Tipton County Historical Trail

There are two trails, one is ten miles and the other is five miles in length. These hiking instructions are for both trails. Pay close attention to the instructions in the text boxes at the points where the trails intersect. Both trails begin and end in the parking lot of the Tipton County Museum. You must tour the museum and hike the nature trail located around the museum as well as the historical trail to qualify for the Historical Trail Patch. Hikers are urged to use sidewalks where available and to be aware of traffic hazards. To obtain your patch, your group leader must complete the group form and each member of your group must submit a completed and signed answer sheet along with payment for the patch.

Compass headings are included to provide a more precise guide to hikers. This will allow hikers to use the trail to practice their compass skills by checking the headings along the trail with their compasses.

The trail may also be driven. If you chose to drive the trail, be aware of the traffic around you as you stop to enjoy the many interesting sites along the route. It is recommended that you allow a passenger to read the instruction booklet.
See the museum staff for information about the Nature Trail. Using this information as a guide, hike the nature trail. From the museum front door, hikers should walk at a compass heading of 14° to the fence opening. From this point, hikers should walk at a compass heading of 162° to the sign that marks the beginning of the nature trail.

The trail begins at this marker. This observation deck is on the trail.

Question #1

In what year was this man made artificial wetland established?
Before leaving the museum, visit the Tipton County Veterans Memorial. This monument was placed here to honor those who fought and died in service to our country. It lists various conflicts and the names of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.

Question #2

What conflicts are listed and on what date was the memorial dedicated?

From this memorial hikers should continue hiking at a compass heading of 22° toward Bert Johnston Avenue. You will see a monument containing the last speech of General Nathan Bedford Forest.

Question #3

On what date and where was the speech given?
Continuing at a compass heading of 338° to the corner of the museum drive and Bert Johnston you will see a plaque with information about the Joe Brown Bivouac.

Question #4

When and how did Joe Brown die?

Cross Bert Johnston at a compass heading of 38° and turn right at a compass heading of 100° and hike East until you cross C E Moss Parkway. Continue on Bert Johnston at a compass heading of 122° until you reach Highway 51.

Use the light to safely cross Bert Johnston heading 210° then cross Highway 51 heading 122° and hike North heading 22° along the East side of Highway 51.

This highway was built over the old railroad bed used for the first trains coming through Covington.
As you hike North, you will pass Shelton Park. There is a plaque on the West edge of the park in honor of Cadmus Marcellus Wilcox.

From this plaque look at a compass heading of 200° to see the park fountain. You can also see the park’s marker at 180°.

Question #5

From what military academy did Wilcox graduate?

Continue hiking North on Highway 51 for a short distance and then cross West Pleasant heading 44°. Turn right heading 102° East on North Highway 54 or West Pleasant.
The unique building on your left as you turn currently houses Rose Construction and was the second Coca-Cola bottling plant in the city. Coca-Cola artifacts are on display inside during normal office hours.

As you continue hiking at 102° heading East you will come to the historic Ruffin theater which is on the right as you approach the court square. This building which was once used as a movie theater is now used by local theater groups for live performances.

When you reach the court square, cross West Pleasant / West Square heading 172° then turn left heading 92° and continue on West Pleasant until you reach South Main. Turn right heading 178° on South Main.

Hike South on South Main until you reach 205 South Main.
This building was used as a blacksmith shop. Ed Wall was both blacksmith and fire chief.

A short distance further South, you will come to 211 South Main which used to house City Hall upstairs and the fire station downstairs.
Continue South at 178° on South Main until you reach the First Presbyterian Church. Notice the plaque at the North East corner of the property.

Question #6

When was this church organized?

Continue hiking South at 178° on South Main.

This area is known as the Main Street Historical District and dates back before the construction of the Palmer-Sherrod house in 1853. Most of the buildings in the district were built during a period of economic growth between 1870 and 1940.

Hike to the intersection of Sherrod and South Main.
Cross South Main where the sidewalk ends heading 90° in front of the Elliston Building which is now the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Turn left and hike North heading 4° on South Main until you reach the United States Post Office.

Question #7

What is the date on the corner stone of the post office?
Hiking north at 4° to the square, you will see a Confederate monument. Cross the street heading 350° and read the inscription on the monument.

Question #8

To whom is the monument dedicated to and what date is found on the South side of the statue pedestal?

Hike north heading 2° on the sidewalk toward the center of court square until you come to two monuments placed in the ground approximately 10 feet from the sidewalk. You can locate them by standing approximately 25 feet from the monument and looking at 280° from the sidewalk.

