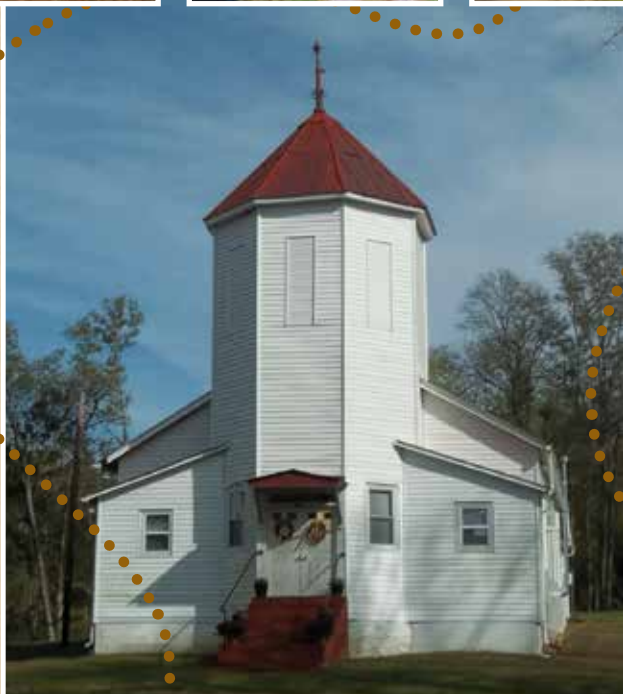


Communities and Legacies:

Maury County's African American History
A Driving Tour





Communities and Legacies:

Maury County's African American History *A Driving Tour*

For more than 200 years, African Americans have shaped Maury County history. At first, thousands of enslaved Tennesseans carried out demanding tasks in the fields, in the house, or in the trades as skilled craftsmen. They made clothes, tools, wagon wheels, and many other artisan goods sold both in Maury County and across the region. A small number of free blacks carried out their own lives in an age of slavery. They established churches, cemeteries, and businesses. With emancipation and the end of slavery, African Americans rushed to create many more churches, schools, lodges, businesses, and cemeteries.

These historic places and community institutions are everywhere across the county. They are living testaments to the change that occurred across Tennessee during the Civil War and Reconstruction years. These historic places are also powerful reminders of the significance of African American history in Maury County in the past and its continued importance today.

This tour starts in downtown Columbia, where a large free black population existed even before the Civil War. Here just north of the town square, lasting African American institutions first formed.

Unless the properties are open to the public, please respect property rights and view these places from the sidewalk or roadside.

(NR): Listed in the National Register of Historic Places



Downtown Columbia



**A.J. Morton & Son
Funeral Home**
115 E. 8th St, Columbia

In the post-Civil War South, funeral homes were among the earliest African American

businesses. J.M. Morton opened his undertaking business in September 1891. Following his death in 1899, his widow Clara and his son Andrew continued what was already a community institution. The property is also associated with the Columbia Riot of 1946. Local African American residents gathered here to protect their neighborhood in the aftermath of the violence that rocked Columbia following an altercation between a white business owner and an African American veteran, James Stephenson.



**First Missionary
Baptist Church**
117 E. 8th St,
Columbia

Baalim Frierson organized First Missionary Baptist before 1882 following a disagreement with Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church. After purchasing the present site, the

congregation built a church under the leadership of Rev. E. M. Smith. The present sanctuary (c. 1914) is a beautiful, one-and-a-half-story, brick building in the vernacular Romanesque style, as it has flanking square towers with battlements and round-arched windows.



**Holy Comforter
Episcopal Church**
126 E. 8th St, Columbia

In June 1891, T.J. Brown, a student from Nashville, established the black Episcopal church in Columbia and later in October presented the first confirmation class to Bishop Charles Todd Quintard. St. Peter's

Episcopal Church officially organized the Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in 1892. This building dates to c. 1898. The Independent Band of Hope once operated an African American nursery school at the parish house. Services continued at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church until the 1960s. The building was sold in 1973 and is now the home of the Roundtree, Napier, and Ogilvie Funeral Home.



**Mt. Lebanon
Missionary Baptist
Church (NR)**
218 E. 8th St, Columbia

Before 1840, a small group of African Americans attended services at the white First Baptist Church in Columbia. Unable to participate fully in services and allowed

only the balcony, the group decided to form their own congregation. In October 1843, Rev. Elijah Hanks, the white minister of First Baptist, met with seven African Americans: Rev. Edmond Kelley, Rev. Richard Sanderson, Dyer Johnson, Reuben Polk, Dempsey Cherry, Anna Cherry, and Eliza Webster. This meeting established Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church. Rev. Kelley remained pastor until 1845, at which time he became a missionary under the Concord Baptist Association. Historians consider Mt. Lebanon the "oldest National Baptist Church in Tennessee."



Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist Church
312 East 8th St,
Columbia

Former members of Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist Church

established Mt. Calvary Missionary Baptist in 1918. The congregation initially met in the old A.M.E. Church building located on East 8th Street and Glade Street. Rev. John Gilmore served as the first pastor.



**Apostolic Faith Church/
Pentecostal Lighthouse Church/Potter's House**
416 East 8th St, Columbia

Established in 1938 and led by a woman, Azora Effie Berry, the Apostolic Faith Church is one of the apostolic churches across the region that encouraged active participation of women in the church. The congregation rebuilt the

church in 1946. Mrs. Berry remained the pastor of the church at least through the early 1950s.



East 8th Street Church of God
419 E. 8th St, Columbia

Elder Charles Gray, Elder Nicholson, and Elder Connick organized the East

8th Street Church of God in c. 1900 as part of the Pentecostal tide wave that swept through black churches at the turn of the 20th century. Nicholson, a former pastor at Mt. Lebanon Missionary Baptist, left that church to establish this foundational Church of God congregation. The congregation worshipped in the home of Edith Howard until purchasing land and building the first church in 1900.



Hannaway Street Original Church of God
507 Hannaway St, Columbia

Elder Charles W. Gray, who moved with his family to Tennessee as a child in the 1860s, established three Pentecostal congregations in Maury County: the Church of God Sanctified and Hannaway Street Original Church of God, both in Columbia, and Railroad Street Original Church of God in Mt. Pleasant. Elder Floyd D. Flippin and Sister Corinne Smith played key roles in launching this congregation. Later, Elder R. L. Secrest, Elder Raymond Booker, and Sister Eddie Lee Patton led the effort to build a larger church building.



Maury County Colored Hospital Marker
506 East 7th St, Columbia

Established in 1923 by Dr. C.E. Jones, Rev. W.H. Lampley, and others, the Maury County Colored Hospital served the African American citizens of Maury and the surrounding

counties. Although beset by financial and staffing difficulties during World War II, the hospital remained in operation until the opening of Maury Regional Hospital in 1954. A historic marker indicates the former spot of the hospital.



Frierson-Johnson Park/Carver-Smith School Fields
East 10th St at White St, Columbia

Named for renowned scientist George Washington Carver and Stella Smith, an African American Jeanes educational supervisor, Carver-Smith High School opened in 1950. Thousands of African Americans received their education at the school during its short tenure. In 1968, the Maury County School Board announced plans to integrate the students from Carver-Smith High School, moving them to Columbia Central High School in 1969. Following the closure of the school, a developer converted the building to apartments. The fields at Frierson-Johnson Park were the site of the football and track fields for African American youth.



College Hill School
1101 Bridge St, Columbia

Established in 1881 as the Colored Public School,

College Hill School educated generations of African Americans and was a vital part of the local community. The last high school class graduated in 1949 before Carver-Smith High School opened, and College Hill became an elementary school. The school was expanded in 1958 and 1960, and in 1962, the original building was demolished. The site is now the home of the Horace O. Porter School at College Hill.



Rosemount Cemetery
Graham Street and Hardwick Avenue (adjacent to Rose Hill Cemetery)

Established in 1873, this cemetery is the final resting place of many members of Columbia's African American community. Located next to the segregated, white Rose Hill Cemetery, this hillside property has many striking grave markers, from military stones for veterans from all American wars since 1861 to folk-carved hand-made markers to elaborate Victorian-style stones.



American Legion Post 170
1205 East End St, Columbia

Veterans first established a "colored" branch of the American Legion in Columbia in about 1919. In 1955, the group, known as the Hill-Gordon American Legion Post 170, requested permission from the Maury County zoning board to use the former Maury County Colored Hospital building as its headquarters. A fire destroyed that property in 1961. In 1968, the post dedicated its new facility, located near the intersection of East 11th and East End streets.



Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church
1201 East End St, Columbia

This historic congregation has worshipped at this location since 1969 when members contracted Ardis Parker, Sr., to design and build the current building. The church began in 1921 when former members of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church created a new congregation, named in honor of their first minister, Rev. Chester Greene.



