
F2. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources encompass archaeological, traditional, and built environment resources, including but not necessarily limited to buildings, structures, objects, districts, and sites. The following description of known cultural resources within the MSNHA is organized to mirror that of the previous section on “Interpretive Theme Structures and Stories.” Thus, this section on cultural resources is sequenced as follows: 1) Native American Cultural Resources; 2) Tennessee River Cultural Resources; 3) Music-Related Cultural Resources; 4) Other Types of Cultural Resources. Within each of these sections, the representative listed resources are organized by county. These listed resources are not all inclusive, as a comprehensive inventory of resources organized by county is contained in [Appendix E](#) of this report.

Native American Cultural Resources

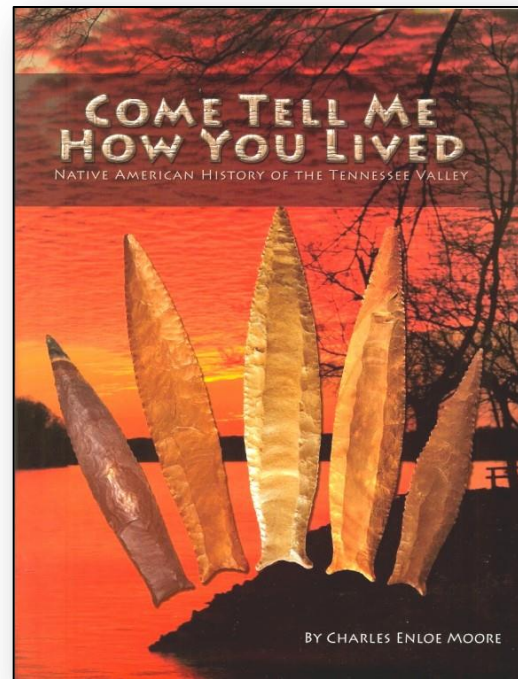
Evidence of the many Indian cultures spanning thousands of years has been found at archaeological and geological sites across the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area. Many village sites have been discovered all along the Tennessee River that are not accessible as tourist destinations, but their discovery reinforces the significance of the river to Native American cultures. Native American burial and ceremonial mounds are abundant throughout this six-county region. Many of these sites are identified by geographical location, specifically on a river or creek, attesting to the significance of the Tennessee River’s tributary system to the evolution of Native American cultures here. Some mound sites have been developed into visitor destinations, with interpretive museums. Other sites have faded from the built landscape along the Old Natchez Trace. And still other sites are restricted, harboring the very earliest archaeological evidence of ancient cultures. Below is a list of some of the most notable sites by county:

Colbert County

- Old Natchez Trace - remnant near Cherokee
- Buzzards Roost - the site of a former tavern stop along the Natchez Trace, originally a Native American trail, then an important trade corridor, and now part of the federal Natchez Trace Parkway
- LaGrange Rock Shelter - near Leighton, it holds evidence of the area’s earliest inhabitants some 11,280 years ago.

Franklin County

- Five-Oaks Spring - at Russellville, it supplied Native Americans fresh drinking water and was the primary natural feature attributed to



Charles Moore’s book on the area’s Native American history is a wealth of information.

the establishment of the town

Lauderdale County

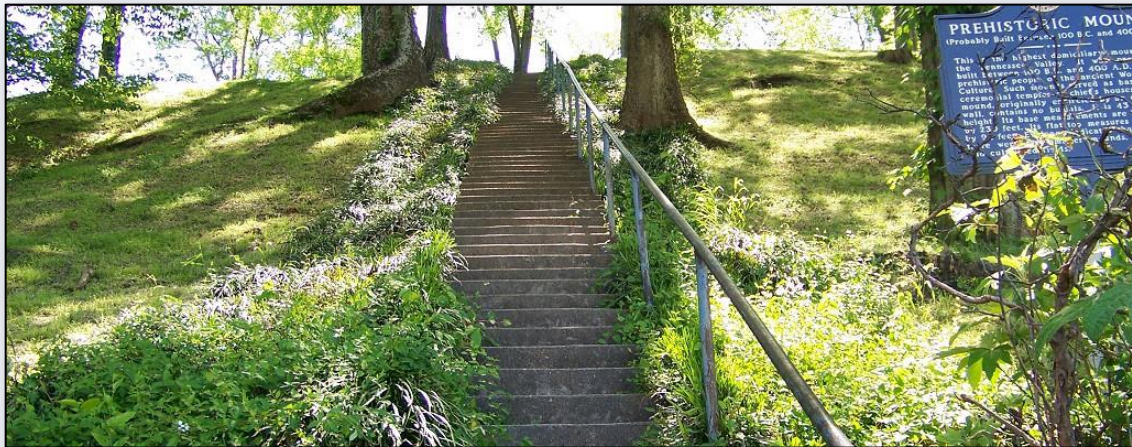
- Old Natchez Trace - No. 310-2A, Florence vicinity
- Seven Mile Island Archaeological District - Tennessee River at Florence
- Indian Mound and Museum – Florence

Lawrence County

- High Tower Path - Bankhead National Forest
- Kinlock Historic District - Bankhead National Forest
- Oakville Indian Mounds – Danville

No key sites are known for Limestone and Morgan Counties. For more detailed information, see [Appendix E](#) for an inventory of cultural resources organized by county.

