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## **APPENDIX 2:**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INTERPRETIVE TOURS**

#### **NATIVE AMERICAN HISTORY TOUR**

Whether nomadic or settled in villages, Native-American culture in the Heritage Area was centered on the Tennessee River. During the Paleoindian period (13,000-8,500 BC), Native Americans roamed a vast landscape, following bison herds on the paths they etched into the terrain. The river was a source of fresh water for the animals and people. During the Archaic period (8,500-1,000 BC) Native American life became more settled, and their nomadic paths became conduits of trade. The Woodland period (1,000 BC-1,000 AD) was characterized by mound building and plant domestication. As European-Americans settlers migrated to the region, they also used the ancient paths for commerce. Tensions between the two cultures culminated in the Indian Removal Act, forcing Native Americans to leave tribal lands and relocate in present-day Oklahoma. Throughout the Heritage Area, there is evidence from all phases of Native American civilizations, from traces of their trails to artifacts now in museums to extant mounds. Few of the Native American resources within the Heritage Area are fully recognized with interpretive markers. Native American history is currently the least developed of the three major themes of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area, based on available brochures in visitor centers. There are several historical markers in the Heritage Area devoted to Native American history. Below, the thematic resources are outlined across the Heritage Area.

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The Native American History tour launches from the most comprehensive interpretive site within the Heritage Area, the **Oakville Indian Mounds Park**, 1219 County Road 187 Danville, AL 35619. Featuring the Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center and Woodland-period ceremonial mounds, the 83-acre state park is located in Lawrence County to the southeast of Moulton. The history of the defunct town of Oakville (ca. 1820-1850) is intertwined with Native American history at the park site. The site yielded some one thousand artifacts, showcased in the park's museum. The group of mounds includes the largest surviving ceremonial mound in Alabama. Located inside Oakville Indian Mound Park are numerous historical markers. The park hosts annual events, including a Cherokee powwow, Chickasaw Trail tours, and a multi-cultural Indian Event in its 25<sup>th</sup> year. The park also pays homage to native son Jesse Owens with an annual cross-country run for high school athletes. The multi-cultural event attracted 15,000 attendees in 2011.

The Native American tour continues within Lawrence County, southwest of Moulton. Within the William B. Bankhead National Forest are the **High Tower Path** and the **Kinlock Historic District**. The High Tower Path was a trail extending from Charleston, South Carolina, through northern Georgia and Alabama, and into Mississippi, used by the Cherokee, Chickasaw, and Creek. In Bankhead National Forest, hikers can explore remnants of the path. In the Sipsey Wilderness area of northwestern Bankhead Forest is the Kinlock Historic District, featuring an enormous rock shelter with 18 petroglyphs from the Mississippian period. (NOTE: before visiting the Bankhead National Forest, check to see if there are any special permits or passes required.)

**Melton's Bluff**, in north Lawrence County on the Tennessee River, was the former site of a Cherokee village and later a plantation developed by John Melton and sold to Andrew Jackson. Overlooking the river, some of this land later became inundated with the construction of TVA's system of dams.

Russellville in **Franklin County** is the site of **Five-Oaks Spring**. This spring originally supplied Native Americans fresh drinking water and was the primary natural feature attributed to the establishment of the town.

The **Oka Kapassa festival**, held at Spring Park in Tuscumbia, is an annual festival that began in 2005 as a reunion of Native-American families and friends and features traditional music, food, oral history, tool making, and crafts. Oka Kapassa (Ococoposa), is the Chickasaw name for "Cold Water," the name they gave to Spring Creek and to a late-eighteenth-century trading post at the Tennessee River. Settlers named their new town after Chief Tuscumbia, a Chickasaw rainmaker in 1822. The event takes place September 7-8 in 2012.

At any time of year, Spring Park is worth a visit on the Native American tour as the site of the **Sacred Tears Statue and Markers**, a bronze statue honoring the many people of different tribes who traveled the Trail of Tears. The statue represents their sorrow and perseverance. At the statue, a plaque was funded in 2003 by the motorcyclists who participate in the "**Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride**" and the Alabama-Tennessee Trail of Tears Corridor Association. The site honors some 90,000 Native Americans who were removed to present-day Oklahoma. Creek Indians began to pass through Tuscumbia on their way west as early as 1827.

Nearby, the **Tuscumbia Landing Site** was an important river site during the early settlement period; the landing is also associated with the Trail of Tears, as some of the route was along the Tennessee River. Currently, interpretive plans for the Tuscumbia Landing site are in development.

The historic Natchez Trace was originally a Native American trail, then an important trade corridor, and now part of the federal Natchez Trace Parkway. **Buzzard Roost**, on Hwy. 72 ALT three miles west of Cherokee in western Colbert County was the site of an inn on the Natchez Trace. At Cherokee, Scots-Chickasaw brothers George and Levi Colbert, for whom the county is named, operated inns and a ferry at Buzzard Roost Creek on the Natchez Trace by 1805. The town of Cherokee was also home to the Chickasaw Indian Agency at present-day Malone Creek beginning in 1825, and the Caney Creek Chickasaw School opened in early 1827. The Treaties of 1832 and 1834, however, would force the removal of Chickasaws after 1837. Beginning in 1836, Chickasaw lands were auctioned to the public.

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There is a remnant of **Old Natchez Trace** six miles north of Cherokee. This is in the vicinity of **Rock Creek Archaeological District** (address restricted), a site associated with prehistoric Native American occupation. On the Natchez Trace Parkway near the Alabama-Mississippi border is Bear Creek Mound. The site served as a hunting ground during the early Archaic period, long before the mound was built during the Woodland period.

There is another remnant of the **Old Natchez Trace**, No. 310-2A, where S.R. 20, intersects with the Natchez Trace Parkway. The **Trail of Tears Commemorative Motorcycle Ride**, which runs through Athens in Limestone County and Florence, ends with a pow wow at Waterloo in western Lauderdale County. This annual event, which began in 1994, occurs the third weekend of each September and traces part of the original path of the Trail of Tears, west along Hwy 72. The town of Waterloo was a stop and steamboat landing on the Trail of Tears. At 501 Main Street in Waterloo is an 1872 house that now houses **Edith Newman Culver Memorial Museum**, featuring Native American artifacts, Civil War relics, and town antiques.

Thousands of Cherokee who traveled along the water and rail route via Decatur and Tusculum passed through Waterloo on the Trail of Tears. At Waterloo they camped while waiting to board steamboats for transport west. Following the general route of present-day U.S. Hwy. 72 to Florence, these Cherokee traveled through Waterloo in 1838.

Near the Natchez Trace in this part of the county is the **Tom Hendrix Memorial Wall**. It was constructed over thirty years and honors its creator's great-grandmother, a Native woman who returned to her Alabama home after enduring the grueling Trail of Tears to Oklahoma. According to family lore, the Native-American girl who was forced to leave her home found no music in the streams of Oklahoma and returned to the "singing river." Hendrix constructed the memorial by hand with millions of pounds of stones from the Tennessee River. See Tom Hendrix's website for contact information to arrange a visit <http://www.ifthelegendsfade.com/index.html>.

