



TENNESSEE'S OLDEST TOWN

# JONESBOROUGH

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OFFICIAL STROLLING  
TOUR GUIDE

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RICH HISTORY OF  
TENNESSEE'S  
OLDEST TOWN

SELF-GUIDED  
TOWN TOUR

EXPLORE  
THE STORYTELLING  
CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

# WELCOME TO JONESBOROUGH

## WHERE HISTORY COMES TO LIFE

Journey through the streets of our well-preserved 18<sup>th</sup> century town. This guide will reveal historic gems, Jonesborough's rich past and stories about the people who lived here.

Throughout the guide, you'll find "Did You Knows" where you'll learn lesser known facts about Tennessee's Oldest Town.



## THE ROOTS OF TENNESSEE'S OLDEST TOWN

**1779**  
THE TOWN IS  
ESTABLISHED

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

Delegates convened in Jonesborough to approve the State of Franklin, the proposed 14<sup>th</sup> state. After the Battle of the State of Franklin, North Carolina once again reclaimed the lands. Eventually, Jonesborough would become a part of the Southwest Territory.

**1788**  
ANDREW  
JACKSON

**1784**  
STATE OF  
FRANKLIN

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

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

**1796**  
THE 16<sup>TH</sup>  
STATE

**1820**  
THE 1<sup>ST</sup>  
ABOLITIONIST  
NEWSPAPER

The Emancipator, the nation's first periodical dedicated exclusively to the abolition of slavery, is published by Elihu Embree. At the time of Embree's death in December of 1820, the paper had over 2,000 subscribers.

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 reemerges with the building of new industries, stores, and other businesses.

**1873**  
REBUILDING  
OF DOWNTOWN

**1912**  
FAMOUS  
CLOCKTOWER

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

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

**1969**  
NATIONAL  
REGISTER OF  
HISTORIC PLACES

**1973**  
A STORYTELLING  
RENAISSANCE

The first Storytelling Festival takes place, igniting a movement, and ushers in a new chapter for Tennessee's Oldest Town.

# JONESBOROUGH'S VISITORS CENTER

117 BOONE STREET

The Historic Jonesborough Visitors Center and Old Town Emporium is a multi-purpose facility used to welcome visitors to Tennessee's Oldest Town.

The Center houses a local artisan shop and bookstore. You'll find handmade items, a wide selection of local history books, and Jonesborough graphic tees. The space

also doubles as a rental venue.

While here, you can pick up an official Historic Jonesborough Visitors Guide, local and regional maps, and answers to Jonesborough questions you may have. The Center also houses the Jonesborough/Washington County History Museum.



## PHOTO-OP

Snap a keepsake photo with our historical wooden display cart. The cart décor changes out seasonally or to fit with our next upcoming town event, and is always a welcoming site when visiting our center.



# DUNCAN HOUSE & OAK HILL SCHOOL

SABIN DRIVE

The historic Duncan House, located next to Oak Hill School, now houses the Heritage Alliance, a local non-profit dedicated to preservation and history education.



# WASHINGTON CO. LIBRARY

200 SABIN DRIVE

The library was originally founded in the late 1800s by the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Schubert Club. In 1898, a group of Jonesborough women established the Schubert Club to promote music and literacy. Named in honor of composer Franz Schubert, the members of the club formed the town's first library, purchased

books for it, and provided a librarian. The library moved around town; for a time, it was in the lower level of the Chester Inn. In 1962, children's book author and illustrator Rhea Wells willed his home at 103 First Avenue to the town for hosting children's cultural activities. The town sold the home and used the proceeds to construct the Washington County/Jonesborough Library.

# BOONE STREET MARKET

101 BOONE STREET

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.

The building that houses Boone Street Market was once an Exxon Station but has since been transformed.



Boone Street Market is a great example of adaptive reuse and agritourism.

The Jonesborough Farmers Market was so popular that it grew into a year-round store, Boone Street Market. The store sells only products from farmers, growers, and makers within 100 miles of the market.



Why does 139 E. Main Street have such big, glass windows? In 1938, Washington County Motors, a Ford dealership, was located on this site. They only got so many new Fords a year and those cars went on display in their big, show windows.