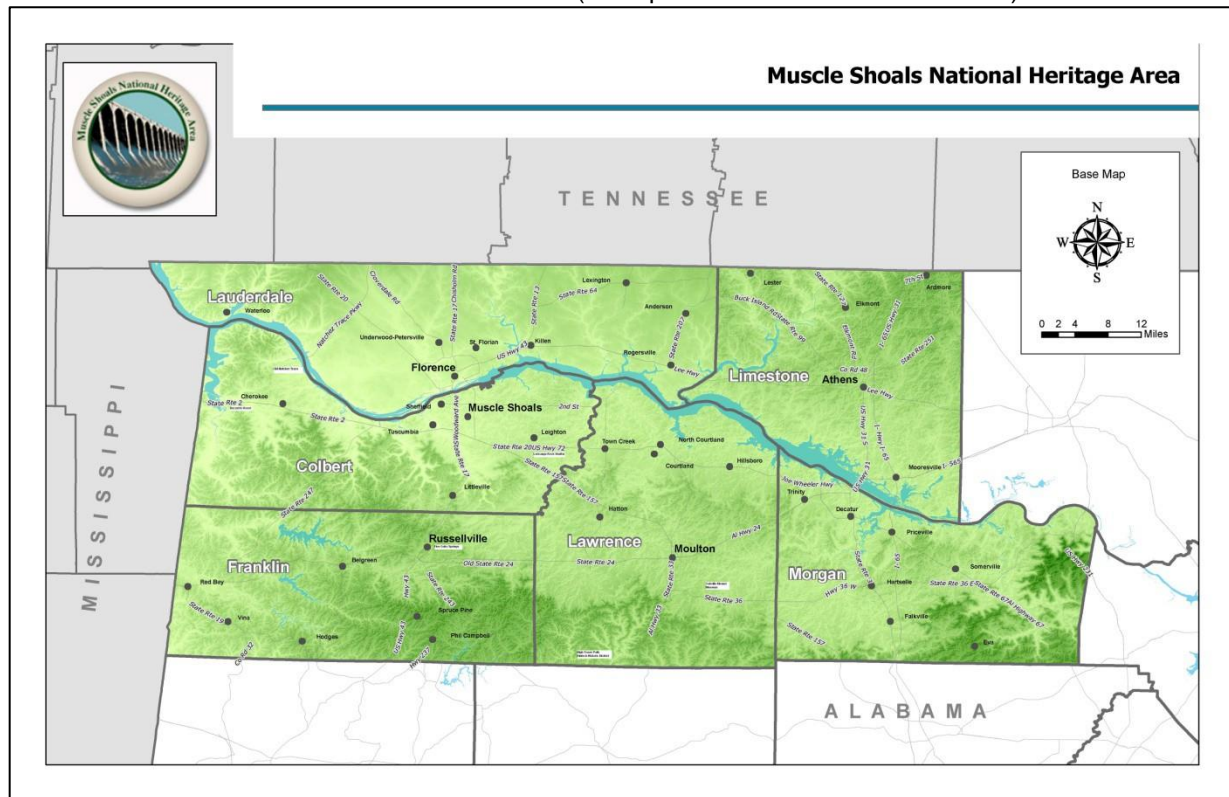
Please see a map of sites on the following page.



A key Native American resource within the MSNHA is the Indian Mound and Museum in Florence.

Source: City of Florence

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE RESOURCES (to be provided as an 11 X 17 fold-out)



Tennessee River Cultural Resources

As with the earlier discussion of the Tennessee River theme's various sub-themes, the summary below of its related cultural resources has also been organized around those same sub-themes.

The Tennessee River: Plantation Economy Resources

Plantation dwellings include a variety of architectural styles, from vernacular to high-style. Settlers from Virginia brought with them a distinct domestic architectural plan in the "Tide-water Cottage." The migrating Virginians embraced the form's ideal dimensions, constructed twice as long as high. Typically, a chimney stood at each end of a side gable. These ideal ratios appealed to the sensibilities of early Americans, and the form became transplanted in the Tennessee Valley. Several examples can still be found in the region. Other plantation owners built large Greek Revival style mansions while, others chose more modest vernacular forms, which some historians interpret as prudent re-investment in the well-being of the plantation and its slaves, over extravagant houses.