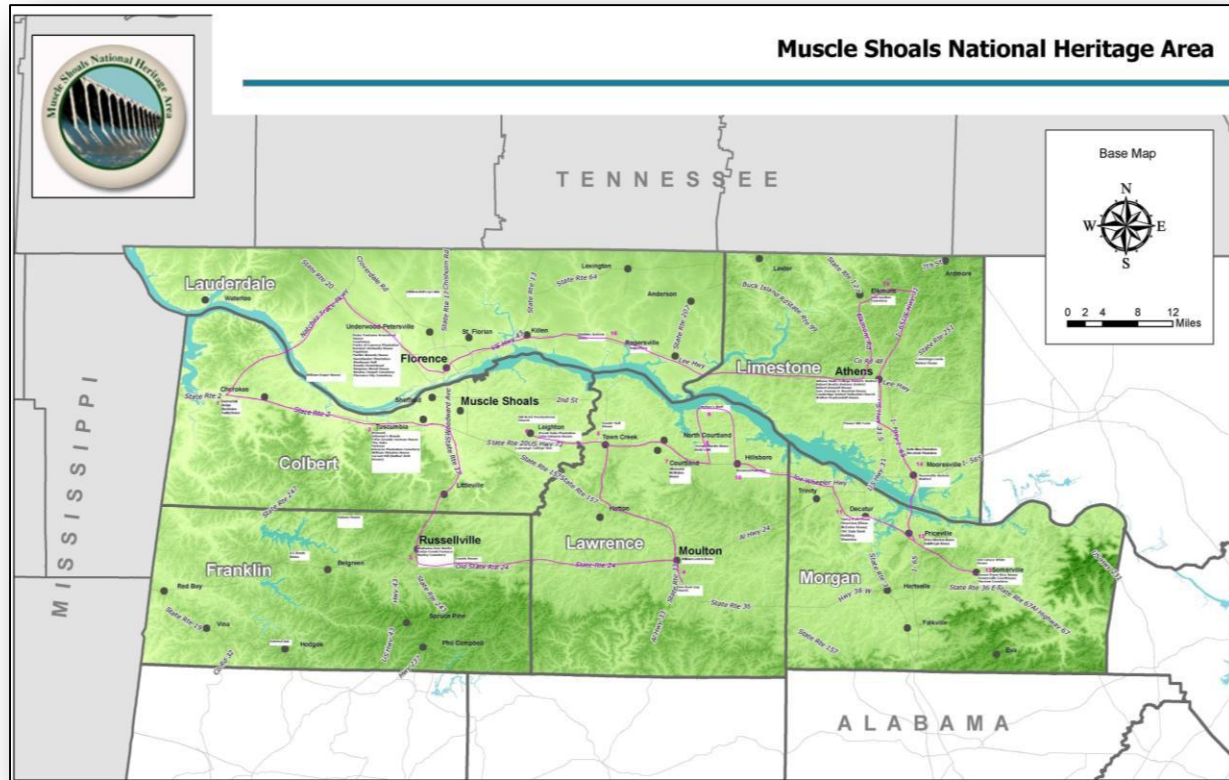
In Florence, there are several sites related to Native American Heritage, including the Florence **Indian Mound and Museum**. Known as Wawomanona, this earthwork is the base of what is thought to have been a ceremonial mound dating from at least 500 AD. The museum houses artifacts from the different Native-American cultural periods, back 10,000 years.

The city of Florence is located on the Tennessee River overlooking **Seven Mile Island Archaeological District** (address restricted). Its period of significance is c. 8000 B.C.-1650 AD and today is a wildlife management area of 4,685 acres. The Seven-Mile Island Wildlife Management Area is accessed from the Tennessee River and by land from the north side of the river. Small game, waterfowl and deer (archery only) are hunted in this area. Also, feral hogs, invasive species causing destruction through the state and the southeast region, are also hunted here. The Archaeological district is significant for its potential to yield information about the ancient cultures which once inhabited the area.

At Decatur visit **Rhodes Ferry Park**, site of an 1810's ferry dock and designated trail head for the Trail of Tears National Historic Route. Around the turn of the nineteenth century, the area of present-day North Alabama was claimed as sacred hunting ground by both the Cherokee and Chickasaw Nations, who resented encroachment of white settlers. Tension between Native- and European-American cultures led to President Andrew Jackson's the Indian Removal Act of 1830. The Cherokee people resisted removal longer than any other of the five southeastern tribes. By 1837 and 1838, however, over 4,000 Cherokee were moved from Ross' Landing in Chattanooga, down the Tennessee River to Decatur. Due to the shallow waters there, the Native Americans traveled by train in to Tusculum, where the river again became navigable.

## TENNESSEE RIVER TOUR

### AGRICULTURAL ECONOMY SUB-THEME TOUR



**NOTE: THIS MAP TO BE GRAPHICALLY ENHANCED**

The Tennessee River Valley offered a vast, fertile landscape to pioneers for growing crops. The soil and topography proved capable of supporting agriculture far beyond subsistence farming. Landowners grew cotton in abundance, using slave labor, and grew wealthy in the process. Their plantation dwellings and their stately town homes are indicative of the personal and collective community wealth derived from the agricultural economy. Today there are still several examples of antebellum architecture in both rural and urban settings. Due to the broad and remote nature of the plantation system, many of the resources of this period are found at a distance from towns and from each other. Some towns or counties have developed convenient driving tours to promote these significant resources. Where they exist, these tours are noted. Otherwise, this plan recommends the following driving tour, grouping together rural and urban locations as convenient.

The Agricultural Economy tour starts in Athens, which has a well-established antebellum trail. The **“Limestone County Antebellum Trail”** is a driving tour that provides an overview of the cotton economy of Limestone County before the Civil War, as well as examples of the types of rural plantation homes and “city” houses built by the area’s wealthy planters. The tour begins in Athens, winds through the southern part of the county and ends in the important 19<sup>th</sup> century community of Mooresville. The houses in Athens and Mooresville are easily viewed from the street and sidewalks, while historic markers help to identify the four rural properties. Some of the numerous stately homes on the tour include the Gov. George S. Houston House, the Walker-Kuykendall House, the Robert Donnell House

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(all in Athens), Belle Mina and Woodside Plantation (at Belle Mina), and a collections of buildings at historic Mooresville.

Also part of the driving tour is the Athens State College Historic District. Now known as Athens State University, Athens State College opened as the Athens Female Academy in 1822. The oldest higher education institution in the state, it changed names several times in its long history and became co-educational in 1931. At that time, it took the name Athens College; in 1975 it became part of the state educational system, becoming Athens State College. Local architect Hiram Higgins designed the campus' Founders Hall, completed in 1844.

Other significant sites within Limestone County dating from the antebellum plantation period are the Cambridge United Methodist Church at Athens, the 1809 Cummings-Lewis-Nelson Log Cabin, and New Garden Cemetery, established in 1831, at Elkmont.

No official, organized driving tour currently exists for **Colbert County's** resources representing the **Agricultural Economy** theme. However, there are several to see, and many are grouped within proximity of others. In or near Tuscumbia are the following: **Belmont**, considered a rare surviving example in the Deep South of Thomas Jefferson's influence on early American architecture; **Johnson's Woods**, a ca. 1835 Greek Revival style dwelling; **Melrose**, a ca. 1830 "Tidewater" cottage; **Felix Grundy Norman House**, home of Tuscumbia mayor and Colbert County state legislator; **Locust Hill**, built in 1823; **William Winston House**, a ca. 1835-1840 Georgian-style dwelling; **The Oaks**, dwelling from ca. 1820.

There are also several antebellum resources located in or near the town of Leighton. These include the **John Johnson House**, a ca. 1825 Tidewater Cottage; **Preuit Oaks Plantation**, formerly a 2500-acre plantation with 200 slaves and representative of modest plantation architecture; **Old Brick Presbyterian Church**; and **Glencoe Plantation Cemetery**, where Helen Keller's grandfather David Keller is buried.

At the town of Cherokee are the **Hodge-Blackburn-Twitty House**, a ca. 1844 antebellum dwelling built by Col. Richard Mann on the original Natchez Trace, and **Barton Hall**, a ca. 1840 Greek Revival-style dwelling.

The sites representing the Agricultural Economy in **Franklin County** are spread across the county. The **A.T. Bonds House**, four miles north of Guinn crossroads, is a pre-Civil War log home considered one of the oldest houses in the area. The **Counts House** was built ca. 1835 by Major Jesse Counts. It is the only surviving building of the early town of Boston, laid out by Counts following the Indian Campaigns with Andrew Jackson. The **Malone House**, near Frankfort, was the ca. 1820 plantation home of James Malone, a planter.

**Overton Farm**, four miles northwest of Hodges, was established in 1838 by Abner Overton. The remaining farm operates as a reconstructed farmstead museum of living history at **Bear Creek Education Center**.

Just south of Russellville at Rockwood are ruins of the Alabama Iron Works Cedar Creek Furnace. This was the first blast furnace in Alabama, constructed in 1815 by Joseph Heslip, from Pennsylvania. The site represents the region's industrial roots during a time when agricultural dominated the economy. Also at Russellville is Hurley Cemetery, burial site of Major William Russell, veteran of War of 1812 and founder of Russellville. The cemetery is located on County Highway 81, nine miles east of Russellville off of Hwy. 24 and south of Hwy 24. It is accessible to the public.

Most of the Agricultural Economy resource in **Lauderdale County** are conveniently located in or near the city of Florence.

In Florence there are numerous residential historic districts surrounding the campus of University of North Alabama. Some of these neighborhoods were established well before the Civil War and continued to develop after. (Neighborhoods that were not established until after the Civil War can be



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found below under the Community Development sub-theme.) The visitor can drive or walk among these neighborhoods, many of which abut one another. A local street map is recommended. The following residential historic districts are all listed in the National Register.

