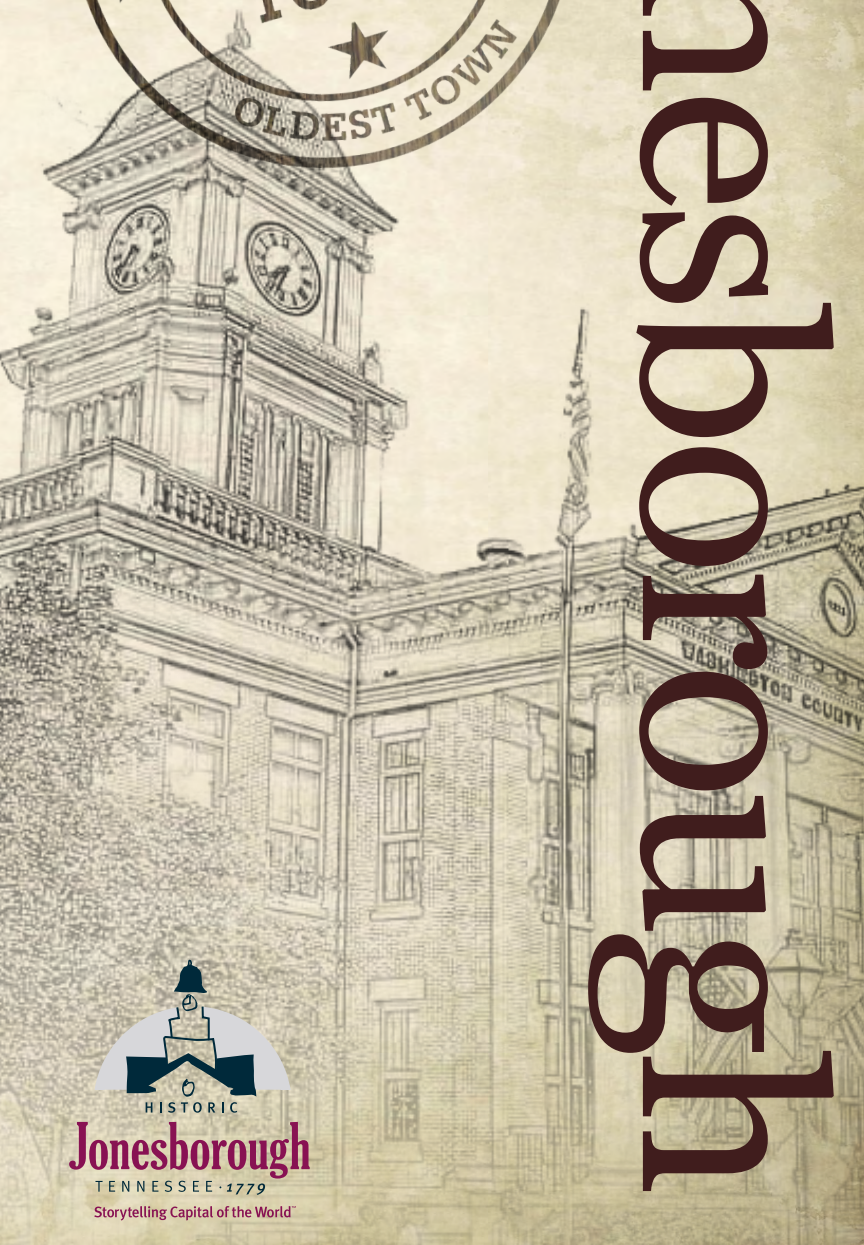




Jonesborough



Jonesborough

TENNESSEE · 1779

Storytelling Capital of the World™

Welcome to Jonesborough

1779

Jonesborough is established by the General Assembly of North Carolina as the county seat of Washington County, named after Willie Jones, who supported expansion over the Appalachian Mountains.

1784

Delegates convened in Jonesborough to approve the formation of the State of Franklin, named after Benjamin Franklin. After many negotiations and skirmishes which climaxed in the Battle of the State of Franklin, North Carolina once again reclaimed the lands.

1788

Andrew Jackson came to Jonesborough to await a caravan to travel westward. While in Jonesborough, he took the oath of office to practice law.

1796

Tennessee becomes the 16th state with assistance from Andrew Jackson, and John Sevier is elected the first governor.

1797

William Chester, a medical doctor, constructs the Chester Inn to capitalize on those traveling through Jonesborough on the Great Stage Road.

1800

A postal route is started and mail is carried by horseback twice a week to Jonesborough.