These are time capsules. The one in front was placed there in 1973 and is to be opened in 2023. The other was placed here in 1976 and is to be opened in 2076.
Continue counterclockwise around the interior of the court square until you see the court square bell.

Continue heading North at 2° to the northeast corner of court square and you will find a granite marker.

Question #9

What is inscribed on this marker?
Looking at a heading of 46° directly across the street from this marker you will see a building that was once an opera house.

Continue around the square in a counterclockwise direction and cross West Liberty at the first designated cross walk heading 0° due North.

Turn left heading 266° West a very short distance, you will cross North Main. From here you can look at a heading of 180° and see the North side of the old court house building.
Continue hiking at 266° until you pass 114 West Liberty Avenue.

This is the old Lindo Hotel which now houses law and insurance offices. This is one of the oldest buildings in the city. The only change is that domes have been taken off of the roof. Notice the round tower on the front of the building. This building is also the only one in Covington with this type of architecture.

Hike West heading 266° on West Liberty along the store fronts until you come to the Ritz antique shop.

This building used to house the Ritz Theater.

Hike West heading 266° on West Liberty until you reach Highway 51.

Notice the site of the gas station on the corner to your left. The gas station at this intersection used to be the railroad turntable in Covington.
Turn right heading 40° North and hike on Highway 51 until you cross Spring Avenue. Cross Spring Avenue and continue heading North at 34° until reach Valley Street.

Turn right and hike East heading 88° on Valley Street and hike until you come to a large building on your left.

This was formally the Justice Complex which now houses the Tipton County Court Clerks office and is also used for Adult Education programs.

Continue hiking East heading 88° until you come to the intersection of Valley and North Main Street.

Turn South heading 175° and hike up the hill until you come to Spring Street.

To your right you will see the site of the present water tower and underground springs that were very important to Covington’s history since they were the only source of fresh drinking water.

Continue heading 175° South on North Main until you reach West Liberty at the court square.

Cross West Liberty heading 132° and walk counter clockwise around the interior of the court square back to the Confederate Monument.

At the Confederate Monument, cross the street heading 165° South at the designated cross walk and hike East heading 86° on East Pleasant until you reach South Tipton Street.

Cross South Tipton and turn right heading 180° on South Tipton Street and hike a short distance to East Pleasant Avenue.

Turn left heading 88° and hike a short distance heading East on E. Pleasant Avenue until you reach Sanford Avenue.
At this point the five and ten mile trails lead in different directions. If you are hiking the 10 mile trail, continue on with the hiking instructions immediately following this text box. If you are hiking the five mile trail, turn right on Park Street and hike to Sanford Street. Hike West on Sanford Street until you reach South Maple. Hikers are encouraged to read the historical information between this text box and the next and then follow the instructions found in the next text box.

Continuing on at a heading of 88° on East Pleasant Avenue you will pass a building on the right that houses World Wide Art Studios. This building was the first Coca-Cola bottling plant in Covington.

Continue hiking East heading 88° until you reach Menefee Street.

Turn left and hike at a compass heading of 50° until you reach the flag pole of the old Illinois Central depot.

Continue hiking North at 343° back across Menefee Street until you reach East Liberty Avenue.
Turn left heading 270° and hike a short distance and turn right heading 3° on Union Street.

Hiking North at 3° along the side of Union Street (proceed with extreme caution since there are no sidewalks) you will pass the building on your right that was previously the Federal Compress where cotton was compressed into small bales for shipment and is now a cotton warehouse.

Continue hiking North until Union Street dead ends into East Ripley Avenue.

Turn right heading 86° along the side of East Ripley Avenue (proceed with extreme caution since there are no sidewalks and you must cross the railroad track) and Hike to Hope Street.

Turn right heading 195° South on Hope Street (proceed with extreme caution since there are no sidewalks) and hike until you reach Highway 54.

Hope Street becomes East Street at this intersection.

Go straight and hike at an initial heading of 190° South on East Street. (Follow the road)

The field on the corner of Highway 54 and East Street was the old circus grounds where traveling circuses that came to Covington were set up.

Continue hiking on East Street until you reach Main street.

Cross Main Street and continue on Mill road heading 268° West until you reach South College.
The Jones Manufacturing Company, the large white building you will pass, manufactures mops. A pond behind the old mill used to be the first public swimming pool in the city. It was built in 1922 and later abandoned.

When you reach South College Street turn right at a heading of 6° and hike North until you reach Covington High School and its football field.

Cross the street at the ticket gate heading 269° to Fisher Avenue.