- The **Cherry Street Historic District** is along Cherry Street, originally laid out in 1818. The district includes a total of 71 structures from 1889-1947.
- The **Wilson Park Complex** consists of a city park and three dwellings. Platted as a park by Ferdinand Sannoner in 1818, the district consists of one square block centered on a water fountain. Originally named City Park, in 1924, it was re-named to honor President Woodrow Wilson. The park is bounded by N. Wood Venue and E. Tuscaloosa, E. Tombigbee, and Seminary Streets. The district includes three dwellings on Tuscaloosa that face the park.
- The **Locust Street Historic District** is one of the earliest neighborhoods in Florence from the 1830s. The district has late-19th & early-20th century revival architectural styles. It is bounded by W. Irvine Avenue, W. College, N. Locust, and N. Pine Streets, in the area immediately northwest of downtown Florence and southwest of UNA.

Individual highlights in Florence include **Courtview (Rogers Hall)**, an 1855 Greek Revival-style dwelling of planter George Washington Foster. It is now part of the campus of the University of North Alabama. The **Florence City Cemetery** with over 9,000 headstones dating from 1821-2004, including graves of pioneers, Civil War veterans, and two governors. **Karsner-Kennedy House**, a ca. 1825 brick dwelling exemplifying the Federal style; **Mapleton (George Coulter House)**, immediately south of downtown Florence, is a ca. 1830 Greek Revival-style dwelling; the **Martin-Bounds House**, ca. 1843 home of James Martin, co-owner of Skipworth Cotton Mill on Cypress Creek; **Simpson-Wood House**, a ca. 1830 dwelling; **Sweetwater Plantation**, with a ca. 1835 Georgian-style dwelling built by Major General John Brahan; **Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery**; and **Wesleyan Hall**, a Gothic Revival-style building from 1855.

Close to Florence are significant plantation sites including the **Peter Fontaine Armistead House** (five miles west), a ca. 1820 homestead on 600-acre land grant; the **Dowdy Homestead**, ten miles northwest of Florence, an early-to-mid-19th century homestead with log dwelling; and stately ruins of the **Forks of Cypress Plantation**, ca. 1832 Greek Revival-style dwelling of James Jackson, cotton grower and owner of famous racehorses.

Additionally, there are other distant homesteads such as **Fuqua Place** (County Hwy. 70, 1 ½ mile northeast of Lamb Ferry in the vicinity of Rogersville), built in 1836 by John C. Fuqua, an early settler and planter; the **Aristides Jackson House** (one-quarter mile east of Elgin, US 72), an 1840 log structure built by Aristides Jackson, planter whose father Benjamin was an early settler here; the **William Koger House** (Smithsonia), a ca. 1825 Tidewater Cottage house; and **Littleton-Holt Log Cabin** (near Bethel Grove Church north of Cloverdale), built 1818 by Charles Littleton, a Revolutionary War veteran. Possibly the only such extant structure in the northwest region.

Most of the Agricultural Economy sites of **Lawrence County** can be found in the string of towns along U.S. 72 – Town Creek, Courtland, Wheeler, and Hillsboro. **Saunders Hall (Goode-Hall House)**, two miles north of Town Creek, is a ca. 1824 plantation house; **Albemarle**, near Courtland, one mile south of US 72, is a ca. 1820 Tidewater Cottage; and the **McMahon House**, also in Courtland, is a ca. 1830 Federal style dwelling. **Pond Spring (Joseph Wheeler Plantation House)**, is located at the community of Wheeler, which bears the name of its famous resident. Wheeler served as Cavalry commander during the Spanish-American War, commanded the First Brigade of Arthur MacArthur's Second Division during the Philippine-American War, and served as a U.S. Representative. Pond Spring is open to the public. Also at Wheeler is **Brides Hill**, a ca. 1825 Tidewater Cottage. The **Boxwood Plantation Dependency** at Hillsboro, is a rare, extant example of slave quarters, built ca. 1854 on Samuel Elliott's plantation.

To the north of U.S. 72, between Courtland and Hillsboro is **Melton's Bluff**, the former site of a Cherokee Village and later part of a plantation owned by Andrew Jackson. Much of the land became part of the Wheeler plantation, demonstrating the extensive range of land-ownership during this period. South of U.S. 72 in the county seat of Moulton is the **William Leetch House**, the ca. 1820 home of

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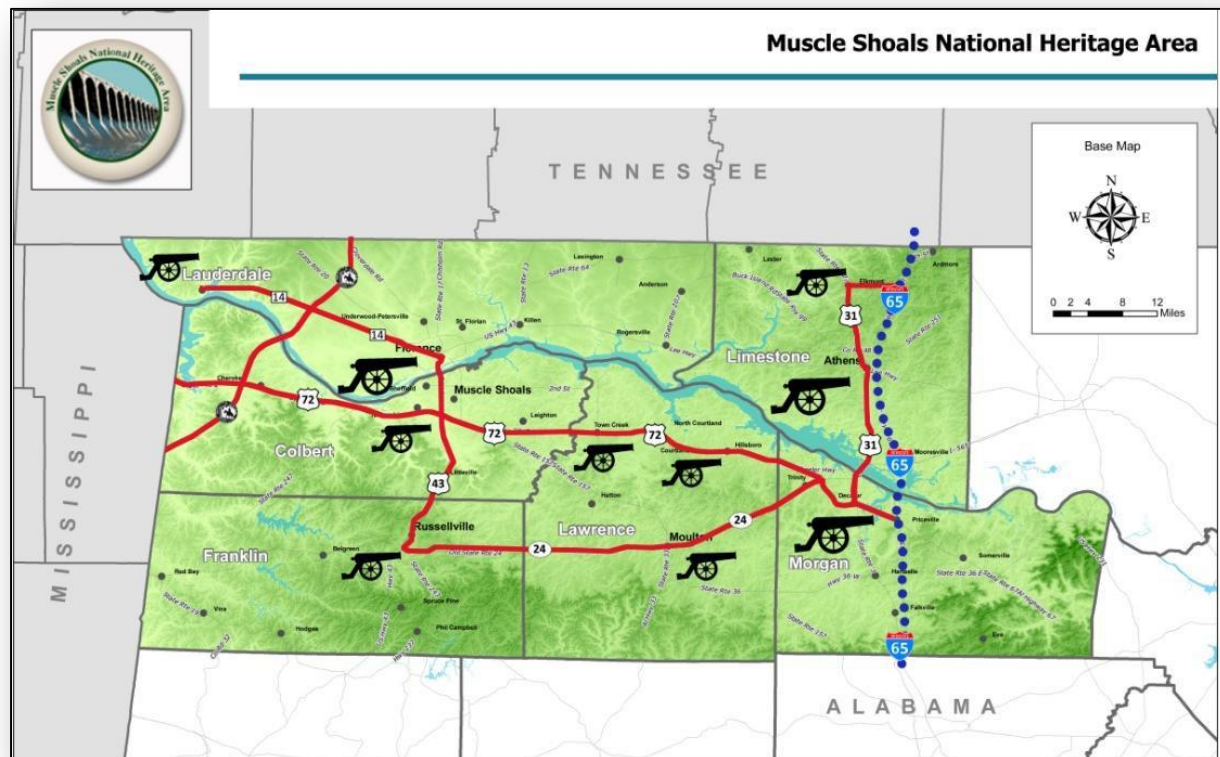
William and Naomi Knox Leetch, whose nephew future President James Knox Polk visited here. Approximately eight miles south of Moulton, off Hwy. 33 in the Bankhead National Forest, is **Pine Knot Log Church**, likely the oldest log church in the state, thought to date to ca. 1808.

In Decatur, there is “A Walking Tour of Historic Decatur, Alabama,” a self-guided walking tour of the Old Decatur and Albany Historic Districts. The latter post-dates the Civil War, but the city’s history as a river and rail hub was significant in context of the Agricultural Economy of the region. The tour features the remaining ante-bellum buildings in the downtown area as well as dwellings from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the two residential districts. **Dancy-Polk House**, built in 1829, was one of three buildings in Decatur to survive the Civil War, as did **Riverview (Rhea-McEntire House)**, built in 1855. The third antebellum site in Decatur is the **Old State Bank Building**, built in 1833. There are interpretive wayside markers at each site. Additionally, just south of town is **Westview (Burleson house)**, from 1841.