1820

The Emancipator, the nation's first periodical dedicated exclusively to the abolition of slavery, is published. Jonesborough is an important location of the abolitionist movement within the states that would join the Confederacy during the American Civil War.

1873

A devastating fire consumes several blocks west of the courthouse in the winter, and an outbreak of Asiatic Cholera claims the lives of 33 residents in the summer. Shortly after, in the 1880s, the town emerges with the building of new industries, stores and other businesses.

1912

Jonesborough invites all former residents, visitors and family to return for "Homecoming," a celebration that culminates in laying the cornerstone of the existing Courthouse.

1969

Jonesborough's Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1973

The first Storytelling Festival takes place, igniting a movement and ushering in a new chapter for Tennessee's oldest town.

Many of these locations are on private property, please respect the privacy of the property owners.

100 West Main Street

Washington County Courthouse

The existing courthouse sits on the site of five previous courthouses. The first meeting place was a log house built in 1779 to serve the North Carolina settlements of Nolichucky and Watauga. It was on this site that the pioneers, led by General John Sevier, began to form what has become known as “The Lost State of Franklin.” A more permanent wooden building was completed in the 1780s to house the Court and Jail, but was replaced in the 1790s. In 1820, the first brick courthouse was built, but burned in 1839. In 1847, a new courthouse was built showcasing Jonesborough’s typical stepped gables and a dome-shaped cupola along with the iconic clock tower. This building was later torn down to make room for the existing Courthouse, built in 1913.



**? DID YOU
KNOW**

All of the area’s important business took place here. Frontiersmen even paid their taxes with beaver skins on this very site. One thing remains consistent: the Courthouse serves as the heart of Jonesborough and can be seen from either side of town by its iconic clock tower.



101 West Main Street

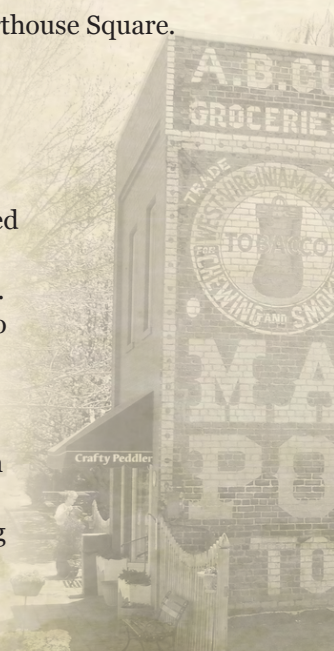
Mauk's

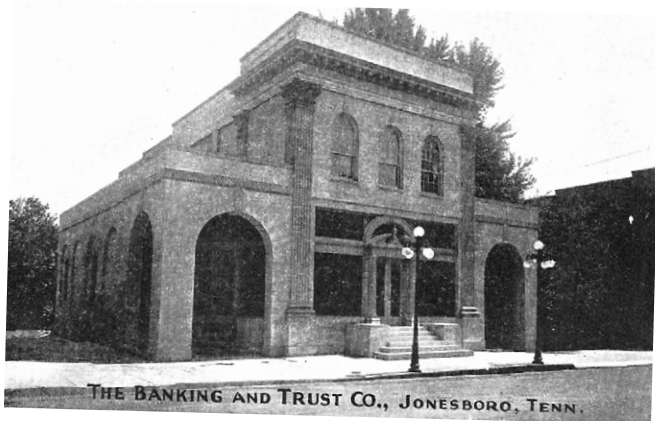
This building once served as a post office, a doctor's office, a taxi stand and more. Mauk's has long been known as the pharmacy and drug store of Jonesborough. It is also one of the few buildings still standing after the great fire in Jonesborough in 1873. The prevailing south westerly winds were relevant in numerous fires that claimed buildings along the west side of Courthouse Square.

[📷] PHOTO OPP.

A Mail Pouch advertisement is located on the side of the adjacent building. There are black dots around the sign. Before 1912, union sign painters, also known as "Wall Dogs," would get paid by square foot. So, they placed dots around their work to measure their pay. After 1912, the Mail Pouch Tobacco Company dropped this practice due to some painters placing dots 8 inches apart.

#jonesboroughwalkingtour





115 West Main Street

Jonesborough Banking and Trust

The Jonesborough Banking and Trust Company was chartered on April 8, 1886. A 49er, John D. Cox was elected as the bank's first president and William G. Mathes was elected as the first cashier. In 1898, the bank altered its charter and changed its name to The Banking and Trust Company, and in 1926 its offices were remodeled to have a more colonial feel. The Banking and Trust Company continued operations well into the 20th century when it was bought by First Tennessee Bank.