Hike West heading 269° on Fisher Avenue until you reach a sharp curve to the right.

At this curve, cross Cummins Street and continue heading West at 273° onto Danning Circle.
You will come to a sharp left curve. On your right at this curve you will see a red house which was the old Holmes Elementary School and is now a residence.

Continue hiking until you reach Lennanwood.

Turn right heading 273° onto Lennanwood Avenue.

Hike to Crestview and turn right heading 0° due North.

Hike at 0° North on Crestview until you reach Sherrod Avenue.

Cross Sherrod Avenue and take a right and hike at 49° East to the corner of Sherrod Avenue and South College Street.

On the corner of South College Street and Sherrod you will see a plaque with Charles B. Simonton on it.
Question #10

How long did Simonton live in this house?

Turn left heading 357° on South College and hike to 509 South College.

Where the driveway and sidewalk meet, (Approximately 255 feet from the center of the intersection of Holmes and South College) there is a geodetic survey marker.

Question #11

What is the number on this marker?

Turn around and backtrack South heading 177° along South College and turn left heading 90° on Holmes Avenue.

Hike at 90° East on Holmes Avenue to South Main Street.

Cross South Main Street and look over at 532 South Main Street and look for the large house with a magnolia tree in the front yard. This house is built in the style of the old Louisiana plantation homes of the Civil War era. It was built and first owned by a steamboat captain who operated a steamboat on the Mississippi river.

Turn right heading 179° on South Main Street and hike a short distance (approximately 68 feet) and turn left heading 92° on East Sanford.

Hike East heading 92° on East Sanford and turn left heading 1° on South Maple.

At this point, the 10 mile and 5 mile trails meet and continue on together. Those who are hiking the 5 mile trail will turn right onto South Maple and those who are hiking the 10 mile trail will turn left onto South Maple.
Hike North at 1° on South Maple until you reach East Church Street.

Cross South Maple heading 85° and turn left heading 355° on South Maple until you reach Washington Street.

On the corner of Washington and South Maple you will see a plaque honoring Frances Boyd Calhoun.

Question #12

What book did Calhoun publish?

Turn left heading 276° on the North side of Washington and hike until you reach North Main.

Cross North Main heading 276° then cross Washington heading 180° and hike West at 276° to Munford Street.

Cross Munford Street and turn left and hike at 180° South until you come to the First United Methodist Church.
Walk up to the North entrance of the Methodist Church.

On your right is the corner stone.

Question #13

What is the earliest date on the cornerstone?

Cross West Church Street heading 180° and walk up the side walk a short distance (approximately 75 feet) at 93° and look across the street to see a historical marker about Thomas Goode on the north side of the street.

Across from the main entrance of the First Methodist Church at 0° due North is Munford Street. Head 0° due North on Munford Street and hike one block to Washington Avenue. On the corner of Munford and Washington streets you will see St. Mathew's Episcopal Church. This is the original building which was constructed in 1858.
Looking across the street directly in front of St. Mathew’s Episcopal Church you will see
the ARP Church which is on the corner of Washington and Munford. The first Boy
Scout troop in Covington met here, just two years after the Boy Scouts of America was
founded. The minister of the Episcopal Church was the scoutmaster.

Hike West heading 272° on Washington Street to South College.

Cross South College and turn South heading 178° on South College Street and hike one
block to Church Street.

The library is on the right. On the corner of South College and West Church is a plaque
honoring General Jacob Tipton.

Question #14

What war did Tipton serve in?
Cross West Church heading 178° and turn right heading 280° on West Church and continue past the library and Shelton Park and on to the intersection at Highway 51.

Cross Highway 51 at the designated cross walk at a heading of 274° and turn left heading 205° South on the sidewalk along the West side of Highway 51 past Munford Cemetery.

Turn right and hike at 280° on CE Moss Parkway into Cobb Parr Memorial Park.
When the road forks at the baseball field, turn right at an initial heading of 228° and hike past the playground which was built with a great deal of community volunteer labor.

Follow the drive in a counter clockwise direction around the building which is currently used by BSA Troop 61.

Continue on CE Moss Parkway past the major league baseball field until you reach Bert Johnston Avenue.

Turn right heading 275° on Bert Johnston until you reach the Tipton County Museum.

Once you have completed the hike, all hikers should sign and return their completed answer sheets to the museum desk. Patches may be purchased by individuals who complete the hike and correctly answer the questions.

5 Mile Trail Patch

10 Mile Trail Patch

We hope that you enjoyed the Tipton County Historical Trail and that we have increased your awareness of the interesting history of our county.