Antebellum architecture can also be found in the cities and communities of the region, as plantation owners kept urban residences too. The river became a magnet for commercial centers, ringed by residential areas. As towns grew, educational opportunities emerged as an important part of regional culture. 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. Below is a list of notable sites representative of the plantation economy and it is organized by county:

Colbert County

- Barton Hall - (ca. 1840) Cherokee
- Bellemont - (ca. 1830) Tuscumbia
- King Farm
- Melrose - (ca.1830 Tidewater Cottage) Tuscumbia
- Preuit Oaks Plantation
- Hodge-Blackburn-Twitty - Cherokee
- Felix Grundy Norman House - Tuscumbia
- Locust Hill - Tuscumbia
- William Winston House – Tuscumbia
- Glencoe Plantation Cemetery
- LaGrange College site

Franklin County

- A.T. Bonds House - 4 miles north of Guinn crossroads
- Counts House - New Boston
- Kirkwood - Russellville
- Malone House - near Frankfort
- Overton Farm - 4 mile northwest of Hodges
- Alabama Iron Works Cedar Creek Furnace site - south of Russellville
- Hurley Cemetery - Russellville

Lauderdale County

- Courtview (Rogers Hall) - Florence
- Dowdy Homestead - 10 miles northwest of Florence

- Forks of Cypress Plantation - Florence vicinity
- Fuqua Place - Rogersville
- Aristides Jackson House - Elgin
- Karsner-Kennedy House - Florence
- Littleton-Holt Log Cabin - north of Cloverdale
- Mapleton (George Coulter House) - Florence
- Martin-Bounds House - Florence
- Pope's Tavern - Florence
- Simpson-Wood House - Florence
- Sweetwater Plantation - Florence
- Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church Cemetery - Florence

Lawrence County

- Albemarle - (ca.1830 Tidewater Cottage) Courtland
- Boxwood Plantation Dependency - Hillsboro
- Brides Hill - Wheeler
- Byrd Log House - Courtland
- Thomas Holland House - Hillsboro
- William Leetch House - Moulton
- McMahon House - Courtland
- Saunders Hall - 2 miles north of Town Creek
- Pond Spring (Joseph Wheeler Plantation House) - Wheeler

- Clayton-Hester House - Frankfort
- Hulsey-South House - 5 miles east of Russellville

Limestone County

- Athens State College Historic District - Athens
- Belle Mina (Belle Manor) - the Mooresville-Elkton Rd. - Belle Mina
- Robert Donnell House (ca. 1849) - Athens
- Gov. George S. Houston House - Athens
- Mooresville Historic District (est. 1818) - Mooresville
- Robert Beaty Historic District - Athens
- Woodside Plantation (1860) - Belle Mina

Morgan County

- Dancy-Polk House (d. 1829) - Decatur

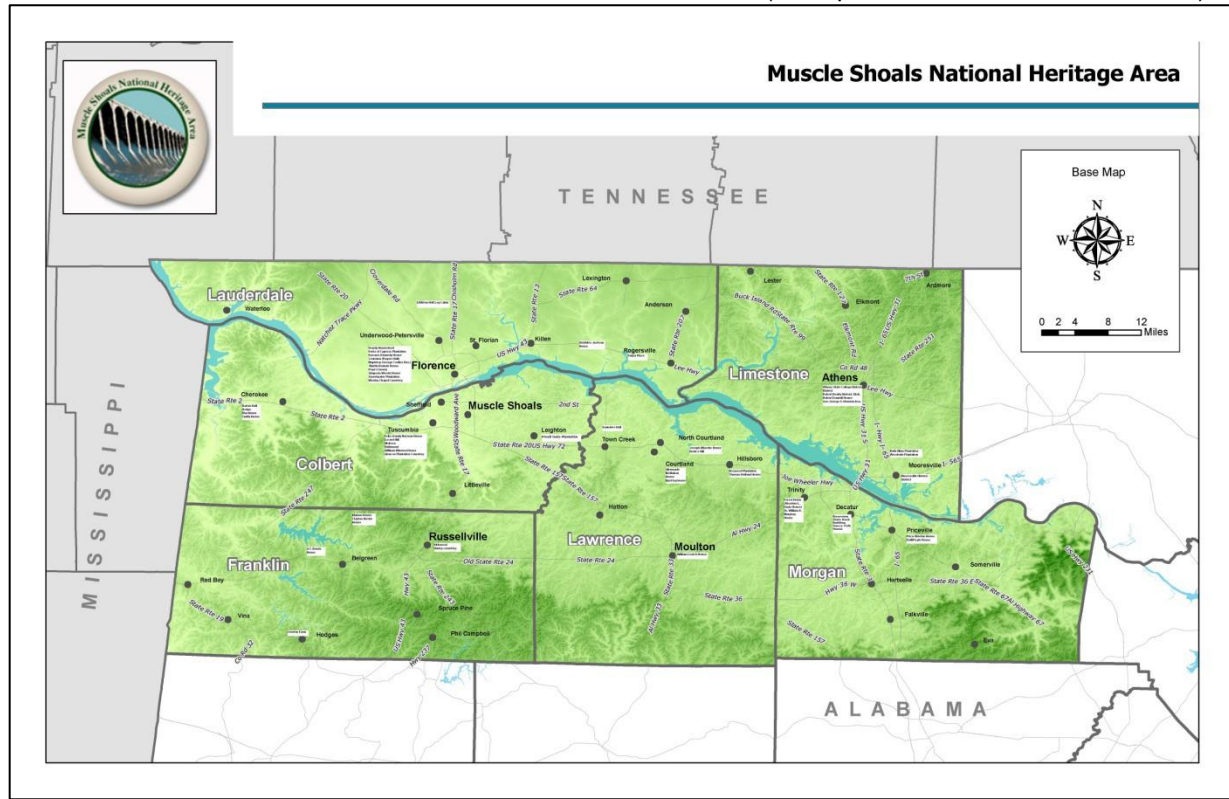
- Forest Home (Absolon L. Davis House - late 1850s) - Trinity
- Morrow Cemetery (early 19th century) - Somerville
- Old Cotaco White House (1818) - Somerville
- Dr. William E. Murphey House (1824 Tidewater Cottage) - Trinity
- Price-Wooten House (1856) - Priceville
- Ratliff-Lyle House (1847) - Priceville
- Green Pryor Rice House (ca.1857 Tidewater Cottage) - Somerville
- Riverview (Rhea-McEntire House – 1855) - Decatur
- Somerville Courthouse (1837) - Somerville
- State Bank Building (1833) - Decatur