? DID YOU KNOW

As long as a bank could redeem the money it circulated, and was approved by the state to do so, printing paper money was an acceptable practice. Early banks raised funds through the sale of stock, and often printed their own money.

119 West Main Street

Cunningham House

Built in the 1840s by Dr. Samuel Cunningham, terrain forced the railroad tracks to be built behind this structure after a hard fight from the internationally known physician and surgeon. Dr. Cunningham put his medical practice on hold for 10 years to bring the railroad to Jonesborough, also serving as president of the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. Cunningham and "The Immortal Thirty" put their own personal properties up for collateral to bring the railroad to town.





125 West Main Street

Jackson Theatre

Built in 1921 as a furniture store, this was also once home to Jonesborough's first moving picture theatre called the Blue Mouse Theatre and had a showing of movies like Buck Jones in the western "The Big Punch." The Jackson Theatre was a popular hangout for kids to gather and spend \$.25 on movies and concessions. By 1925, it was known as the Lyric Theatre and offered additional retail space to businesses such as the Tennessee Hatch and Cash Feed Store. This building later became the Jackson Theatre. The adjacent building was home to funeral parlor and now houses the Stage Door as part of the Jonesborough Repertory Theatre.

? DID YOU KNOW

125 West Main Street has been home to numerous businesses, but one still leaves a lasting mark on its former home. Look closely, and you can still see the outline of the word "furniture" on the building.





127 West Main Street

Eureka Inn

This structure was originally built as a residence for Robert Mitchell in 1797. One hundred years later, it was enlarged and converted into the Eureka Hotel. The name changed twice after 1900, becoming the Russell Hotel in 1910 and the Gresham Hotel in 1922. This establishment has been totally restored to its glory days of 1900, and has reclaimed the original name, Eureka.



205-209 West Main Street

Sisters Row

One of Jonesborough's oldest brick structures, this unique building is a typical row house containing three units built by Samuel D. Jackson of Philadelphia in 1820. Local stories say that by 1827, each of the three units were rented by his daughters, giving this building a name that is still used today, "Sisters Row."



211 West Main Street

Jonesborough United Methodist Church

This distinctive structure is an important example of Greek Revival architecture, featuring four massive columns supporting the pediment and steeple over a deep portico. Completed in 1852, the wide but simple cornices and pilasters at the side of the Methodist Church house the original slave gallery that is still used for seating today.

? DID YOU KNOW



A crystal chandelier imported prior to the 1940s from Czechoslovakia hangs in the sanctuary.



210-212 West Main Street

Fink House

The home currently standing at this address was built in 1914 by John M. Fink and his wife Lula. Fink was the co-owner of Fink and Hickey, a grocer that operated across from the Courthouse. Their son, Paul, wrote *The First Century of Tennessee's Oldest Town* and established the Town's first museum. Paul was also instrumental in mapping and establishing the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and in the creation of the Appalachian Trail. The Fink's daughter, Miriam, wrote her 1934 Master's thesis on Jonesborough prior to the Civil War, was on the faculty of the East Tennessee State College and served as principal of Jonesborough High School.

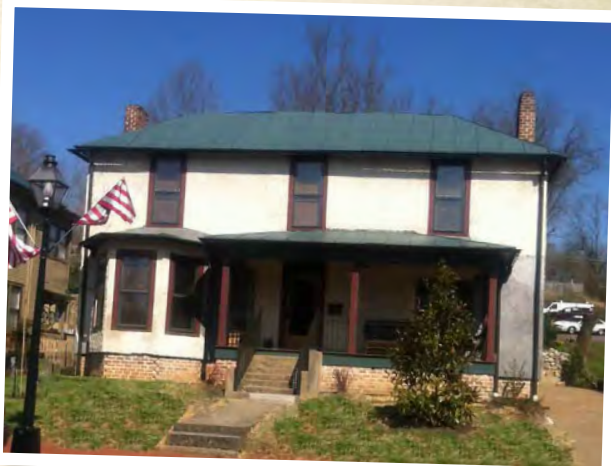
? DID YOU KNOW

On this lot prior to the Civil War, a duplex housed James A. Dillworth and James C. Mason. Both men held strong and opposing opinions regarding the war. However, they remained friends and assisted each other throughout the war by removing and holding each other's valuables in their adjoining attics.

