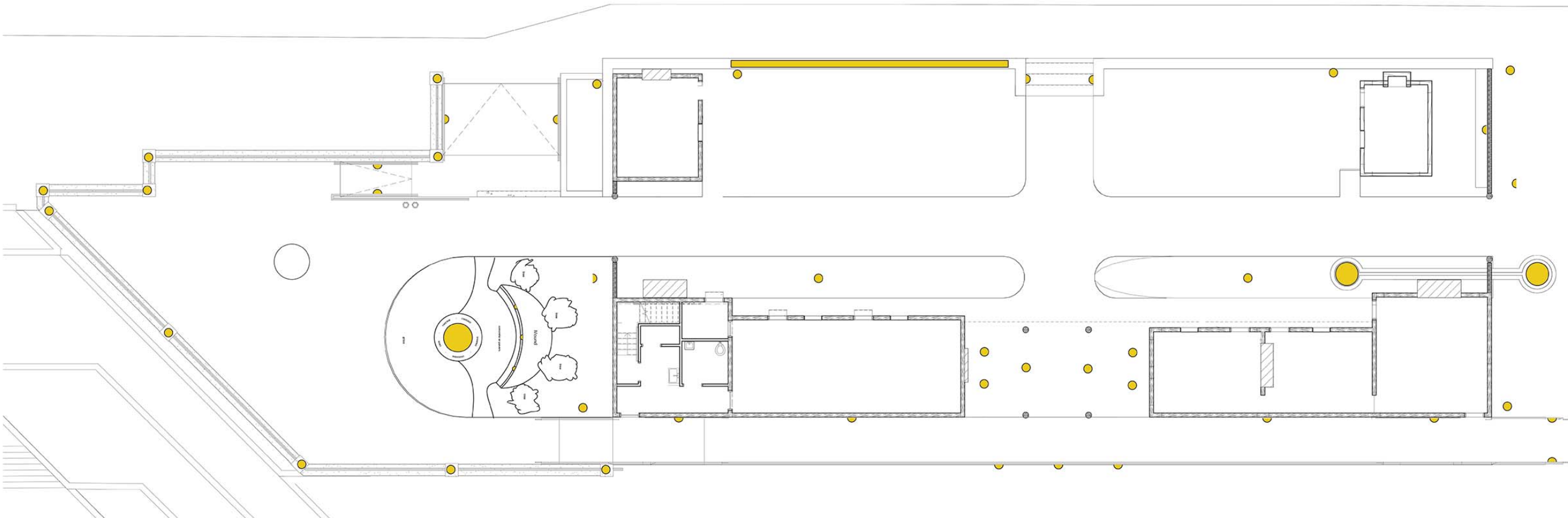






# OPINION OF PROBABLE COST

## Lighting Plan



The lighting plan is for accenting the facility, such as the cabins, riverwalk, water feature, Native American plaza, and any exterior wayside exhibits. Floods are recommended for the Pavilion and the interior of the courtyard, and at the exterior corners of the facility. Each are an added measure of security at night. The lighting orientation consists of:

- 1) Accent lights on the structures, on the stairs and ramps.
- 2) Post lights in the courtyard and at the exterior four corners of the facility.

- 3) Spot lights and floods under the Pavilion.
- 4) Spot light on the entrance wayside exhibits and on the interpretive panels in the Native American plaza.
- 5) The plaza is a backlit interpretive feature.
- 6) The water feature is lit both on the exterior and interior of the facility.
- 7) Bollard lighting along the plaza railing