The town of Somerville was originally the county seat of Morgan County. The county’s wealth, therefore originally was first evident here. The Federal style courthouse was built in 1837, serving as Morgan County’s seat until 1891, when Decatur usurped the role. The Somerville Courthouse still stands and today houses Somerville’s City Hall. The Alabama historical commission placed a historic marker at the courthouse in 1967. Somerville’s prominence during this period is also represented at **Old Cotaco White House**, a Ca. 1818 stagecoach stop on the first road built between Huntsville & Blountsville by Andrew Jackson, **Green Pryor Rice House**, a Tidewater Cottage associated with an early Alabama legislator, and the **Morrow Cemetery**, located six miles south of town and includes graves of pioneers and 3 Revolutionary War veterans.

Two antebellum homes are located at Priceville. **The Price-Wooten House** is off Hwy. 67, 1.5 miles east of I-65. The 1856 home of Dr. Charles Wesley Price is a typical Greek Revival-style dwelling with a full two-story, central portico. The **Ratliff-Lyle House**, at 509 Cave Spring Road, dates to 1847 in the form of a log pen dwelling. Its present façade is an 1870 addition in the Greek revival-style, a common transformation of earlier settler dwellings indicative of the owner’s growth in wealth and status from the agricultural economy.

## CIVIL WAR SUB-THEME TOUR



Visitors are encouraged to begin the Civil War tour in Decatur. As a river and rail center, Decatur played an important role during the war. The city was occupied at various times by both armies, first falling to the Union Army without a fight in 1862. Later in the year Union troops abandoned the city, destroying much of the railroad and the railroad bridge across the river. Local citizens managed to salvage some of the rail line between Decatur and Tuscumbia. The area was occupied again in 1864 by Union troops under General Grenville Dodge, who captured Decatur and built a pontoon bridge across the river. He ordered residents to leave the city and destroyed all its buildings that were not housing his troops or supplies.

There are several sites in Decatur associated with the Civil War. A **Confederate Memorial Monument** is on the lawn of the Morgan County Courthouse at 302 Lee Street. The **Blue and Gray Museum of North Alabama**, at 723 Bank Street houses what is reputed to be the largest private collection of Civil War relics in U.S., including swords, guns, uniforms, drums, photographs, and more. The **Old State Bank Building**, at 925 Bank Street was built in 1833 and was used as a hospital during the Civil War. It is one of three antebellum buildings in Decatur to survive the Civil War. Today the State Bank Building is open to the public as a museum of local history and banking and is available for special events and programming. The other two are located close by: The **Dancy-Polk House** is at 900 NW Railroad Street just across the railroad tracks, and the **Rhea-McEntire House**, at 1105 NW Sycamore, served as headquarters alternately for Confederate and Union forces.

Across the river from Decatur, at the **Limestone County** Courthouse in Athens is the **Confederate Monument**, actually, the second such statue erected on the courthouse lawn in Athens. The first, unveiled in 1909, depicted a Southern soldier with a defeated posture and inscription, disappointing the citizens of Athens. It was moved to the Athens City Cemetery and replaced in 1912 with a new monument depicting a proud Confederate soldier. During the Civil War, fighting occurred in April and



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May of 1862 resulting in extensive damage to the town. In early 1863, the Union troops at Athens constructed **Fort Henderson** to protect the rail line through the town. Located on present-day Browns Ferry Street, the five-sided earthwork was surrounded by a twelve-foot wide ditch. On September 24, 1864, General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked the fort, leading to its eventual surrender. Forrest continued north along the rail line towards the town of Elkmont.

One mile south of Elkmont is the **Sulphur Trestle Fort**. This site was constructed by the Union Army to defend a strategic trestle bridge of the Tennessee & Alabama Central Railroad. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked the fort on September 25, 1864 and overwhelmed its defenders. He captured hundreds of Union soldiers and two artillery pieces before burning the fort and the bridge. Approximately 200 Union soldiers and officers were killed in the bloodiest one-day land battle fought in Alabama. The fort site is accessible via the Richard Martin Trail, a rails-to-trails path along the former railroad bed of the Alabama-Tennessee Railroad.

In **Lawrence County**, near the intersection of Hwy 72 ALT and AL 101 is **Town Creek Battlefield**. The April 28, 1863 battle was a cavalry fight at the beginning of Union Brigadier General Abel Streight's raid into Alabama. The site includes four bivouac areas, one picket line, one battle line, one railroad bridge site, and one railroad bed. A state historic marker currently interprets the site.

In the town of Russellville, there is a **Confederate Monument** at the **Franklin County** Courthouse. It was erected in 1911 by the John W. Harris Chapter of the U.D.C.

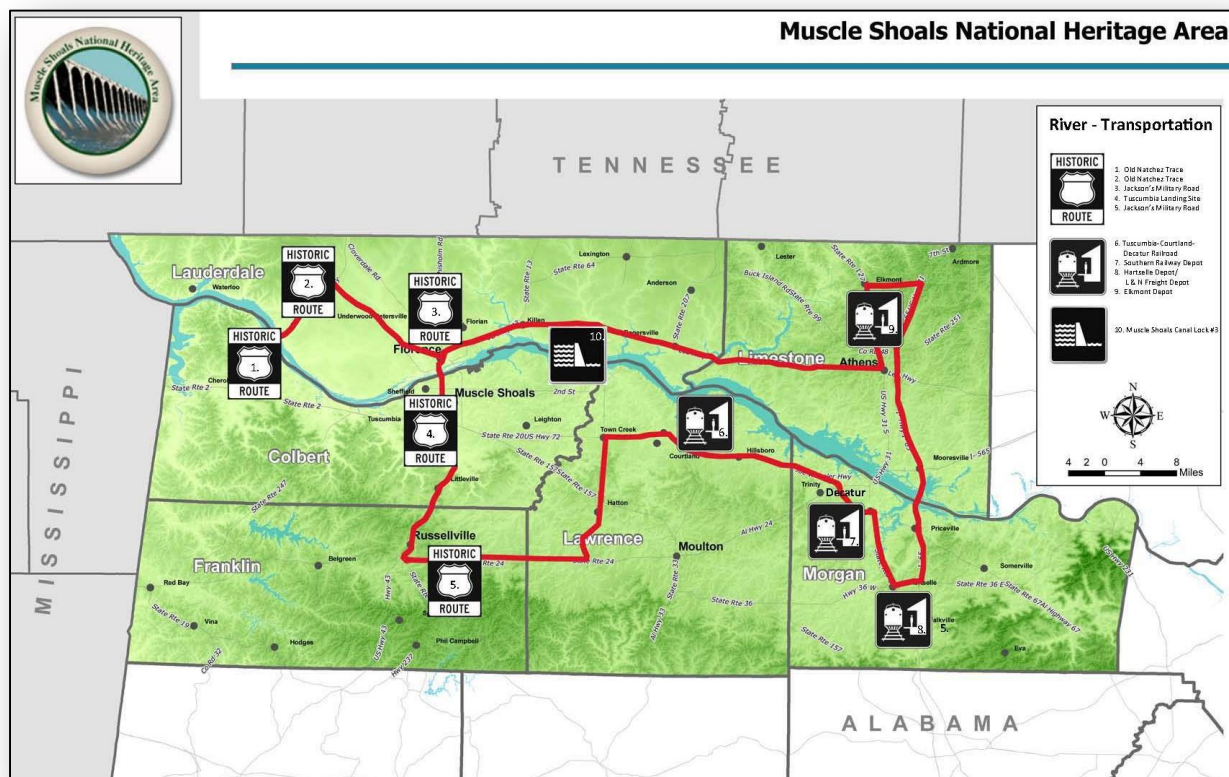
In Tuscumbia, the **Confederate Memorial** is part of the **Colbert County** Courthouse Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The monument was erected in 1911 by UDC, Tuscumbia Chapter.

At the Florence Public Square in **Lauderdale County** is a **Confederate Monument** erected in 1903 by the Ladies Memorial Association and Florence Chapter of the U.D.C.

Also in Florence is **Pope's Tavern** is at 203 Hermitage Drive. This tavern and dwelling is one of the city's oldest buildings and was used as a hospital during the Civil War. It is now operated as a museum with Civil War artifacts and displays recounting the building's history as a road tavern and private residence.

Another museum associated with Civil War history is in western Lauderdale County. At the town of Waterloo is the **Edith Newman Culver Memorial Museum**. The 1872 building at 501 Main Street now houses the museum featuring Native American artifacts, Civil War relics, and town antiques.