208 West Main Street

Panhorst House

Built in 1865, this house is one of Jonesborough's few pebble dashed stucco constructions. In its early days, the home changed hands several times. In 1907, it was purchased by Catherine Chester Panhorst for \$1,000. Her husband was Dr. Mari H. P. Panhorst, who founded the East Tennessee Medicine Company in 1890. Panhorst, whose father was royal surgeon to the Dutch Navy, used many of his father's remedies to create and sell medicines. His most popular medicine was called PIP, Panhorst Indigestion Powder. A 1920 newspaper ad shows him practicing out of his home on West Main Street.



? DID YOU KNOW

Through the years the patent formula for PIP has changed hands multiple times. The convoluted histories of pharmaceutical companies are difficult to trace, but there is reason to believe that PIP can now be found marketed as TUMS.

#jonesboroughwalkingtour



200 West Main Street

Mansion House

Built in 1843 by Jonesbrough's first official postmaster, John W. Simpson, this building was one of Jonesborough's earliest hotels. It served stage coach travel through the Great Stage Road, running from Philadelphia into the southeast. In 1851, the building was known as the John Simpson Hotel, but by 1853 it became the Mansion House. The second story porch was added to the home in the 1880s, at the same time and probably by the same craftsman who added the porch to the Chester Inn. The Mansion House ceased operations as a hotel prior to 1862, when the building and the adjoining back lot was sold to Dr. Mahoney. The back lot held original slave quarters and a large stable, which is now the home at 103 First Avenue.

? DID YOU KNOW

The home at 103 First Avenue was willed to the Town in the early 20th century by children's book author and illustrator Rhea Wells to be used for children's cultural activities. The Town sold the home and used the proceeds to construct the Washington County/Jonesborough Library located on Sabin Drive. The children's book section is dedicated to Rhea, who was born in Jonesborough and utilized his early life for inspiration in his 1928 book *An American Farm*. Upon retirement, Wells returned to Jonesborough until his death in 1962.

130 West Main Street

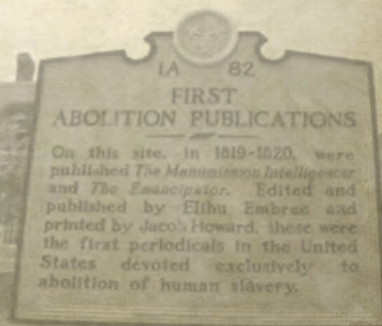
May-Dishner House

This location is now a stately home with Queen Anne influences built in 1904 by William E. May, one of Jonesborough's most prominent businessmen. The front yard features an original 1904 pump. In 1866, the site held the small frame "Yancey House," occupied by Frederick Maxwell, known as a free man of color. In 1868, it was sold to James C. Cousins for \$2,200. Cousins was also a free man of color, had been living in Tazewell, Va. and moved to Jonesborough in 1865.



? DID YOU KNOW

James C. Cousins opened a barbershop at the Courthouse in 1865. His business remained in operation for at least two decades. James' family lived at 130 West Main Street, adjacent to the site on the same lot, where *The Manumission Intelligencer* and *The Emancipator*, the first two publications dedicated to the abolishment of slavery in the U.S., were published. In addition to working as a barber, James ran for office in 1874 with fellow African American James A. Bailey. The Herald & Tribune reported on their historic run, but both men were ultimately defeated.





128 West Main Street

Jonesborough Presbyterian Church

Built in the 1840s, this Presbyterian Church entails a Greek-Revival structure that still contains the original pulpit, pews and slave gallery. The outside stairway was said to have been enclosed so the ladies of the congregation would be spared the embarrassment of exposing their ankles while climbing the steps.

? DID YOU KNOW

Rev. Rufus Wells used the sanctuary to teach slaves to read and write in the years leading up to the Civil War. Session minutes indicate 12 African Americans both enslaved and free were in the congregation between 1835 to 1847.

Photo provided courtesy of the Heritage Alliance.



124 West Main Street

Christopher Taylor House

One of the few remaining examples of early pioneer construction, this saddle notched home originally sat on the Great Stage Road, approximately two miles west of its present location. Built by Christopher Taylor in the 1770s, the structure features a full second story and often provided lodging for guests traveling southwest on the Stage Road. Christopher was a captain in the militia who fought with the legendary Overmountain Men. He was also a veteran of the French and Indian War and a major in the American Revolutionary War. After a failed attempt to turn this area into the State of Franklin, Christopher and John Sevier worked hard on the early development of Washington County. This two-story log house was relocated to downtown Jonesborough in 1974.