For more detailed information, see [Appendix E](#) for an inventory of cultural resources organized by county.



Currently undergoing a major restoration project, Confederate General Joe Wheeler's plantation – Pond Spring – is located in rural Lawrence County. It represents both the plantation economy sub-theme and the Civil War sub-theme of the MSNHA's broader Tennessee River theme.

TENNESSEE RIVER: PLANTATION ECONOMY RESOURCES (to be provided as an 11 X 17 fold-out)



The Tennessee River: Civil War Resources

The Union occupation of much of North Alabama played into the strategy to defeat the Confederacy. Not only did the Union army control rail and river traffic, they used their position to launch raids into Tennessee and Georgia. Though the region as a whole escaped extensive destruction and major battles, several notable engagements occurred as part of troop movements through the area during the Civil War. Below is a list of notable sites representative of the Civil War and it is organized by county:

Colbert County

- Town Creek Battlefield

captured hundreds of Union soldiers and two artillery pieces before burning the fort and the bridge.

Limestone County

- Sulphur Trestle Fort - It was constructed by the Union Army to defend a strategic trestle bridge of the Alabama-Tennessee Railroad. Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest attacked the fort on September 25, 1864 and overwhelmed its defenders. He

- Confederate Memorial Monument – Athens Courthouse property
- Fort Henderson (earthen fort) - Athens

Morgan County

- Confederate Memorial Monument

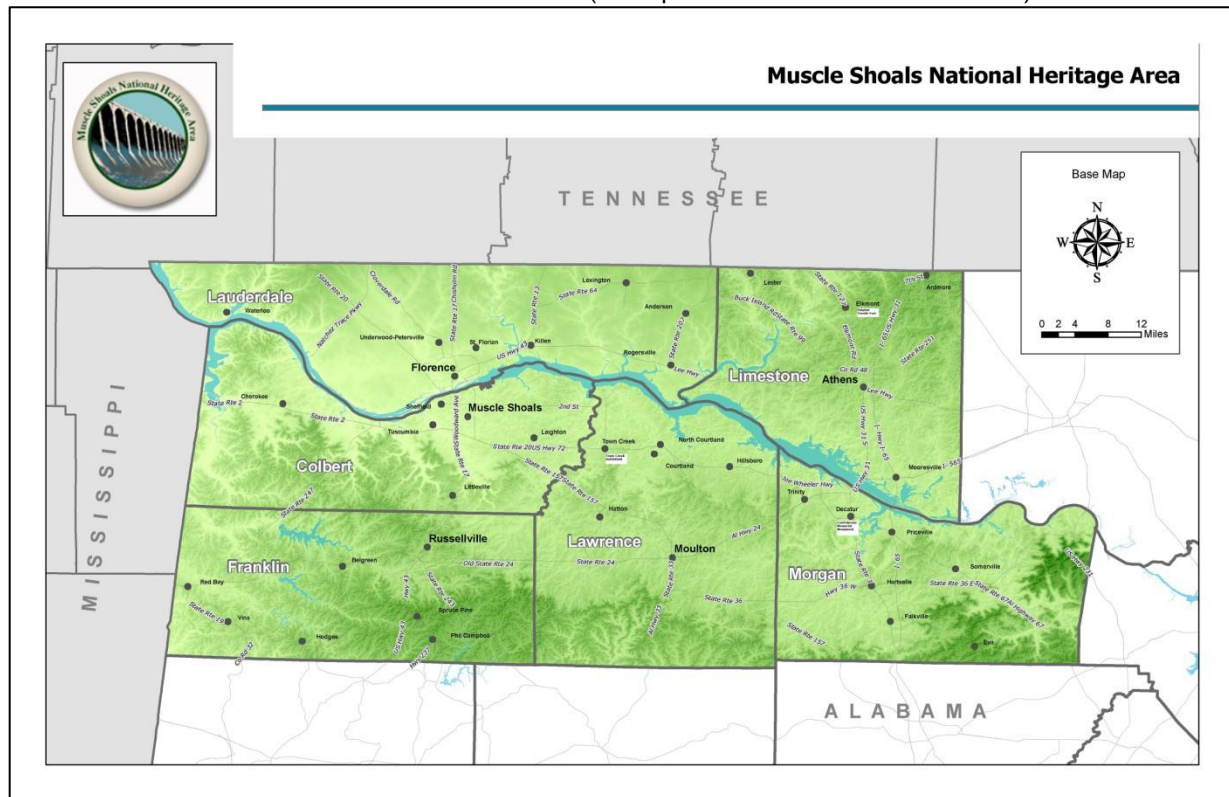
Note: There is a CS monument at every courthouse square I believe. Also, what about Hood's campsites in Muscle Shoals and Florence? For more detailed information, see **Appendix XX** for an inventory of cultural resources organized by county.