# JONESBOROUGH BAPTIST CHURCH

210 E. MAIN STREET

Built in 1852, the Greek Revival style Baptist Church showcases heavy influence from the 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.

# OLD JONESBOROUGH CEMETERY

Created in 1803 when town commissioners purchased land from Patrick Long for a public burying ground. The cemetery's size 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 influential citizens buried here.



# THE WARNER INSTITUTE

233 E.  
MAIN STREET



The Italianate style residence just beside the cemetery was built in 1858 and began as the Holston Baptist Female Institute. For almost sixty years, various educational institutions were housed here,

including the Warner Institute. It was part of a national effort, after the Civil War, to provide schools for training African Americans as teachers. The building remained a school for African Americans until it was sold in 1917.



# THE MCKINNEY CENTER

AT BOOKER T. WASHINGTON SCHOOL  
103 FRANKLIN AVENUE

The Booker T. Washington School opened on October 7, 1940, to students from the African American community. The school was a Works Progress Administration project and it replaced the Jonesborough Colored School, also known as the "School on the Rocks" on Spring Street. The school housed grades first through eighth.

Booker T. Washington School closed in 1965 when Washington County Schools were finally integrated. The building now belongs to the Town of Jonesborough and functions as an arts center and rental facility for the

community. It is named in honor of the McKinney family and their legacy. Ernest McKinney was a teacher and principal at the school from 1956-1957.

To learn more about the McKinney Center and the Mary B. Martin Program for the Arts, visit [mckinneycenter.com](http://mckinneycenter.com).



# MILL SPRING PARK

SPRING STREET



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 plant which also made ice cream. The Mill Spring area still serves as a social gathering place for the community. The Slemmons House was built around 1860 and is now owned by the Town of Jonesborough.



# OLD TOWN HALL

148 E. MAIN STREET

Built in 1939 by the Works Progress Administration, Old Town Hall has a colonial design to mirror the early history of the town. It housed government offices, the police station, and the fire department. Today, these buildings provide a wide variety of goods and beverages to

visitors and locals alike. The green space on the corner is a nice place to sit and watch the business of Main Street.



# OLD JONESBOROUGH CEMETRY

In 1896, the Colored Peoples Cemetery Society established College Hill Cemetery at the top of

East Main Street as a final resting place for the African American Community. The Society and nature segregated the two cemeteries, but those boundaries have been removed and the two cemeteries can be viewed one from the other. They are commonly referred to as the Old Jonesborough Cemetery. Their stories are shared together on cemetery tours and ongoing preservation efforts continue to take place.



# THE SALT HOUSE

127 FOX STREET

Built in the late 1840s, the iconic Salt House has served as a Masonic Hall, wholesale grocery, warehouse, store, post



office, and distillery. Salt was rationed to residents during the Civil War from this location, giving it the name, Salt House.

## GREEN'S HILL

The hill on the north end of town is known as Green's Hill, named after John Green and his family, who owned lots of land in the area. It is suspected that Andrew Jackson fought a duel with fellow lawyer, Waightstill Avery, on the hill in 1788. At the duel, both men decided to fire their pistols in the air instead of at each other.

## GREEN MANSION

Behind the Salt House, you will notice a two-story brick home built in 1825 by John Green. Set on a massive stone foundation, this house has distinguishing characteristics of the Federal period. The home has been altered very little and is still similar to how it appeared over 180 years ago.

# REES-HAWLEY HOUSE

114 E. WOODROW AVENUE

Just across the railroad tracks, you will find the oldest home in Tennessee's Oldest Town. Built in 1793 by James Rees, a solicitor for the territory south of

the River Ohio. A frame addition was added in 1818 with the veranda style porch, while board and batten siding was added during the turn of the 19th century.

## JACOB'S-BIBLE HOUSE

106 E. WOODROW AVENUE

Built in the 1830s, this wood frame house strikes an impressive figure at the top of E. Woodrow Avenue. The home was most likely built by Solomon Jacobs; it was occupied for a short time by Solomon's sister Catherine and her

husband, Thomas Emmerson. Thomas was the first mayor of Knoxville, Tennessee and Catherine operated a subscription school for young students after his death. The home has been renovated many times.