Bethel A.M.E. Church
*1125 S. Glade St,
 Columbia*

Born into slavery, Rev. Isaiah Gholston served as pastor at St. Paul A.M.E. Church and organized Bethel

A.M.E. Church in 1889 to provide a place of worship for those living in the College Hill community. In 1891, construction began on the church, known then as Gholston Hall. A Masonic lodge met on the second floor of the church. The current building dates to 1938, built during the tenure of Rev. W.R. Greenfield, the church's longest-serving pastor.



**Morning Star
 Masonic Lodge #11**
*215 E. 11th St,
 Columbia*

The Morning Star Masonic Lodge #11 (Prince Hall Masons) dates at

least to 1905, when the group met in the upper story of Gholston Hall. In the early 20th century, the lodge often held functions and events with the local African American Odd Fellows lodge. In 1961, the lodge erected the current building, and the Masons remain active participants in the African American community.



**White Springs United
 Primitive Baptist Church**
124 W 1st St, Columbia

Elder Thomas J. Williamson organized the White Springs Primitive Baptist Church in 1850.

In 1864, the congregation celebrated the 4th of July during the midst of the Civil War. In 1900, a tornado destroyed the church building. After rebuilding, the congregation hosted the annual Primitive Baptist Association meeting in 1905, and more than 5,000 African Americans attended the event. The current building dates to 1975.



**St. Paul
 A.M.E. Church**
*405 Church St,
 Columbia*

Located high on a hill opposite the county courthouse, St. Paul A.M.E. Church has long been a prominent African American landmark. In 1840, a group

of African Americans meeting in the basement of the Methodist Episcopal Church formed their own congregation, building a church on the corner of Second and Garden streets. In 1867, this group formed St. Paul A.M.E. Church, and in 1870, the congregation erected its first building here and became a community mainstay, hosting annual Emancipation Day celebrations on the church grounds. In 1888, the church opened a school for the neighborhood and later hosted graduation ceremonies for the Maury County Turner Normal and Industrial School.



**Mt. Vernon
 Missionary
 Baptist Church**
*808 W. 6th St,
 Columbia*

In 1901, a group from the First Baptist

Church established a church in the Happy Hollow neighborhood, meeting in a local home. Elder Builder of Pulaski held the first revival, and a large number of people had their baptism in Bigby Creek. Gus and Malinda White donated land to build a permanent building in c. 1907. The Duck River Baptist Association named the congregation Mt. Vernon Missionary Baptist Church soon after.



Burns Springs Church of Christ
407 W. 9th St, Columbia

Churches of Christ came late to many southern African American communities. The evangelism of Rev. Marshall Keeble, active during the middle decades of the 20th century, changed that, and Maury County has a number of African American Church of Christ congregations. Founded in September 1924, this congregation first met in a frame church with temporary pews made by placing planks across chairs. Brother A. C. Holt labored with the church in its early years to secure a permanent building, which has since been modernized periodically.



**Wayman Chapel
 A.M.E. Church**
*105 S. Jackson St,
 Columbia*

On December 1, 1907, a group purchased property on Jackson Street from J. M. and M.E. Bates for \$270 to build a schoolhouse. The community cooperated in building the school and engaged Mrs. Queenie Frierson to teach the local children. A.M.E. ministers also used the building, then known as Lots Chapel, to conduct church services. In 1914, the congregation sold the building and moved to another area in the community. Later that year, a new church, Wayman Chapel, named in honor of the late Bishop Alexander Walker Wayman, was completed.



**New Smyrna Cumberland
 Presbyterian Church
 & Cemetery**
112 Beech St, Columbia

The Smyrna Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America, located in the Match community, organized in c. 1874. This church had the distinction of being the only active and perhaps the first African American Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Maury County.

Prior to the Civil War, African American Presbyterians affiliated with the white Cumberland Presbyterians. In 1868, the denomination's African American congregants requested separation from the white church. While the specific reason for the request remains unclear, many African American congregations sought religious independence during this time. The request for separation was granted in 1870, and the name changed to the Second Cumberland Presbyterian Church and then to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church in America. Nearly one hundred years after it was established, the congregation moved to its current location and renamed itself the New Smyrna Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



**Friendship Missionary
 Baptist Church & Cemetery**
291 Wayne St, Columbia

Under the leadership of Rev. Sid Foster, members first worshiped under a brush arbor, located south of Witherspoon Road on a site near Rutherford Creek. In 1866, Rev. Foster and others erected the first building, naming it Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. A tornado and resulting floods severely damaged the building in 1921, and the congregation rebuilt in 1923. In March 1995, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church sustained approximately \$20,000 in damages from a firebomb. Racial hatred, fueled by alcohol, was the root cause of the arson. The congregation moved to its Wayne Street location in 2000.



