Nashville Historical Trail
Legend

1—MHM #23 Cumberland Park—Near the NW corner of the new grandstand, near Fair Park, State Fairgrounds
2—MHM #2 Capt. John Rains—On the SW corner of Rains Ave. & Merritt Street.
3—MHM #41 First Steam Locomotive—4th Avenue South Railroad crossing.
4—TNHM #3A-55 City Cemetery—At the entrance at 4th Avenue South and Oak Street.
5—MHM #9 Holy Trinity Church—At the intersection of 6th Avenue South, Ewing Ave., and Lafayette Street.
6—MHM #20 Ryman Auditorium—On Opry (formerly 5th Ave.), between Broadway and Church Street.
7—MHM #35 William Walker—NE corner of 4th Ave. & Commerce St.
8—Printers Alley
10—Silver Dollar Saloon—On Broadwater, at 2nd Ave.
11—TNHM #3A-33 Fort Nashborough—On the SE side of 1st Ave. North, just S of Banks Street.
12—MHM #3 Site of First Store—NE corner of 2nd Ave. North & Banks Street, on building facing 2nd Ave.
13—TNHM #3A-78 Downtown Presbyterian Church—SE corner of Church Street and 5th Ave. North.
14—Courthouse—Public Square
15—TNHM #3A-38 Nashville Inn—On the front lawn of the Metropolitan Police building, facing the Courthouse.
16—Municipal Auditorium
17—Tennessee State Capitol
18—War Memorial Building
19—MHM #12 Nashville’s First Public School—On E side of 8th Ave. North, between Commerce and Broadway.
21—MHM #42 Union Station—10th Ave. and Broadway.
22—Music Row
23—Vanderbilt University
24—Centennial Park (Parthenon)
25—Peabody College
26—Belmont College
27—MHM #50 Eighth Avenue South Reservoir—W side of 8th Ave. South at entrance steps to reservoir grounds.
Nashville Historical Trail

This trail starts at the State Fairgrounds. Park in the Fourth Avenue Parking Lot at the Fairgrounds. Go up the hill to the corner of the grandstand, where the three Telephone Booths are located. Find Metro Historical Marker (abbreviated MHM) #23. The Tennessee State Fairgrounds was formerly called Cumberland Park. What kind of Racing was sponsored here by the Cumberland Fair and Racing Association?

Go down the road toward the Roller Coaster, and turn left at the intersection. Walk along the street in Fair Park (the train ride is on your left, the Roller Coaster is behind you to your right) to Rains Avenue. Turn right on Rains Avenue, and continue to MHM #2, on the SW corner of Rains Avenue and Merritt Street. What year did Capt. Rains build the fort? How old was he when he died?

Continue on Rains Avenue to Fourth Avenue South (Nolensville Road), and turn left on to Fourth Avenue South. After crossing the railroad tracks find MHM #41. What city did the first steam engine of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad come from? How long did it take to make the trip from the wharf to the Cherry Street crossing?

Go along Fourth Avenue South to Oak Street. Find Tennessee Historical Marker (abbreviated TNHM) #3A-55, at the entrance to the City Cemetery. When was the City Cemetery first established? About how many people are buried in the City Cemetery?

Walk along Fourth Avenue South, passing under the Interstate, to Lafayette Street. Turn left on to Lafayette Street. MHM #9 is at the intersection of Lafayette with Ewing, and Sixth Avenue South. Who laid the cornerstone of Holy Trinity church on May 7, 1852? How did the Union Army that occupied Nashville during the Civil War use the church?

Follow Lafayette until it intersects Eighth Avenue South; turn right onto Eighth, and go to Broadway. Turn right at Broadway, and go down the hill to Opry (formerly Fifth Avenue). Turn left on to Opry and find MHM #20 at the Ryman Auditorium. What was the original name of the Ryman Auditorium? What year did the Grand Ole Opry first perform at the Ryman Auditorium?

Go up Opry to Commerce Street. Turn right and find MHM #35 at the NE corner of Fourth Avenue and Commerce Street. What year was William Walker elected president of Nicaragua? How old was he when he died?

Continue along Commerce Street to world famous Printers Alley. Turn left and walk up hill on Printers Alley to Union Street. Turn right on Union Street, then turn right again and go down Third Avenue toward Broadway. Find MHM #44 on the W side of Third Avenue, near Broadway. When did Timothy Demonbreun first live in the Nashville area? What did he do for a living when he became a permanent resident of Nashville in 1790?

At the intersection of Third Avenue and Broadway, turn left and walk along Broadway to the Silver Dollar Saloon. What is sold in the Silver Dollar Saloon? Whose offices are upstairs, over the Silver Dollar Saloon?
Turn left at Second Avenue (formerly called Market Street) and walk up to Church Street. Turn right on Church Street and walk to First Avenue. Go down hill on First Avenue to Fort Nashborough. If the Fort is open, by all means tour the Fort. Find TNHM #3A-33. When was the present replica of the fort built? Who was the fort named after? How many buildings are in the present replica of the fort? When did James Robertson and John Donelson meet? How many frontiersmen came by land with Robertson? If the fort is closed when you are there, answer as many of the questions as you can, and note the day of the week, date, and time on your answer card.