## PARSON'S TABLE 102 EAST WOODROW AVENUE

Built from 1872-1874, this Gothic Revival-style brick structure was the original Christian Church in town. It also served as a temperance and lecture hall, as well as a restaurant known as the Widow Brown's/Parson's Table. The small framed building behind it once served as a parsonage.



## THE IMMORTAL THIRTY

The railroad came through Jonesborough in 1857. There was talk of the train coming to town in the 1840s, but there were concerns that Jonesborough wasn't big enough to be a stop. A group of families who became known as the "Immortal Thirty" mortgaged their personal property and businesses to fund the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad line that came through town. The original train depot was located in the parking lot in front of the Parsons Table; it burned in 1887.

# CENTRAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH

**106 FOX STREET**

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.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY COURTHOUSE

**100 E. MAIN STREET**

The existing courthouse sits on the site of at least 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.



# COURTHOUSE SQUARE

The buildings on either side of the Courthouse range in date from the 1800s through the mid-1900s. They have always been businesses, and at one time the Herald & Tribune's print shop was located on East Courthouse Square. The Herald & Tribune began publication in 1869 and is still published weekly.

On West Courthouse Square, the "Mail Pouch building" was once the last saloon in town that closed in 1904 when Jonesborough went dry for a period in time. The sign was painted in the early 1900s and restored in the 1990s.



# MAUK'S 101 W. MAIN STREET

This building once served as a post office, doctor's office, taxi stand, and more.

Mauk's has long been known as the pharmacy and drug store of Jonesborough. This corner is well documented in the fire of 1873 picture taken by town photographer LW Keen. West Main Street was the worst impacted by the fires of the late 1800s.

The prevailing south westerly winds were relevant in numerous fires that claimed buildings along the west side of Courthouse Square.



# WASHINGTON COUNTY COUNTY ARCHIVES

**103 W. MAIN STREET**

This Art Deco style building was constructed in 1915 for the First National Bank. In 1993, Washington County bought the property and moved some of their offices, including the Mayor's office, into the building. After a renovation at the courthouse, those offices moved out and the



## 1950S POST OFFICE 111 W. MAIN STREET

Constructed in the 1950s by the US Government, this building was the Town's Post Office until the 1980s. The grand opening was a big deal and made front page news in the Herald & Tribune. This mid-century modern structure is now loft apartments with a commercial business on the street level.

building became home to the Washington County, Tennessee Department of Records Management and Archive. The original vault now houses over 200 years of history, including Jonesborough's oldest documents.

## BANKING & TRUST COMPANY 115 W. MAIN STREET

The Jonesborough Banking and Trust Company was chartered on April 8, 1886. John D. Cox, who made part of his fortune in California during the 1849 Gold Rush, 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. They continued operations well into the 20th century when it was bought by First Tennessee Bank, now First Horizon.

# MAIN STREET CAFE

**117 W. MAIN STREET**

Built in the 1930s, this building was home to Jonesborough's post office from 1931-1959; after that, the building was used as a laundromat. In the 1980s, it became a restaurant

called Main Street Cafe. This is one of the oldest businesses in town. If you go inside, you'll see the original tin punched ceiling tiles. The upstairs offices were rented throughout the years by several doctors and a dentist.

# JACKSON THEATRE COMPLEX

**125 - 121 1/2 W. MAIN STREET**

Built in 1921 as a furniture store, this was also once home to Jonesborough's first moving picture theater called the Blue Mouse Theater. 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, named after President Andrew Jackson.

The Jackson Theatre was a popular hangout for kids

to gather and spend \$0.25 on movies and concessions. The adjacent building was home to a funeral parlor and now houses the Stage Door as part of the Jonesborough Repertory Theatre which was organized in 1972.

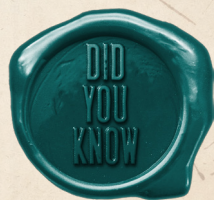


# THE HISTORIC EUREKA INN

127 W. MAIN STREET

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 restored to its glory days of 1900, and has reclaimed the original name, Eureka.



## THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO THE NOWHERE

The Jackson Theatre was a segregated structure. The balcony was reserved for African American residents. If you visit the Eureka Inn, you will find another lasting memory of segregation. There is a door on the western side of the building that seems to go nowhere. This was the "colored" entrance for the dining room of the original inn. Today, both of these buildings are welcoming places for all people.

# SISTERS ROW 205-209 W. MAIN STREET

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 built for his daughters, giving this building a name that is still used today, "Sisters Row".



# JONESBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

211 W. MAIN STREET

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 by the congregation for seating today.



## CZECHOSLOVAKIAN CHANDELIER



A crystal chandelier imported prior to the 1940s from Czechoslovakia still hangs in the sanctuary of the Jonesborough Methodist Church.

# THE CHUCKEY DEPOT

## TRAIN MUSEUM AT JONESBOROUGH 110 S. 2ND AVENUE

Built in 1906 by the Southern Railroad, this Victorian depot was originally located in Chuckey, Tennessee. Situated between Jonesborough and Greeneville, Chuckey was a bustling railroad town. The depot ceased operation in the 1940s as passenger rail service decreased. It was used as a hardware store for many years and owned by the Babb family.

The railroad was going to tear it down in the early 2000s, but the Babb family approached Jonesborough

about saving the structure. It was ultimately decided that the depot would be taken apart and relocated to Jonesborough.

The restored building is now home to the Chuckey Depot Museum, a partnership between the Town of Jonesborough, the Heritage Alliance, and the Watauga Valley Railroad Historical Society.

The museum tells the history of Chuckey as well as the history of the railroad in Northeast Tennessee.



# DEPOT STREET

Depot Street gets its name from Jonesborough's second train depot that was built alongside the tracks after the original depot, located behind the Courthouse,

burned in 1887. The second depot looked a lot like the Chuckey Depot. It was Victorian in style, and you can still see the concrete slab where it was located.

## ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE WAREHOUSE 600 DEPOT STREET

The Salvage Warehouse serves the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia region. Operated by the Heritage Alliance, the Warehouse offers a wide selection of materials that have been salvaged from other, historic

properties. Materials date from the 1800s-mid 1900s. The Warehouse is open from April-October and is available the rest of the year by appointment. Contact the Heritage Alliance for more information.

## ALFRED MARTIN RAY HOUSE CORNER OF W. WOODROW AND 2ND AVENUE

Alfred Ray purchased this home in the early 1900s. Alfred and his twin brother, John, were born into enslavement. They were enslaved by Dr. Rhea, a local dentist. After the Civil War, Alfred joined the U.S. Army. They changed the spelling of his last name from Rhea to Ray, and

other members of his family adopted this spelling. Ray was assigned to the 10th U.S. Cavalry, known as the "Buffalo Soldiers." He fought in the Spanish-American War alongside Teddy Roosevelt and his "Roughriders." He also fought in the American Indian Wars and other conflicts. He retired from the Armed Forces after 30 years and retired to Jonesborough with his wife, Etta. Alfred passed away in 1917 and is buried in College Hill Cemetery.

# DEPOT STREET BREWING

904 DEPOT STREET

Founded in August of 2004, Depot Street Brewing is the Tri-Cities longest operating craft brewery.

Taking inspiration from variety of international flavors, they brew all of their beers, and root beer, in small batches onsite for the freshest taste.



# ACADEMY HILL

312 W. MAIN STREET

This location was home to the Odd Fellows Female High School, owned and operated by the Jonesborough Lodge No. 40 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. The school opened in the early 1850s. The property was sold to the Jonesboro Educational Society in the 1880s and was home to the Jonesboro Graded School and Jonesboro High School. The 1850s building was torn down in

1925 to make room for a new high school, which opened in 1926. The building continued to welcome high school students until 1951 and elementary school students until 1971. In 1979, the property was purchased by the Jonesborough Preservation Corporation and renovated into condominiums. The name Academy Hill derives its name from all the schools that have stood on this spot and all the students who were educated here.

# MANSION HOUSE 200 W. MAIN STREET

Built in 1843 by Jonesborough's first official postmaster, John W. Simpson, this building was one of Jonesborough's earliest hotels. It served stagecoach 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. Hotel operations ceased prior to 1862 when the building and the adjoining back lot was sold to Dr. Mahoney. The lot held original living quarters for the enslaved people, who helped build the Mansion House, and a large stable, which is now the home at 103 First Avenue.