Fort Henderson was constructed in 1863 by federal troops occupying Athens. It was a five-sided earthen fort that featured frame buildings and bomb proof chambers. On September 24, 1864, Confederate cavalry under General Nathan Bedford Forrest captured the 900 troops stationed here. Most of those soldiers were with the 110th United State Colored Troops.

Source: Wayside marker erected by the Limestone County Historical Society and the Athens-Limestone Tourism Council - 2002

TENNESSEE RIVER: CIVIL WAR RESOURCES (to be provided as an 11 X 17 fold-out)



The Tennessee River: Community Development Resources

Unlike some of the MSNHA's cultural resources from the area's prehistoric and earliest historic eras, many of those representing the community development theme are relatively plentiful. They include downtown areas, historic neighborhoods, and institutional buildings, to name a few. Below is a list of notable sites representative of community development and it is organized by county:

Colbert County

- Colbert County Courthouse Square Historic District
- Howell Graves Jr. high school
- Ivy Green (Helen Keller's birth home) - Tusculmbia
- Chambers-Robinsons House - Sheffield
- Leighton Cemetery
- Leighton Middle School
- Morris H. Harlan House - Muscle Shoals
- E.L. Newman Lustron House - Sheffield
- Ralph C. Saunders House - Muscle Shoals
- Sheffield Residential Historic District
- Stutts Grocery Store - outside Muscle Shoals
- Tusculmbia Historic District

Franklin County

- McIntosh House - Russellville
- Mount Pleasant Church - 7.5 miles east of Russellville
- Newburg Masonic Lodge - 8 miles east of Russellville

Lauderdale County

- Abstract Building - Florence
- Ashcraft-Ingram House - Florence
- Dr. L.E. Bayles House - Anderson
- Cherry Street Historic District - Florence
- College Place Historic District
- Downtown Florence Historic District
- East Florence Historic District
- Gaskins Building - Florence
- Hall-Westmoreland House - Florence
- Killen Elementary School - Killen
- Lamar Building - Florence
- Larimore House - Florence
- Leftwich-Dillard House - Florence
- Locust Street Historic District - Florence
- Lustron House (William Bowen) - Florence
- Lustron House (Clyde Williamson) - Florence
- Lustron House (E.H. Darby) - Florence
- Mars Hill Church of Christ - Florence
- Rogers Department Store - Florence
- Rosenbaum House - Florence
- St. Florian Historic District - Florian
- Sannoner Historic District - Florence

- Seminary-O'Neal Historic District - Florence
- Southall Drugs - Florence
- Stumpe House - St. Florian
- University of North Alabama - Florence
- Walnut Street Historic District - Florence
- Wilson Park Historic District - Florence
- Wood Avenue Historic District - Florence

Lawrence County

- Courtland Historic District - Courtland
- Dr. Robert Price Irwin House - Moulton
- Moulton Courthouse Square Historic District - Moulton

Limestone County

- Alabama Main Post Office (d. 1931-32) - Athens
- Athens Courthouse Square Commercial Historic District - Athens
- Blackburn House (d. 1873) - west of Athens
- Robert Donnell House (ca. 1849) - Athens
- George S. Houston Historic District - Athens

Morgan County

- Albany Heritage Neighborhood Historic District - Decatur
- Bank Street Historic District - Decatur
- Bethel Road Historic District (early 20th century) - Hartselle
- Cotaco Opera House - Decatur
- East Main Street Historic District - Hartselle
- First Missionary Baptist Church (ca. 1920) - Decatur
- Garner Memorial CME Church (ca. 1945) - Decatur
- Hartselle Elementary School (1916) - Hartselle
- Hartselle Downtown Commercial Historic District - Hartselle
- Hartselle Tabernacle site (1899) - Hartselle
- Morgan County High School (1909) - Hartselle
- New Decatur-Albany Historic District (1880s) - Decatur
- Old Decatur Courthouse Site (1926) - Decatur
- Southern Railway Depot (1904) - Decatur
- U.S. Post Office (1939) - Hartselle