Walk uphill on First Avenue to Bank Street, turn left on Bank, and find MHM #3 on the NE corner of Second Avenue and Bank St., on a building facing Second Avenue. Who established the first store in Nashville? What was the building known as?

Go uphill on Second Avenue and turn left on to Union Street. Continue on Union Street to Fifth Avenue. Turn left and go down Fifth Avenue past the Arcade. If the Arcade is open, you may want to explore this famous shopping area. It was built in the early 1900's and is the prototype of the modern suburban shopping mall. Continue on Fifth Avenue to Church Street. Find TNHM #3A-78 on the Fifth Avenue side of the Downtown Presbyterian Church. Which Tennessee Governor was inaugurated here and in what year was he inaugurated?

Turn left on Church Street, then turn left again on Fourth Avenue, and go uphill to Deaderick Street. Turn right on Deaderick Street, and go to First Avenue. To your left is Public Square, with the Courthouse surrounded by parking lots. Cross the square, going on the side of the Courthouse nearest the river. What Courthouse is this?

Cross the street (James Robertson Parkway) and find TNHM #3A-38 on the front lawn of the Metropolitan Public Safety Building. Who gathered at the Nashville Inn for Social Events? When was this marker erected?

Follow James Robertson Parkway as it curves downhill to your right and away from the river, until you are opposite the Municipal Auditorium. Cross James Robertson Parkway, and walk up the stairs that go between the Municipal Auditorium and the Metropolitan Parking System Building. As you go up these stairs, you can see the top of the Tennessee State Capitol above the trees and buildings. There is a courtyard opposite the Municipal Auditorium with two dolphins in it. What color are the dolphins?

Follow the stairs that lead up out of the courtyard. A series of outside stairways lead you to the Tennessee State Capitol Building. There is a statue of Andrew Jackson on horseback on the side of Capitol that you first come upon. On what side of the horse is his sword? With which hand does he hold his hat?

As you face the inscription on the statue of Andrew Jackson, Polk’s Tomb and TNHM #3A-74 are to your left, on the N side of the Capitol Building. Where was James Knox Polk born? What year did the state of Tennessee buy the site of Holy Rosary Cathedral?

Go back toward the S side of the Capitol Building and go down the stairs that lead to Charlotte Avenue. Find TNHM #3A-34 on the wall on the Charlotte Avenue side of the Capitol. Where is the body of William Strickland buried?
Go W on Charlotte Avenue (to your right as you came down the stairs) to Capitol Blvd. Turn left on Capitol Blvd. The War Memorial Building, housing the Tennessee State Museum, is on your left. Turn right at Union Street, and then turn left on to Eighth Avenue North. Walk down Eighth Avenue and find MHM #12, on the E side of Eighth Avenue, between Commerce and Broadway. What year did the Hume School first open?

Turn right on Broadway; find MHM #14 on the lawn of the Federal Courthouse Building, between the main entrance and Eighth Avenue South. What year will be Nashville's Bicentennial? Name three things that went on during the Centennial Exposition in 1880.

Continue on Broadway to Union Station. Find MHM #42. Who designed Union Station? What year did Union Station open?

Continue walking along Broadway to Sixteenth Avenue South. Turn left on Sixteenth Avenue South, through Nashville's Music Row Area. How many fountains are there on the front lawn of the Country Music Hall of Fame? Sixteenth bends at Division Street. Follow Sixteenth Avenue to South Street, and turn right on South Street. Turn right again on to 21st. Avenue South. Follow 21st. Avenue South to West End. Turn left on West End, and walk to Centennial Park. As you walk on West End, Vanderbilt University is on your left. When was the university founded, and by whom?

The most impressive building in Centennial Park is the Parthenon, a replica of the Ancient Greek original. How many Ram's heads are on each of the entrances? How many steps lead up to the Parthenon from the side closest to the State Capitol? How many columns on the Parthenon? How many flutes on each column?

There is a jet fighter plane in the park near the Parthenon. How many tubes in the weapons rack under the aircraft?

Near the jet fighter is N.C. & St. L. Locomotive #576 on permanent display. It was built in 1942. Who built it? How much water does the tender hold?

Near the locomotive is a monument to the N.C. & St. L. Railway. It consists of part of the doorway to the former Nashville offices of the Railway. What was the street address of the Railway?

Leave Centennial Park by going back out to West End. Go away from the Park on 25th Avenue South. Follow 25th Avenue South to Garland Avenue. What famous hospital is located on Garland Avenue? Turn left on Garland Avenue and walk to 21st. Avenue South.

Turn right on 21st. Avenue South. What college is located on 21st. Avenue?

Turn left on Magnolia Blvd., and follow Magnolia Blvd. to Wedgewood. Continue along Wedgewood Avenue. What college is located on Wedgewood Avenue?

At Eighth Avenue South turn left and go up the hill to the entrance to the Eighth Avenue South Reservoir and find MHM #50. How many gallons does this reservoir hold? How deep is this reservoir? What year was it designated a National Water Landmark?

Go back down Eighth Avenue South to Wedgewood, turn left and continue on Wedgewood back to the State Fairgrounds.
Nashville Historical Trail
Promoted by
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