**Mt. Tabor-Salem
Presbyterian
Church &
Cemetery**
516 Mooresville
Pk, Columbia

In 1872, African American members of the Zion Presbyterian Church requested letters of dismissal in order to form their own church, Salem Presbyterian. Initially established in the Zion Community, former members of the congregation organized the Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church some years later. Salem Presbyterian Church burned in 1940 and its members joined with the Mt. Tabor Presbyterian Church located on Mooresville Pike. Mt. Tabor changed its name to Mt. Tabor-Salem Presbyterian Church. Mt. Tabor-Salem Presbyterian is not an active congregation, but New Zion Church of God uses the historic property. The historic cemetery associated with Salem Presbyterian is located at 6947 Old Zion Rd, Columbia.



Leaving Columbia and heading towards

Culleoka

on Tennessee Highway 50



**Hopewell A.M.E.
Church and
Cemetery**
2002 New Lewisburg
Hwy, Columbia

Founded in 1856,

Hopewell African Methodist Episcopal initially was known as a little “brush arbor.” Fire destroyed the first frame building, and a storm destroyed the second structure in 1948. Worshipping in other churches, the congregation built the present building in 1951. Burials in the Hopewell Cemetery, the final resting place of several World War I and World War II veterans, date to the early 1900s.



Campground Cemetery
Cemetery Rd, Culleoka

This cemetery has served the white and African American communities for more than one hundred years. A road in the middle of the cemetery divides the white and black burials. Burials in this cemetery include several prominent African Americans in the Culleoka community as well as veterans from the Civil War through the Vietnam War.



**Fountain Creek
United Primitive
Baptist Church**
2410 Sunrise Ave,
Culleoka

This church began prior to 1840 under the guidance of Elder Elijah Hanks. The early congregation included slaves, free blacks, and whites. After the slave question became an issue in Tennessee, this practice ceased, and the church separated. African Americans organized as the Fountain Creek United Primitive Church. Elder Benjamin Abernathy, a U.S. Colored Troops veteran from the Civil War, led the church in the 1880s through 1909.

On October 12, 1905, the congregation purchased a lot in Culleoka and members of the congregation built a small church building. The community also used the church as a school until the construction of Rosenwald-funded Culleoka Colored School in 1923-1924. The original church structure burned on Nov. 11, 1943, and the current cinderblock structure dates to 1944.



**Fountain Creek
Missionary
Baptist Church**
*3019 Collier Lane,
Campbell Station*

Fountain Creek
Missionary Baptist

Church dates to at least 1902, when it was known as the First Baptist Church of Fountain Creek, led by Rev. Henry Harrison Braden, who was also pastor at the Happy Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Lynnville. In 1905, the congregation bought this lot for the present church building.

The church later obtained additional acreage that included the Campbell Station colored public school property and building. The church remains the only black congregation in this community.



Leaving Culleoka and heading west towards

Mt. Pleasant

on Valley Creek and Southport Road



**Clarke Training
School Marker**
Bluegrass Ave, Mt. Pleasant

The state historic marker from 2005 identifies where the community constructed the "Mt. Pleasant Colored School," later called the

Clarke Training School, in the early 1920s. In 1922, the school opened its doors to 350 elementary and high school students from the community. Over time, enrollment grew, and the campus expanded to include more classrooms, a gymnasium, and a cafeteria. The 1940s saw the establishment of an athletic program with team sports like track, football, and basketball. In 1969, Clarke graduated its last class prior to integration. The school burned in 1971 due to suspected arson.



**St. James Brick
United Primitive
Baptist Church**
*306 Bluegrass Ave,
Mt. Pleasant*

Organized in 1859,
the St. James Brick

United Primitive Baptist Church is the second church in Maury County established by the Big Harpeth United Primitive Baptist Association. The present gable-front brick sanctuary opened on June 26, 1966.



**Mt. Nebo
Missionary
Baptist
Church**
*116 Broadway
St, Mt. Pleasant*

Organized
in 1892, the
Mt. Nebo
Missionary
Baptist Church

faces Bluegrass Ave. Rebuilt in 1928, with stucco finishing dating to c. 1990, the outline of the original entrance on Bluegrass Avenue remains visible. A landmark building in the town's historic African American business district, the church has hosted religious and community gatherings for more than 100 years.