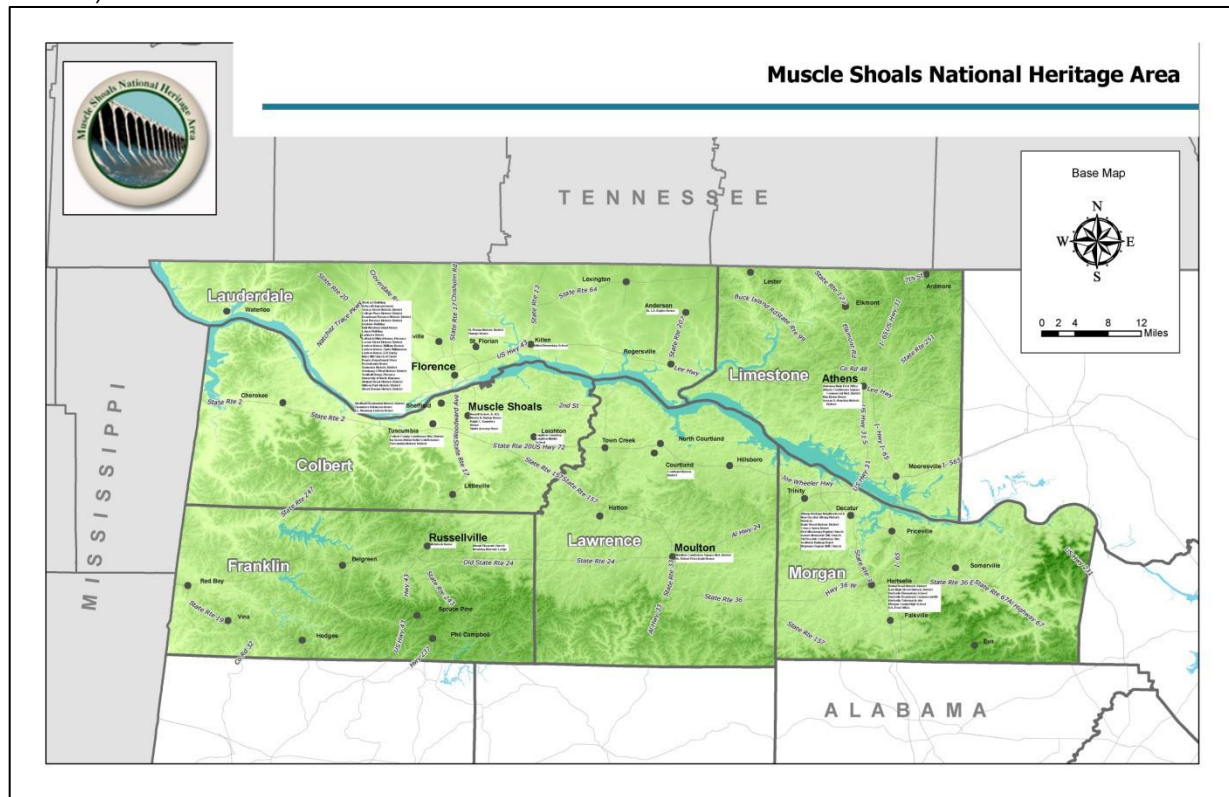
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- Wayman Chapel AME Church (1907) – Decatur

For more detailed information, see [Appendix E](#) for an inventory of cultural resources organized by county.



Ivy Green – the Helen Keller Home – is representative of the community development sub-theme of the broader Tennessee River theme. Located in Tuscumbia, the home represents the growth and prosperity that the river brought to the region during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

TENNESSEE RIVER: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES (to be provided as an 11 X 17 fold-out)



The Tennessee River: Industry and Hydroelectric Development Resources Inventory

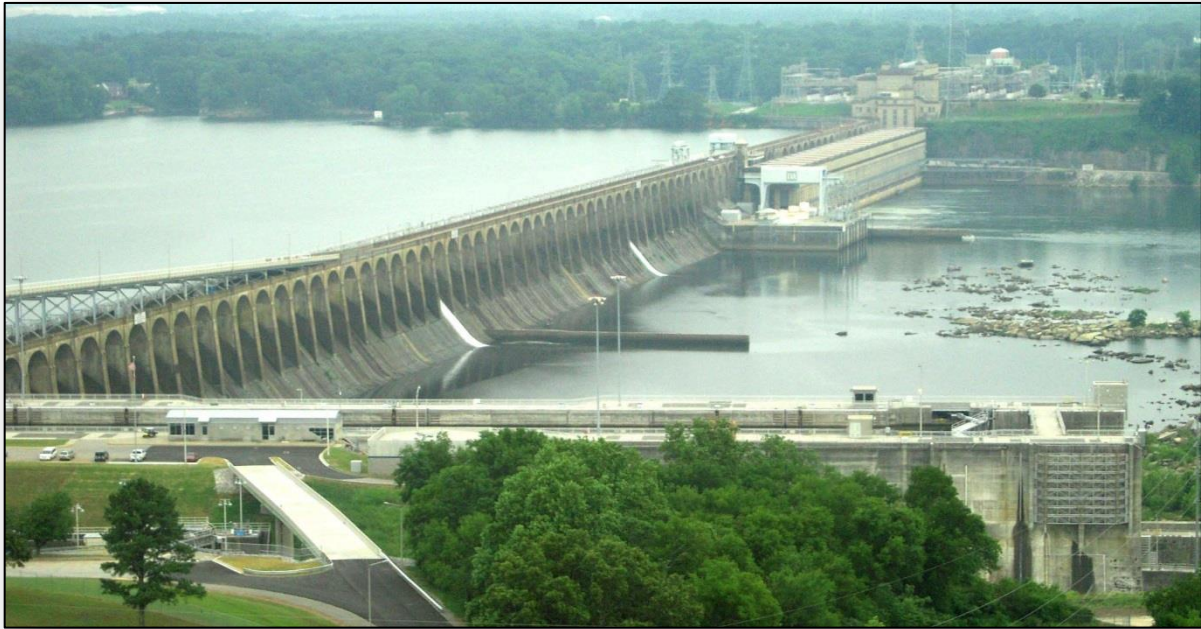
Much of the MSNHA's growth and development throughout the twentieth century can be attributed to the harnessing of the power of the Tennessee River. Much of that growth can be taken for granted and may not stand out as relating directly to any particular historic theme. However, some of the most obvious and tangible representatives of this theme are especially visible, such as the Wilson Dam. Below are a few notable sites representative of industry and hydroelectric development:

Colbert County

- Nitrate Village No. 1
- Wilson Dam

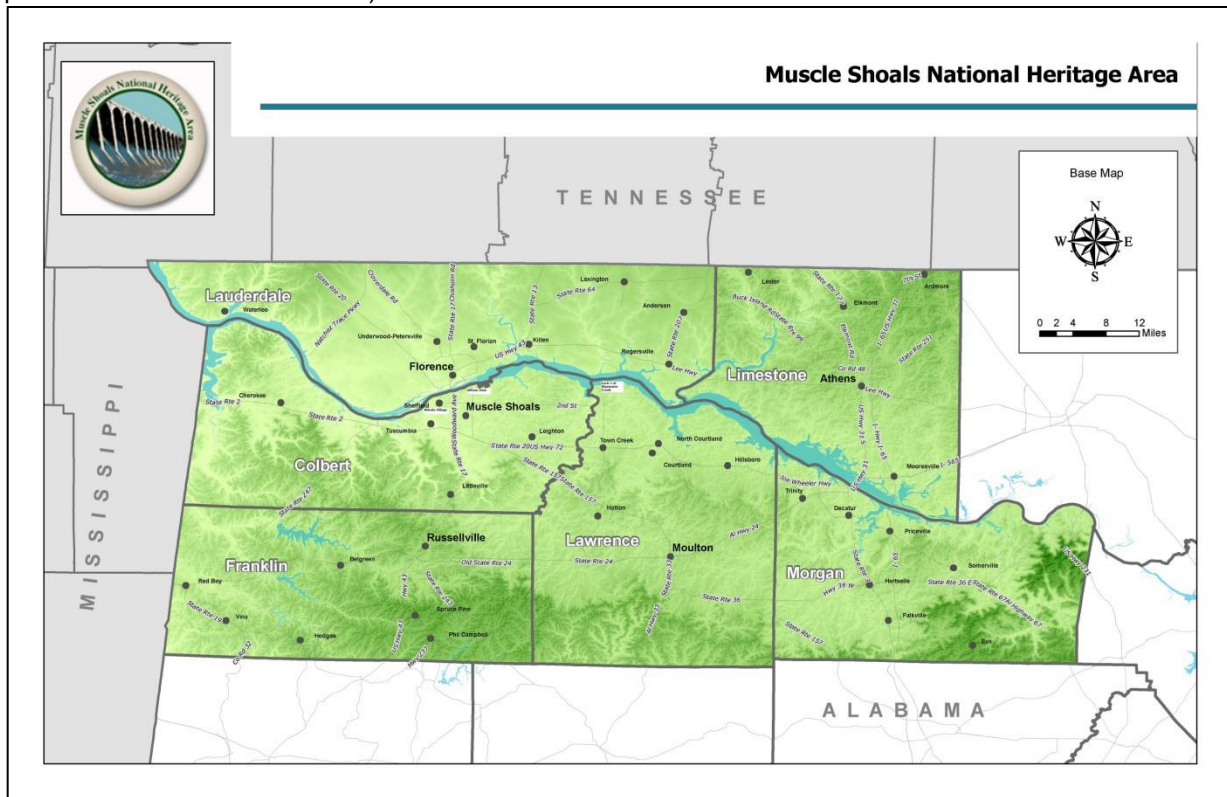
Lauderdale County

- Lock #3 of the Muscle Shoals Canal - Bluewater Creek



The Wilson Dam was built during World War I during President Woodrow Wilson's administration. It led the way to industrialization of the Tennessee River Valley, including the development of hydroelectric power.

TENNESSEE RIVER: INDUSTRY & HYDROELECTRIC DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES (to be provided as an 11 X 17 fold-out)



Music-Related Cultural Resources

There are two key sub-themes of the music theme for the MSNHA – the legacy of W.C. Handy and the blues, and the recording industry that began during the 1960s and continues today. While there is not an abundance of high-profile sites tied to the music theme, those that exist are quite significant. W.C. Handy's birthplace in Florence is perhaps the most tangible site tied to W.C. Handy. Likewise, recording studios such as FAME and the Muscle Shoals Sound Studio have hosted the creation of music by some of the world's most famous musicians and they continue to serve that function today.