## TRANSPORTATION SUB-THEME TOUR



Transportation was critical to early development within the Heritage Area. The river, roads, and rail lines all contributed to the economic success and growth across the region. Early roads that led settlers here and enabled trade were originally Native American trails that followed migrating grazing herds. These were developed further, and rail lines were constructed. The low-water shoals in the Tennessee River hindered year-round navigation, and canal systems were attempted in the 1830s, but not completed until 1890. To remedy this problem, an intra-state rail line was constructed to circumvent this portion of the river. The different modes of transportation were therefore highly inter-dependent in order to move agricultural products, chiefly cotton, to market. The transportation system is linked additionally to Native Americans in their removal along the Trail of Tears, which included land and water routes. This driving tour connects historic points in the transportation system, allowing the visitor to experience this theme and related themes within a region-wide context.

Visitors are encouraged to begin their tour at the **Tuscumbia Railway Depot**, on W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The depot, built in 1888, is a resource of the Colbert County Courthouse Historic District, listed on the National Register. The **Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad** was a vital bypass of the shoals that hindered navigation of this portion of the Tennessee River. Goods, chiefly cotton, left the river in Decatur and traveled by rail through Courtland. At Tuscumbia, the Tuscumbia Railroad Company built a connector between its original depot (not extant) and **Tuscumbia Landing**, where river transportation could safely resume. Listed on the National Register, the **Tuscumbia Landing** was used by steamboats beginning in the 1820s. Additionally, the Landing was a Trail of Tears site, from where members of the Creek Nation were removed in the 1830s. The connector rail bed, a wagon road and the landing itself are still visible. The site received a grant for archaeological survey, and interpretive plans are in development. The present (1888) Tuscumbia Railway Depot was restored as a museum in

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2004-2005 after years in a state of abandonment. Construction of a roundhouse and turntable should be completed in 2012. The museum relates the significance of the multi-modal transportation system to the development of the region.

The Tennessee River was an important east-west transportation route through north Alabama; this area was also a link within a vital north-south transportation route. Settlers along the Tennessee and Ohio River system shipped goods to New Orleans on flatboats. To return home, they walked the **Natchez Trace**, which crosses through western Colbert and Lauderdale Counties. Accommodating travelers along the route were numerous taverns and inns, such as **Buzzard Roost**, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Today, the site of this hotel can be found on Hwy. 72 ALT three miles west of the present-day town of Cherokee in Colbert County. Remnants of the historic **Natchez Trace** can be found six miles north of Cherokee. It was at Cherokee that George and Levi Colbert, of mixed Scots-Chickasaw heritage, operated inns and a ferry that carried travelers across the Tennessee River to Lauderdale County. Today, the federal Natchez Trace Parkway crosses the river. In both counties, these remnants of the historic Natchez Trace are listed on the National Register.

Another important early-nineteenth-century road that followed early Native-American trails was the **Jackson Military Road**. After the Battle of New Orleans, General Andrew Jackson proposed a shorter road for military movement from Nashville, Tennessee, through north Alabama and Mississippi, and continuing on into Louisiana. Congress appropriated \$5,000, and in 1817, Jackson oversaw 300 American soldiers to construct the road. After 1819, the Jackson Military Road replaced the Natchez Trace as the primary mail route through the region. In Florence, at the intersection of AL-133 and County Road 47, next to Deibert Park, there is a historical marker about **Jackson's Military Road**. Listed on the Alabama Register, twenty-one miles of the original road connects seven National Register historic districts and includes thirty-three resources from Woodland Indian mounds to nineteenth-century taverns and stores to twentieth-century railroad structures. At 203 Hermitage Drive is **Pope's Tavern**, formerly an inn on the historic road. Today, it is a museum open to the public.

U.S. 72 between Colbert and Lauderdale Counties traces the Jackson Military Road. In Sheffield, during the 1920s, much of the original road was incorporated into the Jackson Highway, which continues into downtown Tuscumbia, where it becomes Main Street. The **Jackson Military Road** continued southward from Sheffield to the town of Russellville, the seat of **Franklin County**. Incorporated in 1819, the town was named for Major William Russell, an early settler and worker on Jackson's Military Road. Present-day Jackson Highway, built in the 1920s, through Russellville follow portions of this historic road, demonstrating the influence of early transportation routes in the establishment of small towns across the region.

In **Lawrence County**, the town of Courtland, though not the county seat, was an important trade center for the nineteenth-century agricultural economy. Courtland was established in 1818, and by the mid-1830s, the town was a key rail center on the **Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad**. The town's prominence is reflected by the more than 100 dwellings composing the Courtland Historic District. Another small depot is located at Town Creek, which is open during the week as a senior citizens' community center.

The third city connected by this railroad was Decatur where the westward flow of the Tennessee River became impassible for transportation. In 1855, the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad was purchased by the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, which built a rail bridge across the Tennessee River at Decatur. Also in 1853, the Tennessee & Alabama Central Railroad connected Decatur to Nashville, Tennessee. The two railroads intersected at Decatur, making the city a major hub for the north-south and east-west lines. This railroad line was renamed the Nashville & Decatur Railroad in 1861. After the Civil War, the Nashville & Decatur Railroad served as a dividing line between the predominately white and African-American neighborhoods on the east and west side of the track, respectively. Decatur's industrial base was booming, and freedmen found employment opportunities along the river at various industrial sites. The **Southern Railway Depot** at 800 Railroad Street was designed by architect Frank Milburn and built in 1904. It is listed on the National Register.

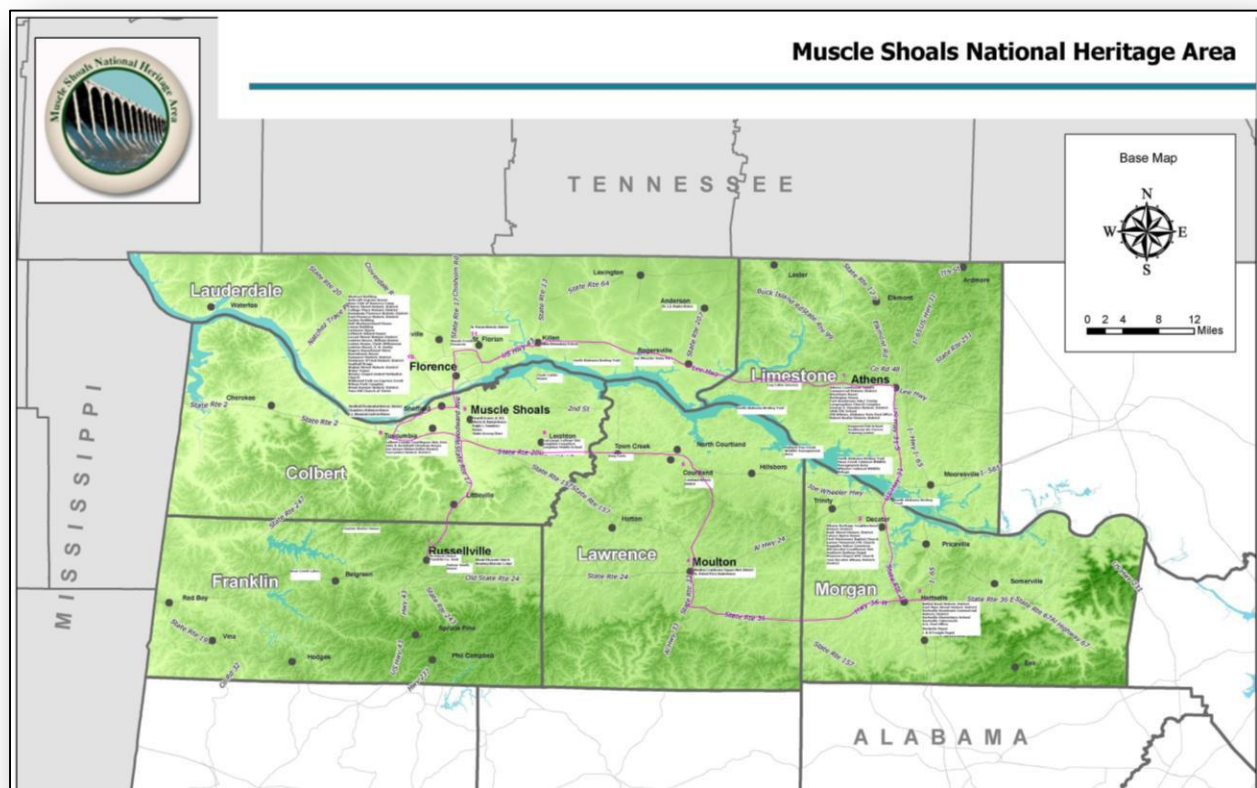
Hartsville is located in southeastern Morgan County. Founding of the town in 1870 is directly attributed to the importance of the railroad in shipping agricultural products from outlying rural areas into Decatur