## THE FIRST ABOLITIONIST NEWSPAPER

At 130 W. Main, Elihu Embree, a Quaker and local iron mine owner, published his historic paper *The Emancipator*, the first publication in the world dedicated solely to the abolishment of slavery in the United States. Embree's paper had seven editions and was published at Jacob Howard's print shop from April-October 1820. Embree passed away in December of 1820, but his paper had over 2,000 subscribers. Inconsistent with his principles, Embree was an enslaver until the day he died. In his will, he asked that his enslaved woman Nancy and her five children be freed, provided with a place to live, and that money be set aside to educate the children. It is not clear if Nancy and her children were manumitted according to Embree's wishes.



# JONESBOROUGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

128 W. MAIN STREET

Built in the 1840s, this Presbyterian Church is a Greek-Revival structure that still contains the original pulpit, pews and slave gallery.



# CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR HOUSE

124 W. MAIN STREET

One of the few remaining examples of early pioneer construction, this V-notched home originally sat on the Stage Road, approximately two miles west of its present location.

This two-story log house was relocated to downtown Jonesborough in 1974.

Purchased by Christopher Taylor in the late 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. After a failed attempt to turn this area into the State of Franklin, Taylor and John Sevier worked hard on the early development of Washington County.



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.

# THE CHESTER INN

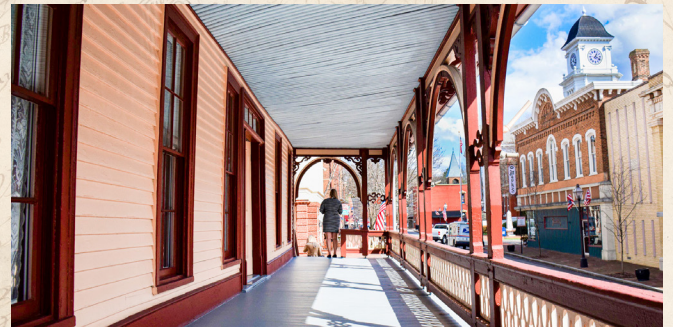
116 W. MAIN STREET

The Chester Inn is 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. A favorite story is of Andrew Jackson being

threatened with tarring and feathering, fighting a fire, and hosting a reception at the Inn.

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 the Chester Inn.



# THE INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING CENTER

## 100 W. MAIN STREET

In the 1880s, the Cox Block occupied this area and included 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. The hotel's interior was known for its detailed marble accents, but was destroyed by fire. In 1942, a second fire destroyed the building. Walt Lavender's

Market was constructed 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's architecture through the ages.



## NATIONAL STORYTELLING THE FESTIVAL

The first National Storytelling Festival took place in 1973 in Jonesborough on a wagon surrounded

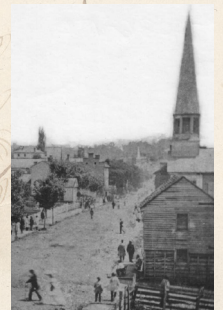
by hay bales in front of the Mail Pouch advertisement across the street from the courthouse. Now, Jonesborough is still sharing stories at the International Storytelling Center through their Storytelling Live! performance and other events throughout the year.



# JONESBOROUGH'S 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 item available in Philadelphia, Baltimore or Charleston could be found in Jonesborough. Today's merchants carry on this tradition of quality merchandise.



# DEADERICK'S STORE

101 E. MAIN STREET

David Deaderick, one of Jonesborough's early founders and merchants, set up shop on this corner in the 1780s.

He sold an assortment of goods including cloth, tools, gin, combs, and Bibles. He accepted animal pelts, beeswax, and flax as payment.

This brick structure was built in the 1860s. The whole corner was once known as the Deaderick block. The building was remodeled in 1929 after a fire caused by a gas explosion. The building has housed many stores over the years including a stained glass shop and an organic health shop.

# LAMPSON HALL 107-109 E. MAIN STREET

Built in 1871 by John L. Lampson and John F. Grisham, this tall, brick structure housed retail stores, offices, and a performance hall. The stage was open to performances for both the white and African American communities.