The original Muscle Shoals Sound Studio (above) on Jackson Highway relocated elsewhere in Sheffield during the late-1970s.

Colbert County

- FAME – Muscle Shoals
- Muscle Shoals Sound Studio – Sheffield (original and current studios)

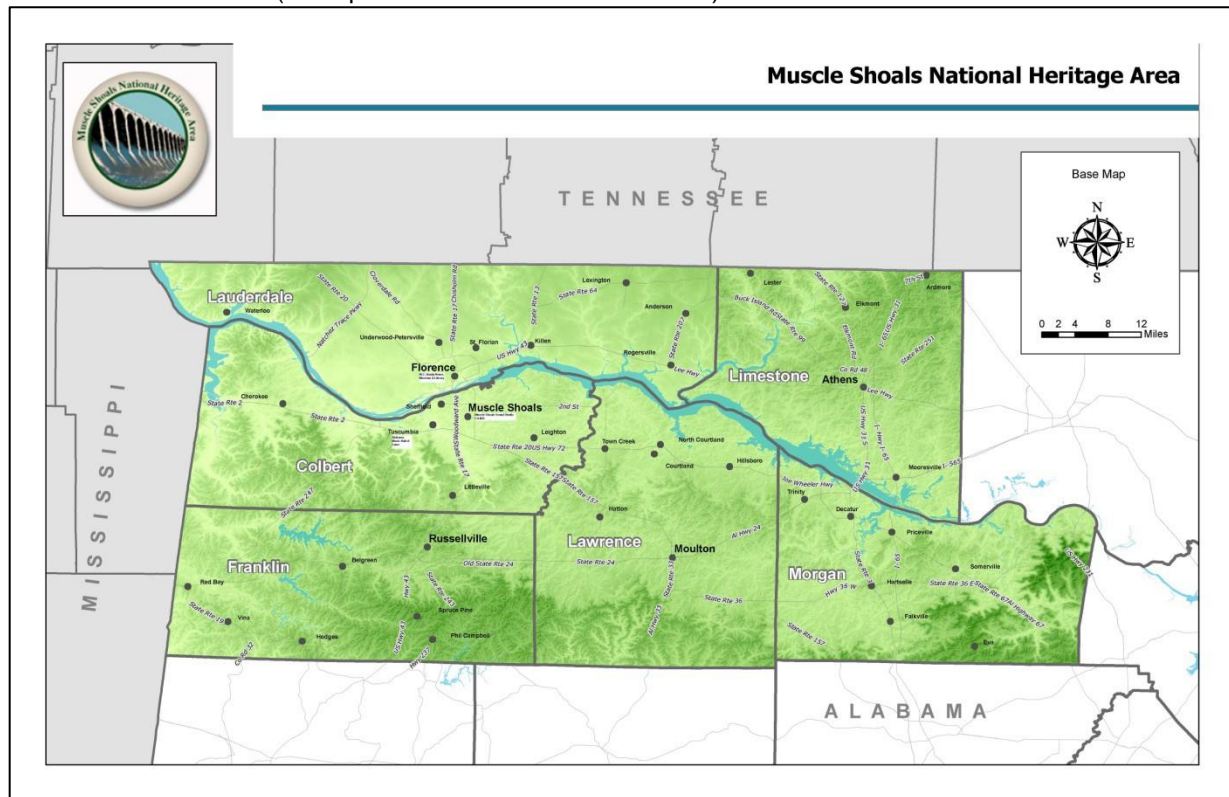
Lauderdale County

- W.C. Handy birthplace – Florence



The relocated Muscle Shoals Sound Studio (above) in Sheffield has continued to function as a music recording studio since the late-1970s. It is now also used for film production.

MUSIC RESOURCES (to be provided as an 11 X 17 fold-out)



Summary of Cultural Resources

The MSNHA clearly has a vast stock of cultural resources that represent a variety of pre-historic and historic themes of the area. Based upon the inventory of the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area Background Study (pg. 70), the following resources have been formally documented and/or designated:

MSNHA County	National Register of Historic Places <u>Districts</u>	<u>Properties</u>	HABS & HAER*	Alabama Register of Historic Places
Colbert	6 Districts	19 Properties	42 Recordings	17 Entries
Franklin	0 Districts	2 Properties	0 Recordings	12 Entries
Lauderdale	8 Districts	22 Properties	18 Recordings	36 Entries
Lawrence	2 Districts	7 Properties	9 Recordings	13 Entries
Limestone	5 Districts	9 Properties	18 Recordings	13 Entries
Morgan	<u>4 Districts</u>	<u>10 Properties</u>	<u>5 Recordings</u>	<u>16 Entries</u>
TOTAL	25 Districts	69 Properties	92 Recordings	127 Entries

* Historic American Buildings Survey / Historic American Engineering Record