 **PHOTO
OPP.**

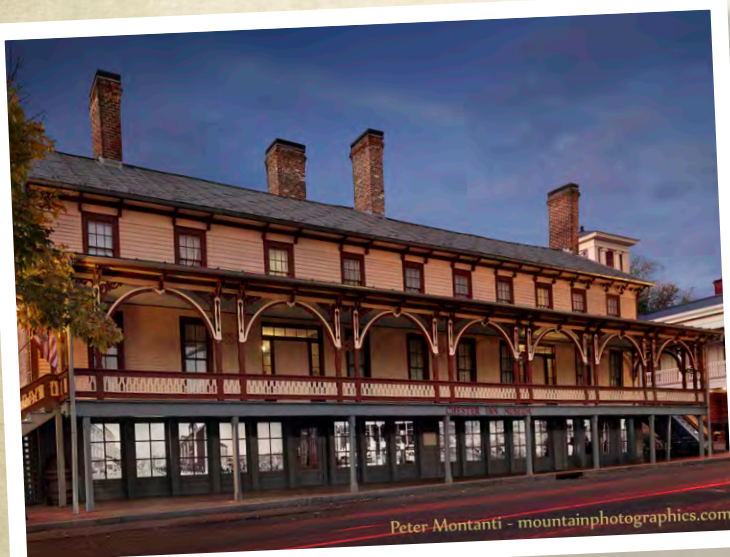
Christopher Taylor became fast friends with a young red-haired lawyer in 1788, and invited him to take up a short-term residence in his log home. That lawyer was named Andrew Jackson, who later became the President of the United States in 1829.

116 West Main Street

Chester Inn

The Chester Inn is now owned by the State of Tennessee and hosts a history museum documenting Jonesborough from its very first days to present.

Built in the late 1790s, this is the oldest commercial structure in Tennessee's Oldest Town and once accommodated presidents such as Andrew Jackson, James K. Polk and Andrew Johnson. Andrew Jackson was even threatened with tarring and feathering, fought a fire in his nightshirt and hosted a reception at this legendary inn.



 **PHOTO
OPP.**

The porch was added to this historic site in 1883 and displays the best view in town. Local lore holds that George Sprinkle came to town in the 1880s with a scroll saw and added ornate second story porches to numerous buildings, including this one.

#jonesboroughwalkingtour

116 West Main Street

International Storytelling Center

In the 1880s, the Cox Block occupied this area to include a variety of shops with a colonial style exterior designed by John D. Cox. In 1929, his son converted this block into a hotel called the Andrew Jackson Tavern and Coffee Shop, eventually taken over by H. Lynn Chase in 1940. The hotel's interior was known for its detailed marble accents, but was destroyed by fire. The fire closed the barber shop and dining room. In 1942, a second fire destroyed the building. A new building was constructed, hosting Walt Lavender's Market in 1952, but was later demolished.

In 2002, the two story Greek revival style International Storytelling Center was built including meeting rooms, a theatre and a gift shop. Elements from the Federal and Victorian periods were included in the design to represent Jonesborough architecture through the ages.



? DID YOU KNOW

The first National Storytelling Festival took place in 1973 in Jonesborough on a wagon surrounded by hay bales in front of the Mail Pouch advertisement across the street. Now, Jonesborough is still sharing stories at the International Storytelling Center. Inside, visit the Wall of Stories and an interactive storytelling kiosk.



Central Commercial District

The majority of the buildings in today's central commercial district were built between 1880 and 1920. Though the businesses and owners have changed over the years, the primary purpose has remained the same, a commercial mix of retail and office space with a hint of residential flavoring.

In accordance with its founding legislation, owners of the original lots had to build a brick, stone or finely sawed lumber structure within three years of purchase. Many of these buildings were constructed from brick made on site and since Jonesborough was a courthouse town, merchants were assured of a ready clientele. Business boomed throughout the late 18th and early 19th centuries. By 1845, Jonesborough offered a wide assortment of goods imported from all over Europe including boots, hats, hardware, a saddler and cutlery. Merchants advertised that any desirable available in Philadelphia, Baltimore or Charleston could be found in Jonesborough!



? DID YOU KNOW

In the early 20th century, the J.T. Whitlock Company was located at 117 East Main Street and was a popular place for ladies apparel, going as far as to hire a milliner who made custom hats. Twice a year, Whitlock's would host events with music, seasonal flowers and live models displaying the store's finest fashions. Whitlock kept cards on file of the favorite colors, hat and dress sizes of local school teachers so they would be sure to stock something special for everyone.