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at the river. **Downtown Hartselle** is a historic district listed in the National Register. There is a **passenger depot** from 1915 that replaced an earlier depot here. Also, Louisville & Nashville Railroad built a **freight depot** in Hartselle around 1915. Both are listed in the Alabama Register. Also in Morgan County is the small Belle Mina Depot. Belle Mina was an extensive plantation in the area, as was the Woodside plantation. This small depot was responsible for moving the plantations' cotton to market. Today, the building is vacant and in fair condition, in need of preservation

In **Limestone** County, the town of Elkmont is located off I-65. Elkmont is at mid-point on the Richard Martin Trail, remnants of a former railroad bed. One mile south of Elkmont a fort was constructed by the Union Army to defend a strategic trestle bridge of the Tennessee & Central Alabama Railroad, connecting Decatur and Nashville. After the war, the line was eventually acquired by the Louisville & Nashville Railroad which built the **Elkmont Depot** in 1886. The trail is accessible from Elkmont, where the depot is open for community functions and is an informal repository of local history. The depot is open to the public.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUB-THEME TOUR



**NOTE: THIS MAP TO BE GRAPHICALLY ENHANCED**

Transportation and agriculture, two other important themes of the Heritage Area, influenced the growth of towns such as Tuscumbia, Florence, Decatur, Athens, Russellville and smaller communities. These towns were established before the Civil War, however, the post-war industrial boom and resulting increase of wealth manifested most dramatically in the architecture of residential neighborhoods that developed outside downtown business districts. The private residences of affluent businessmen and public leaders express an individual and collective display of prosperity and community development. This driving tour connects the historic residential neighborhoods surrounding each of the county seats, allowing the visitor to experience the theme of community development within a region-wide context.

### **Limestone County:**

There are two residential districts in Athens listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The first, the **Robert Beaty Historic District**, was named for a co-founder of Athens. The district is located to the east of the historic commercial district. It includes 46 individual properties within the boundaries of E. Washington, S. Clinton, E. Lee, and East Streets and also includes portions of S. Beaty, E. Green, and South Streets. Architecture within the district ranges from ca. 1825 Greek Revival dwellings to ca. 1900 Queen Anne houses and ca. 1925 Craftsman Bungalow, Spanish Colonial, and Dutch Colonial styles. The vast timeline represented in this architecture demonstrates the development within this area over more than a century. Athens has a self-guided walking tour brochure for the Robert Beaty Historic District. This residential district is described in detail with information on many of its 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century residences.



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The second residential historic district in Athens is the **George S. Houston Historic District**, located to the northwest of the historic commercial district. Governor George S. Houston's private residence is individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is also included in the district bearing his name. He was a two-term governor in the 1870s and went on to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives. The district's period of significance is 1830-1939, mixing early-nineteenth-century Federal style dwellings with nineteenth-century revival styles and twentieth-century Craftsman Bungalows, like the Robert Beaty Historic District.

The population in Limestone County, as in Colbert and Lawrence Counties each increased by over one-third between 1900 and 1950. This growth is evident in the increased twentieth-century development within these two residential historic districts in Athens. A local brochure is available that will help the visitor envision this development of the built landscape over time. The Greater Limestone County Chamber of Commerce produces "Columns & Cultures: History's Gracious Echoes: The Guide to the Limestone County Antebellum Trail." The brochure provides maps with directional arrows to each antebellum building in both historic districts in Athens. Additionally, the brochure guides the visitor to the small town of Mooresville, with individual properties in along the way. The town of **Mooresville** is the oldest town in Alabama territory, established in 1818. As a small town, Mooresville includes domestic, as well as commercial, religious, and government buildings, all within walking distance of each other. The spatial arrangement of Mooresville groups buildings of public function away from private residences, as in larger towns. Mooresville is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

#### **Morgan County:**

There are two residential historic districts in Decatur, and their names reflect the development of not one, but two communities here that struggled to unify into a cohesive city. As (Old) Decatur rebounded from the devastation of the Civil War, New Decatur was established in 1887 as a planned community designed by Albert Frahn. This emerging commercial center provoked deep rivalries with Old Decatur, as Northerners migrated to the city. To help ease tensions, the new name of Albany was adopted in 1916. Ultimately, in 1927 the two towns joined together to create one city government to boost their economies and centralize their operations.

The **Albany Heritage Neighborhood Historic District** is roughly bounded by Gordon Dr., Summerville Rd., Jackson, 8th, Moulton, 6th, and 4th Aves. The district is listed on the National Register and is primarily a residential district, with dwellings and churches dating from the late nineteenth century.

In contrast, the boundaries of **New Decatur-Albany Historic District**, including parts of 2nd Ave. (100 block NE., 100 block SE. E side, 300 block SE. W side) and Johnson and Moulton Streets, were originally drawn to encompass the commercial, government, and social buildings of the town. Later, the boundaries of the district were expanded to include residential neighborhoods along the same streets. The expansion also included school buildings, a fire station, churches, and a water works, illustrating a full breadth of architectural functions required in community development.

The population of Morgan and Lauderdale Counties doubled between 1900 and 1950. This growth is evident in the increased twentieth-century development within these two residential historic districts in Decatur. "A Walking Tour of Historic Decatur, Alabama" is a self-guided walking tour of the Old Decatur and Albany Historic Districts. The tour features the remaining ante-bellum buildings in the downtown area as well as dwellings from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in the two residential districts. These neighborhood's boast the largest concentration of Victorian-era cottages and bungalows in Alabama. The two historic districts also feature houses and buildings built from the early 1800s to the present, including representations of the Colonial Revival, California Cottage, Dutch Colonial and Frank Lloyd Wright influences.

#### **Lawrence County:**

The town of Courtland, though not the county seat, was an important trade center for the nineteenth-century agricultural economy. Courtland was established in 1818, and by the mid-1830s, the town was a key rail center on the Tuscumbia, Courtland and Decatur Railroad. The architecture of Courtland spans a timeline as vast as that of larger towns in the Heritage Area. The **Courtland Historic District** includes more than 100 dwellings from Federal to Colonial Revival to Craftsman styles of architecture.

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The presence of many twentieth-century dwellings is attributed to the sharp rise in population across the county, a one-third increase between 1900 and 1950.

#### **Franklin County:**

The town of **Russellville** is the seat of Franklin County. Incorporated in 1819, it was named for Major William Russell, an early settler and worker on Jackson's Military Road. Present-day Jackson Avenue in Russellville follow portions of this historic road, demonstrating the influence of early transportation routes in the establishment of small towns across the region. The town of Russellville was established at a crossroads of the military road and Gaines' Trace, named for Edmund Pendleton Gaines. Gaines' Trace began at Melton's Bluff on the Tennessee River in Lawrence County and ran to Cotton Gin Port on the Tombigbee River in present-day Mississippi. Present-day Lawrence Street follows part of that route through Russellville.

#### **Colbert County:**

In Tuscumbia is the **Tuscumbia Historic District**. Jackson's Military Road was constructed through Tuscumbia in 1817, and the town was incorporated in 1820 as Ococoposa (Oka Kapassa), Chickasaw for "cold water." The river and railroad made Tuscumbia a key center for trade. The Tuscumbia Historic District is listed in the National Register and includes nineteenth- and twentieth-century domestic architecture, with 640 buildings. The continued growth of Colbert County through the mid-twentieth century is reflected in the development of this residential district through that period.

From downtown Tuscumbia, Sheffield is just a couple miles to the north. The **Sheffield Residential Historic District** is a wide-ranging district, generally to the north of downtown, but also spreading west into meandering hilly roads near the river bluff and east into diagonal-grid streets. The rough boundaries are E. 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Avenues, River Bluff Drive, Riverside Park, and E. 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the vast district has over 800 buildings dating from 1886-1952.

#### **Lauderdale County:**

In Florence there are numerous residential historic districts surrounding the campus of University of North Alabama. The visitor can drive or walk among these neighborhoods, many of which abut one another. A local street map is recommended. The following residential historic districts are all listed in the National Register.