In December of 1871, the Herald & Tribune reported, "The opening of Lampson and Grisham's Hall, in their new magnificent building,

by the concert of the Methodist Church, South, on last Monday night, was a brilliant affair."

By 1893, J. W. Hoss and W. P. McCall were owners of the building, which eventually became known as the Hoss and McCall Building. In 1889, they were established as merchants in the "selling of Men's and Boys' Furnishings." Over the years, this location has been the site to many stores and restaurants.



# SHIPLEY'S HARDWARE

115 E. MAIN STREET

E.A. Shipley combined these two brick buildings into one in the early 20th century. He operated a successful hardware company and called it, "the largest hardware store between Bristol and Knoxville".

Later, the hardware store was known as the Dobyns-

Taylor store. The building has housed an antique mart for a number of decades. The archival photograph shows a brand new Singer Sewing Machine giveaway at Shipley's Hardware in 1912. The event was well attended and documented in the local paper.



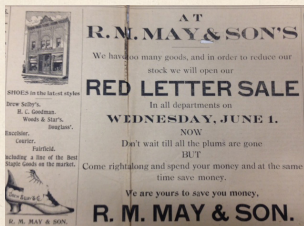
# R.M. MAY AND SONS

117 E. MAIN STREET

An eye-capturing headline in the Herald & Tribune on September 18, 1895, announced, "An Elegant Building. R. M. May's New Store Completed and Occupied." The family were proprietors in dry goods, notions, shoes, clothing, hats, matting, carpets, furniture, etc.

In an October 1895 notice printed in the Herald & Tribune, May boasted, "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." You can just make out the name of the original business in a "ghost sign" at the top of the building. Hattie Broyles, Washington County's first female jailer, signed a lease for this property in 1935 and opened a store here called the Broyles Cash Store.



# TELEPHONE BUILDING 125 E. MAIN STREET



This squat, brick structure makes its first appearance on the 1888 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and is listed as a "telephone office building." The building eventually housed the Nolachucky (sic Nolicucky) Telephone and Electric Company whose charter was requested on April 22, 1895.

Its purpose was to furnish "telephone communications in and

between Jonesboro, Greeneville, Embreeville, Erwin, Elizabethton, Bristol, Blountville, Kingsport, Fall Branch, and Johnson City..." It later became the Bristol Telephone Company

If you look up at the top of the building, you can still see those porcelain connection points where the telephone lines used to run out of the building. In 2022, the building became a jewelry store.



## THE TWO MINNIES

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.

# THE NAFF- HENLEY HOUSE

127 E.  
MAIN  
STREET

This Greek revival style home is one of the few private homes left 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.

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.

# RHEA LODGE NUMBER 47

129 E.  
MAIN  
STREET



Built in 1905, this brick structure was originally the meeting house for Rhea Lodge No. 47. The Lodge has a long association with Jonesborough. On February 22, 1823, the Grand Lodge of Tennessee granted a dispensation authorizing the Masonic members of Jonesborough to form into a lodge. John Kennedy was named as Worshipful Master, John

Blair as Senior Warden, and Jacob Howard as Junior Warden. They were formally recognized on October 9, 1823. Rhea Lodge remained here for sixty-five years before selling the property in 1970. Since then, the site has offered ice cream and candy to eager customers. If you look up in the windows, you can still see a piece of the building's Masonic past.

# THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

The Great Seal of the State of Tennessee was designed and made by two brothers, William and Matthew Atkinson of Jonesborough.

The Atkinsons' silversmith shop was likely located near 137 East Main Street. In October 1806, a deed of another property references a division line stating it adjoined the

"Silversmith shop now occupied by Atkinson and Boyce." This property was on lot 31, and without further documentation we are not certain where the exact silversmith shop was located. First used on April 24, 1802, by Governor Archibald Roane, their design is still in use today with some minor modifications over time.

Archival images throughout the Guide provided by the Heritage Alliance

# THERE'S MORE TO EXPLORE

During your time strolling our well-preserved 18th century town, we hope you had an opportunity to explore our local shops and eateries, or experience one of our unique festivals. If not, that's the perfect reason to plan another trip to Jonesborough. We have a little something for everyone and hope to see you again soon!





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