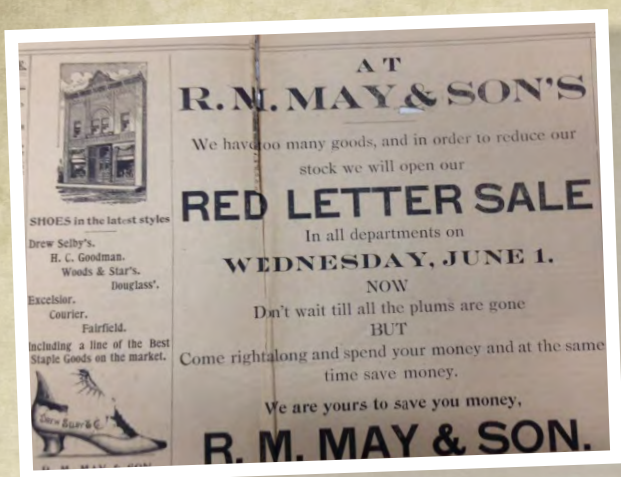
? DID YOU KNOW

During the 20th century, you would have found two ladies named Minnie working as Jonesborough's telephone operators. They had a habit of looking out the window to see if they could find the recipient of a phone call, if no one picked up the phone at home. They'd often shout from the window for that person to run home and answer the call.

[📷] PHOTO OPP.

Upping blocks were set near a door to be used when mounting or dismounting a horse or carriage in commercial districts.

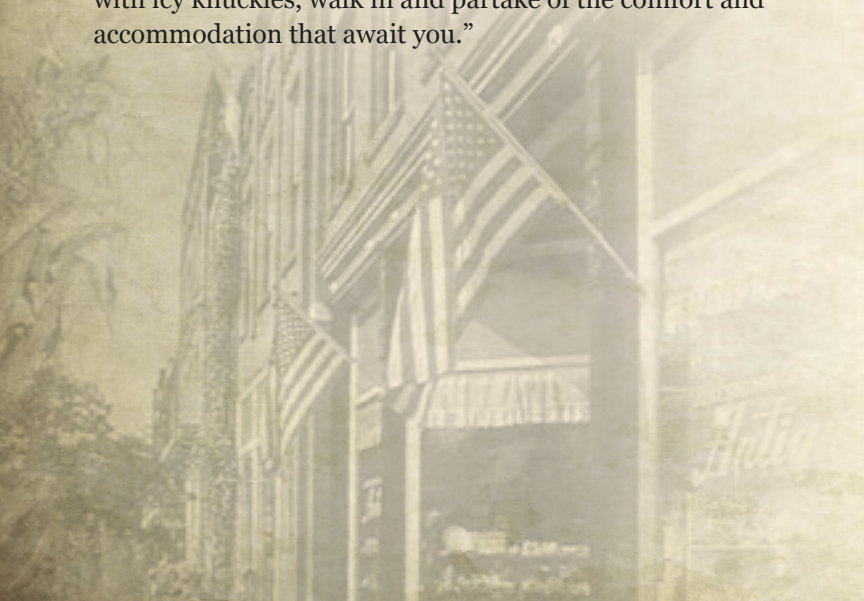
#jonesboroughwalkingtour



123 East Main Street

Old Quarters Located in Rear of Building

From 1895 through 1925, R. M. May & Sons Palace Store was a mainstay of Jonesborough's business district. May utilized the finest brick made on site, with interior woodwork consisting of oiled chestnut. When completed in 1895, the local newspaper called this building the finest shopping palace in East Tennessee. In an October 1895 notice printed in the Herald & Tribune, May states, "You will find comfortable quarters at the Palace Dry Goods House, the whole interior being heated by the hot air process. So while old winter stands knocking at the door with icy knuckles, walk in and partake of the comfort and accommodation that await you."





127 East Main Street

Naff-Henley House

This Greek revival home is one of the few private homes on Main Street. The plot is part of lot 31 on the original plan of the town. The earliest deed to this property dates to 1807, when 47 foot frontage property was sold for \$60. The plot was purchased in 1836 by John and Jacob Naff, and in 1840 they built their home, which served as a private residence with their tailor business on the first floor.



106 Fox Street

Central Christian Church

This Gothic Revival style brick church was completed in 1882 by northern sympathizers who split off from the Presbyterian Church over the Civil War. After the two reunited in 1943, it was purchased by members of the First Christian Church and named Central Christian Church.





Parsons Square District

102 East Woodrow Avenue

Parsons Table

From this location, you will be able to view a Gothic Revival style brick structure built as a church, but has also served as a temperance and lecture hall as well as a restaurant. Construction began on the main facility in 1871, and the small framed building behind it once served as a parsonage.