- The **Cherry Street Historic District** is along Cherry Street, originally laid out in 1818. The district includes a total of 71 structures from 1889-1947.
- The **Walnut Street Historic District** is along Walnut Street between Hermitage Drive and Tuscaloosa Street. In the district there are 29 structures from 1870-1930, including Late Victorian, Revival-style, Craftsman bungalows, and Colonial Revival dwellings.
- The **Wilson Park Complex** consists of a city park and three dwellings. Platted as a park by Ferdinand Sannoner in 1818, the district consists of one square block centered on a water fountain. Originally named City Park, in 1924, it was re-named to honor President Woodrow Wilson. The park is bounded by N. Wood Venue and E. Tuscaloosa, E. Tombigbee, and Seminary Streets. The district includes three dwellings on Tuscaloosa that face the park.
- The **Seminary-O'Neal Historic District** is bounded by Hermitage Drive, Seminary Street and Irvine and Wood Avenues. There are 19 structures from ca. 1908-1943, including two Sear-Roebeck kit houses. Members of the O'Neal family served as Alabama governors.
- The **Wood Avenue Historic District** is along N. Wood Avenue between Tuscaloosa and Hawthorne Streets. It includes Colonial Revival, Queen Anne, Bungalow/Craftsman from 1880-1930. N. Wood Avenue runs along the east edge of the UNA campus.
- The **College Place Historic District** is located along Sherwood Avenue, between W. Lelia Street and Circular Road, and W. Mattie Lou Street. This area is immediately north of the UNA campus. The district has 85 early 20<sup>th</sup> c. dwellings in the Prairie, Tudor Revival, and Craftsman styles.
- The **Sannoner Historic District** is bounded by N. Court and N. Pine Streets between Tuscaloosa Street and UNA. It includes Federal, Greek Revival, Late Victorian buildings and an 1826, rare example of the Spanish Revival style. Ferdinand Sannoner was an Italian engineer who surveyed the land for the town, which he named Florence, after the Italian city.

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- The **Locust Street Historic District** is one of the earliest neighborhoods in Florence from the 1830s. The district has late-19th & early-20th century revival architectural styles. It is bounded by W. Irvine Avenue, W. College, N. Locust, and N. Pine Streets, in the area immediately northwest of downtown Florence and southwest of UNA.

The population of Morgan and Lauderdale Counties doubled between 1900 and 1950. Much of this growth occurred in the major cities of Decatur and Florence, respectively. The need for housing was met by the continued development of the historic residential neighborhoods, as seen in the mingling of early- to mid-twentieth-century and nineteenth-century domestic architecture.

Northeast of Florence is the **St. Florian Historic District**. St. Florian was founded in 1872 by Father A. J. Houser, Director of the Homestead Society of Cincinnati, Ohio. Land was subdivided for homes for German immigrants who became independent landowners. Descendants of the original immigrants still live in the community, some in the original homes. The St. Florian Historic District is listed in the Alabama Register.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICTS TOUR**

The settlement and development of towns in north Alabama were influenced by the shared agricultural economy and transportation, two other sub-themes of the Heritage Area. Generally, the sites representing those themes are antebellum mansions and water, rail, and road corridors, respectively. The prosperity of the region at the county or town level, however, is manifested in the commercial architecture of downtowns, where business transactions took place. From outlying rural settings, agricultural products were shipped via the transportation system to market, and county seats were points of distribution. As such, money flowed through and was concentrated in these towns. As river navigation improved and railroads were rebuilt following the Civil War, north Alabama's market for industrial and agricultural commodities expanded. In kind, urban populations grew, and communities continued to expand business districts. Therefore, downtown commercial historic districts represent community development across the Heritage Area. This driving tour allows the visitor to travel to each of the county seats and some smaller towns and experience the theme of community development within a region-wide context.

### **Limestone County:**

The **Athens Courthouse Square Commercial Historic District** is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The district represents the city's prominence as a commercial center in the county and of North Alabama. Its period of significance begins around the turn of the twentieth century, reflected in the architecture from that period, including Late Gothic Revival and Neo-Classical styles. Included in the historic district are commercial, religious, and government buildings, evidencing the city as a center of both business, social, and public affairs. Residences were built in the blocks away from the bustle of commerce, and affluent families who owned and farmed vast land tracts kept grandiose city homes in these residential neighborhoods.

The town of **Mooreville** is the oldest town in Alabama territory, established in 1818. As a small town, Mooreville includes commercial, domestic, religious, and government buildings, all within walking distance of each other. The entire town is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

### **Morgan County:**

The **Bank Street Historic District** represents the rebuilding of Decatur following the Civil War. Originally, river transportation made Decatur a commercial center, as Morgan County cotton growers relied on river transportation to New Orleans. After the war, the reconstruction of rail lines in 1871 and their incorporation into the Louisville & Nashville Railroad network greatly influenced Decatur's economic boom and return to its position as a commercial center. Buildings within the historic district served commercial, financial, and government functions. The district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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The **Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District**. Founding of the town in 1870 is directly attributed to the importance of North and South Alabama rail line in shipping agricultural products from outlying rural areas. The historic district includes commercial, government, social, and transportation-related buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Lawrence County:**

The **Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District** includes commercial, government, and cultural buildings dating back to the turn of the twentieth century. The Lawrence County Courthouse in Moulton was completed in 1936. Its Art Deco style was popular during that period in American architecture, particularly in public buildings. The district is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

**Franklin County:**

The town of Russellville is the seat of Franklin County. Incorporated in 1819, it was named for Maj. William Russell, an early settler and worker on Jackson's Military Road. Present-day Jackson Avenue in Russellville follow portions of this historic road, demonstrating the influence of early transportation routes in the establishment of small towns across the region.

**Colbert County:**

In Tuscumbia is the **Colbert County Courthouse Historic District**, listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The 1881 Colbert County Courthouse is the focal point of the district. The district's period of significance dates even further back, to the early nineteenth century and includes commercial, religious, government, and transportation-related architecture.

The **Sheffield Downtown Commercial Historic District** is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Its boundaries are 1<sup>st</sup> Street on the south, Pittsburg Avenue on the west, 5<sup>th</sup> Street on the north, and Columbia Avenue on the east. The district includes commercial, government, religious, social and cultural buildings in architectural styles ranging from Late Victorian to the Modern movement.

**Lauderdale County:**

The **Downtown Florence Historic District** is listed in the National Register. While Florence, like many towns across the region, was established before the Civil War, the height of commercial prominence, occurred after the war. The late-nineteenth century boom is represented in downtown architecture. The earliest building in Florence dates to ca. 1880, when city's population jumped by 500% with the industrial boom.

## INDUSTRY & HYDROELECTRIC SUB-THEME TOUR



**NOTE: THIS MAP TO BE GRAPHICALLY ENHANCED**

In north Alabama, the Tennessee River was an important influence on the development of a transportation system in the nineteenth century and of industry and hydroelectric power in the twentieth century. On November 10, 1890 the canal from Rogersville to Florence was successfully complete. The river fell 85 feet in 14 1/2 miles requiring nine locks. When Wilson and Wheeler Dams were constructed during the early twentieth century, the canal was covered by the impoundment of the river, literally and figuratively altering the currents of modern progress. Construction began on Wilson Dam in 1918, as the nation was embroiled in World War I. The purpose of the dam was to supply electricity to two proposed nitrate plants on the river. The United States needed nitrates for ammunition and explosives. Construction of the dam was a huge boost to the local economy, creating as many as 18,000 jobs. The construction site became an impermanent city of its own, with 1,700 temporary buildings, 185 residential units, twenty-three mess halls, a school for 850 students, an 85-bed hospital, and three barber shops. Production of nitrates began in the Muscle Shoals plant in February of 1918, and the first nitrates were produced in late November of the same year. The war, however, ended two weeks earlier on November 11, 1918, and controversy ensued regarding the future use of the uncompleted Wilson Dam, named after President Woodrow Wilson. From the end of WWI, the Muscle Shoals facility sat idle. The dam became an integral component of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Created in 1933 as part of Roosevelt's New Deal, the TVA was a multi-faceted program to control flooding of the river while expanding opportunities for hydroelectric power and industry. While today TVA is mainly viewed as a producer of power, its original purpose was also aimed to improve the quality of life across a rural, often impoverished, region. In this changing



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environment, some counties of North Alabama experienced a shift from an agricultural economy to one of industry and manufacturing. By 1940, Decatur alone had forty-one industrial plants and six wholesale warehouses, manufacturing cotton textiles, fertilizer, brick, boats and steel barges. In Decatur, the Ingalls Ship Building Company and the Decatur Iron and Steel Company manufactured a variety of barges, ferries, and tow boats that were used in the transportation of grain, coal and iron ore. These companies contributed significantly to the armed forces during World War II, employing thousands of workers. Since the 1940s, aerospace and steel industries have continued to locate plants along the Tennessee River in the Muscle Shoals region.

The Industry and Hydroelectric Development Tour begins at Muscle Shoals City Hall, at 2010 E. Avalon Avenue. In the lobby of the building, exhibits showcase the development of the Wilson Dam project and the industrial boom that followed. Since the incorporation of Muscle Shoals in 1923, this city has become known as the fastest growing city in northwest Alabama.

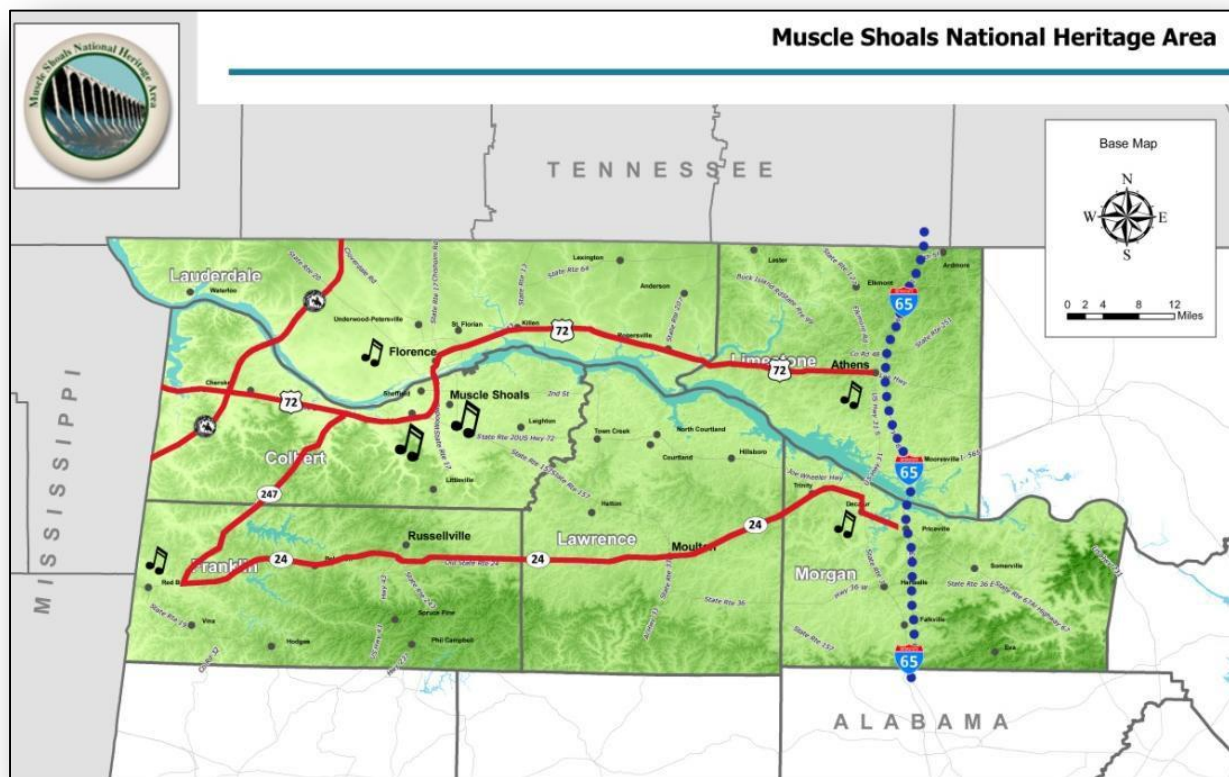
One interesting remnant of the nitrate plant days is **Nitrate Village No. 1**, in Colbert County. When the dam was in development, workers' housing was needed. Construction of Village One began in 1918 by the U.S. Government to house personnel for the nearby Nitrate Plant #1. The neighborhood included 85 dwellings, a schoolhouse, and officers' barracks. These residences remain today, under private ownership. The neighborhood is accessible for a driving tour and exemplifies the design and principles of community planning of its period. The village includes a number of standardized home models in Craftsman- and Spanish Colonial-influenced designs with red tile roofs and stucco exteriors. The Village is located southwest of Sheffield and northwest of Tuscumbia on the east side of Spring Creek near its mouth on the Tennessee River.

**Wilson Dam** – Wilson Dam is one of the largest dams in the world and can be viewed from overlooks on both the north and south sides of the Tennessee River. The south side has interpretive panels describing the construction of the dam. There are presently no public tours of the facility. However, the surrounding reservation offers walking trails, historic markers, camping and fishing. Automobiles are also allowed across **Wheeler Dam**, via Alabama State Route 101.

**Wheeler Dam**, up-river from Wilson Dam, was built in the mid-1930s by TVA. Alabama State Route 101 crosses over the dam. At 72 feet in height and 6,342 feet in length, Wheeler Dam impounds 67,070 acres. Wheeler Lake, a major draw for recreation, attracts four million visitors each year for fishing, boating, and camping. The **Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge**, up-stream from the dam, is a 35,000-acre refuge established in 1938 as a winter haven for migrating birds and is home to fish, reptiles, amphibians, and mammals.

Across the Heritage Area, the TVA system of dams provides abundant electricity, as well as recreational opportunities at **Pickwick, Wilson, and Wheeler Lakes**. Fishing is excellent across the region, which is renowned for small- and large-mouth bass. McFarland Park at Florence hosts major fishing tournaments, with record catches reported.

## MUSIC HERITAGE TOUR



American popular music began as blend of European and African cultural influences. While the Classical theory of Europe formed the foundation of music in the New World, it was the musical traditions of working class and slave populations that contributed to the development of indigenous forms of American popular music. The unique native styles of blues, ragtime, and jazz traced to the American South, specifically, the African-American experience. The roots of American music run deep in this region of north Alabama, from the organic nineteenth-century work songs of cotton fields to the distinctive rhythm sections of the mid-twentieth-century tri-city recording community.

Visitors are encouraged to begin their tour at the **Alabama Music Hall of Fame**, which preserves and celebrates Alabama music and musicians that have contributed to the state's rich musical heritage. The Hall of Fame offers a comprehensive introduction to Alabama music in general, as well as to the importance of music sites in and around Muscle Shoals, Sheffield, and Florence.

**F.A.M.E.** (Florence Alabama Music Enterprise) recording studio is at 603 E. Avalon Avenue is famous for the "Muscle Shoals Sound" and launched the Tri-Cities' music industry boom of the 1960s-70s. Tours are by appointment.

At 3614 Jackson Highway is the iconic **Muscle Shoals Sound Studio**, home of the legendary Muscle Shoals Rhythm Section, featured on countless famous recordings during the 1960s & 1970s.

There are several other music sites to explore while in the Tri-Cities area, including **Counts Brothers Music** at 713 Waverly Avenue in Muscle Shoals and **Cypress Moon Studio** at 1000 Alabama Avenue in Sheffield. The newest site celebrating the area's musical roots is the **Singing River Sculpture**.

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Three of five sites will be located in Colbert County, including one in Muscle Shoals on Avalon Avenue, one at the intersection of Alabama St. and Montgomery in Sheffield, and a third in Tuscumbia. The large-scale sculptures will be of donated recycled aluminum and honor the legendary music and unique sound of “The Shoals” community in the mid- to late-20<sup>th</sup> century.

The **Singing River Sculpture** project will also be represented with a site in Florence. The city is also the location of **W.C. Handy’s Home and Museum**, which hosts the annual **W.C. Handy Music Festival**. Handy’s influence on popular music is highly significant - he is credited with codifying Blues music, an oral idiom of Southern African Americans, and disseminating it through the publishing of sheet music. On its own, or as an influence to other popular styles, the Blues is an intrinsically American musical denominator.

The **Alabama Hitmaker Highway Trail** through scenic north Alabama explores the region’s musical roots. In Franklin County, the trail travels to **Red Bay Museum** near the Alabama-Mississippi border. The museum boasts a **Tammy Wynette exhibit**, devoted the Mississippi native who considered Red Bay home, since it was the closest town.

The **Alabama Hitmaker Highway Trail** continues in Limestone County and includes the **Alabama Opry** at 24861 Airport Road, and the **Tennessee Old Time Fiddlers’ Convention**. The latter is an annual event held in Athens that honors traditional Scots-Irish-American music.

In Decatur, Johnny Sandlin’s Studio is located at 2824 Hunterland Drive SE. The studio is associated with Allman Brothers Band and their recordings in the 1970s.