114 East Woodrow Avenue

Rees-Hawley House

Just across the railroad tracks, you will find the oldest home in Tennessee's oldest town, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1793 by James Rees, a solicitor for the territory south of the River Ohio, dovetail chestnut logs were placed on a limestone foundation. A frame addition was added in 1818 with the veranda style porch while board and batten siding was added during the turn of the century.

112 East Woodrow Avenue

Green Mansion

Beside that historic site, you will notice a two-story brick home built in 1825 set on a massive stone foundation that has distinguishing characteristics including dentiled cornices. The home has been altered very little and still resembles much as it did over 180 years ago.

127 Fox Street

Salt House

Built in the late 1840s, the iconic Salt House has served as a Masonic Hall, wholesale grocery, a warehouse, store and even a post office. Salt was rationed to residents during the Civil War from this location, giving it the name, Salt House.



? DID YOU KNOW

On the other end of this street sits Alfred Martin Ray's home. He was born as a slave in 1849 and served in the U.S. Army from 1872 to 1903. He first served as a buffalo soldier in the 10th U.S. Cavalry and later in Cuba and the Philippines. In 1898, during the Spanish-American War, Lieutenant Ray planted the U.S. flag on San Juan Hill in Cuba.



Mill Spring Park

The Old Mill Spring has served as a major water source for Jonesborough and is said to be one of the factors that led to the settlement of the town. In the 1850s, the Mill Spring area housed Green's Mill and in the 1870s a blacksmith shop. The area upstream also served as the foundation for an ice cream plant. During drought times, the Mill Spring produced much sought after water that "continued to bring people back to Jonesboro." The Mill Spring area still serves as a social gathering place for the community.



JONESBORO HOME COMING 1912

August 12th • 17th

*"Whoever drinks
from old Mill Spring
Is sure to come back
and drink again."*

OFFICE
E. J. BAXTER, PRES
JNO. D. COX, VICE
W. P. SHIPLEY
H. C. BEAUFORT
EXECUTIVE C
R. M. MAY, CHA
R. H. LANK
HON. A
DR. G. R. DUNC
J. S. PRIT
H. C.

 **PHOTO
OPP.**

There are no specific references to Old Mill Spring until 1912, when matriarchs were photographed at the spring for an advertisement for Homecoming Week in Jonesborough.

103 Boone Street

Boone Street Market

The corner of Main and Boone Street has long standing ties to the automobile industry, serving as a gas station, car dealership and a mechanics shop. In 1938, Washington County Motors, a Ford dealership, was located on this site.



? DID YOU KNOW

Around the corner, the brick structure was built as a gas station in the 1950s. It now houses the Boone Street Farmers Market.



210 East Main Street

Jonesborough First Baptist Church

Built in 1952, the Greek Revival style Baptist Church showcases heavy influence from Greek temple form. The inspiring stained glass windows were commissioned by the ladies missionary society with aid from church members. It is reported that seven windows were designed by an Italian artist.

In 1853, the Baptist Church of Jonesborough established a school for girls. The school was named the Holston Female Institute and was located at 233 East Main Street.



? DID YOU KNOW

In 1847, local businessman Zachariah Burson donated the current bell to the church due to criticism for not having a bell “to clear the air of Evil Angels.”



233 East Main Street

Warner Institute

The Italianate style residence just beside the cemetery was built in 1858 and began as Holston Baptist Female Institute. For almost sixty years, various educational institutions were housed here. It was part of a national effort, after the Civil War, to provide schools to train African Americans as teachers.

Old Jonesborough Cemetery

Created in 1803 when town commissioners purchased land from Patrick Long for a public burying ground, the cemetery's size was increased twice between 1849 and 1899. Now totaling approximately 2.75 acres, it is unknown how many graves it contains. The oldest grave dates back to the initial purchase with many of Jonesborough's most important and influential citizens buried here.



? DID YOU KNOW

General AE Jackson, Washington County's only general, is buried in the cemetery. He joined several prominent residents in courting the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad to bring the line through Town. In 1861, AE and his son Nathaniel enlisted in the Confederate Army. Two other sons, Alfred Eugene and James Patton also enlisted. Alfred Eugene and Nathaniel died during the war and are also buried here.

117 Boone Street

Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center

The earliest known owner of this property is John H. Naff. He and his wife purchased the land shortly after being married and built the house and outbuilding located across the bridge in the back of property. The outbuilding was used for John's business and is still known as the Naff Tailor Shop, also housing his young apprentices. The property changed hands several times, being purchased in 1904 by saddle maker Robert Mitchell Duncan. The land stayed in the family until Blanche Duncan died in 1964, and the property was transferred to John and Ruby France, who sold it to the town in 1980. The Duncan House, located next to Oak Hill School now houses the Heritage Alliance.

The Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center was built in the 1980s and houses the Old Town Emporium Gift Shop specializing in local goods and books. The Washington County/Jonesborough History Museum is also located in the Visitors Center and includes a variety of exhibits including information on frontier life, local educational history, a rotating exhibit that honors local veterans, Jonesborough's very first firefighting equipment and an 1852 clock from the Washington County Courthouse tower.





? DID YOU KNOW

Oak Hill School was originally located in the Knob Creek Community, seven miles from Jonesborough. The school was used to teach first through eighth grades in Washington County from 1886 to 1952. Oak Hill School was moved and later restored to its 1880s condition.

[📷] PHOTO OPP.

The stocks, also known as the pillory, outside the Visitors Center are made of large, hinged wooden boards. The offender's neck and both wrists were secured between the holes.

In 1799, Frederick Stearne was sentenced to spending one hour in the town's pillory, with his ears nailed to the wood. After one hour, he was free to leave, but his ears had to remain nailed to the pillory as an example of punishment for committing certain crimes.

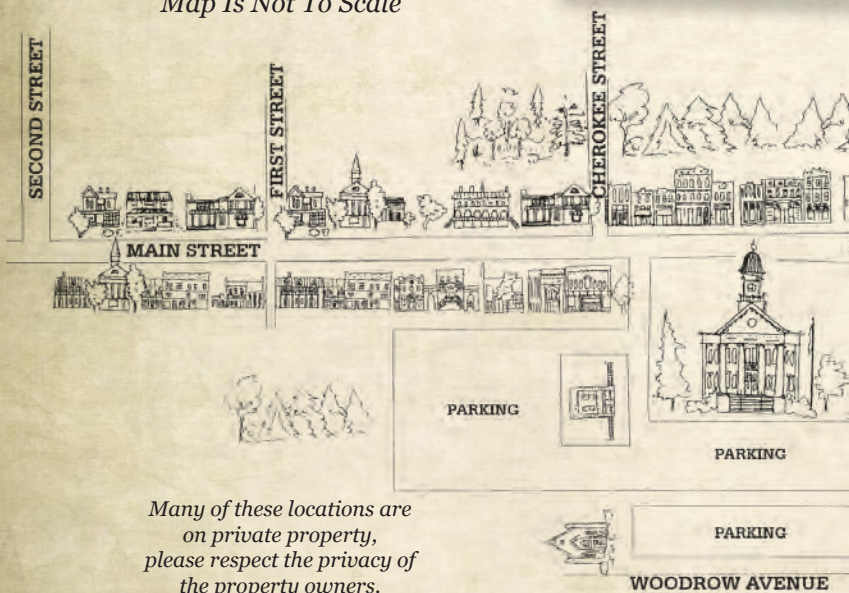


Jonesborough

TENNESSEE · 1779

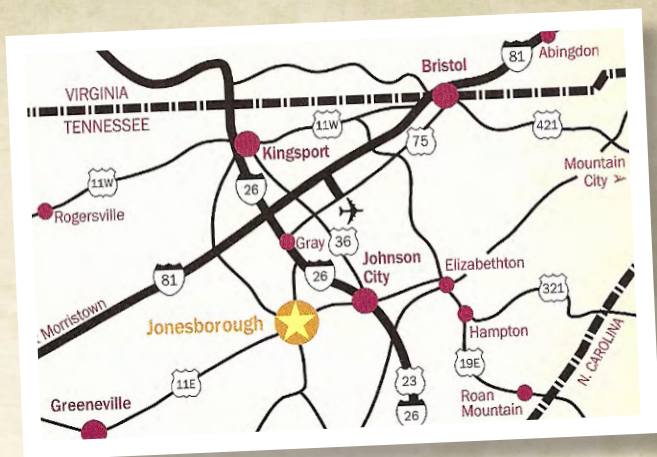
Storytelling Capital of the World™

Map Is Not To Scale



Jonesborough ★ Walking Tour





Historic Jonesborough Department of Tourism
 117 Boone Street
 Jonesborough, Tennessee 37659
 423.753.1010
 toll-free: 866.401.4223

historicjonesborough.com
 info@historicjonesborough.com



*Photography provided courtesy of Heritage Alliance,
 Pardue Photographics, Peter Montanti – Mountain Photographics, Inc.,
 C. David Cook and Historic Jonesborough Department of Tourism.*



As you walk along Jonesborough's Historic District, you'll notice markers on several properties. These markers are from a previous Strolling Tour with more than 40 historical points. This guide is still available at the Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center.