**St. James
Primitive Baptist
Church**
*305 E Cooper St,
Mt. Pleasant*

Established in
1908, the St.

James Primitive Baptist Church appears as early as 1910 on the Sanborn Insurance maps for Mount Pleasant. These early maps list the location as both a church and a school. The current building is from the mid-20th century and features a pedimented entrance and a short bell tower.



Original Church of God
315 Railroad St, Mt. Pleasant

Elder Charles W. Gray began preaching in Maury County in 1900 and established a number of county churches, including the Original Church

of God in Mt. Pleasant that faced the town's railroad tracks. Under the leadership of Pastor Flippin, the congregation rebuilt the church in 1954.



Hunter Cemetery
7643 Hwy 166, Mt. Pleasant

Established in 1811, Hunter Cemetery served as Mt. Pleasant's major cemetery for many decades. The historic section of the cemetery contains the gravesites of white residents as well as gravesites for hundreds of enslaved people buried in unmarked plots. The African American portion of the cemetery is located closest to the road. This cemetery, still in use, contains the remains of many of the community's prominent religious leaders.



West Point Missionary Baptist Church
105 East Cooper St, Mt. Pleasant

In 1890, Pastor Saul Evans organized West Point Missionary Baptist Church, which initially held services in a tent near Shiloh Cemetery on Dog Branch Road. In 1891, Deacon Henry and Ella Harland deeded a plot of land in Mt. Pleasant and a new frame church was built. In 1945, a concrete-block sanctuary replaced the first church. This historic building still stands today. In 1980, the congregation constructed a building at the new location on East Cooper Street.



Jones Chapel A.M.E. Church
409 South Main St, Mt. Pleasant

Established in 1870, the Jones Chapel A.M.E. Church also served as headquarters for

local African American schools. The congregation sold the original building in 1902 and built the current building the next year. The finishing on the concrete-block foundation is identical to that found on several other African American churches in Mt. Pleasant. The membership of the congregation totaled 170 by 1905, and the church remains a landmark on old U.S. 43.



Leaving Mt Pleasant and heading south to
Fuqua and Sandy Hook
on U.S. 43



Fuqua Missionary Baptist Church
8279 Old Hwy 43, Mount Pleasant

Organized in 1922, possibly in the Rockdale

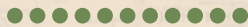
community near Lawrenceburg, Fuqua Missionary Baptist later relocated to Sandy Hook. The trustees of the Fuqua Missionary Baptist Church purchased a lot from Charlie and Sarah Orr for \$100 and constructed a building in 1943. The church sustained major damage from flooding in 2010. The congregation renovated the church, placing the air-conditioning units high on the wall and installing removable pews.



**St. Ruth
United Primitive
Baptist Church**
*8306 Johnson Hill
Rd, Sandy Hook*

Rev. Monroe
Williams
established St.
Ruth Primitive
Baptist Church in
Napier, Lawrence

County, in 1917. In 1926, Rev. Williams moved the congregation to the Sandy Hook community. Tearing down the prior building and transporting the materials to Sandy Hook, the congregation rebuilt the church. In 1950, carpenter Earl Hampton, Jr. rebuilt the church with the help of volunteer labor and the carpentry class from Clarke Training High School. In 2004, the Jackson family donated the adjoining property as a memorial to Rev. Williams and Mother Annie Jackson Williams. Now a picnic and parking area, this site was the location of St. Ruth's Community Day School.



*Leaving Sandy Hook heading
North on U.S. 43*



**Canaan A.M.E. Church,
Cemetery, & School**
*3046 Ashwood Rd,
Columbia*

Following emancipation
in 1865, a former slave

owner donated property to build a church that Baptist, Methodist, and Presbyterian congregations used. In 1902, the community erected a permanent building for the AME congregation. In 1942, the congregation erected a new building on the same site. On January 29, 1995, a firebomb damaged Canaan, leading to the conviction of three white men for committing a hate crime. Burials in the cemetery,

located near the church, date to the late 1800s. It is the final resting place of several World War I and World War II veterans.

Restored in 1998, the Canaan School dates to the New Deal era, when federal agencies built several new schools in the county. Its architectural style followed a common design for one-room Rosenwald schools in the 1920s.



*Heading towards the
Hampshire vicinity
on U.S. 412*



**Booker Ridge
School, Original
Church of God,
& Cemetery**
*3710 Ridley
Chapel Rd*

The Booker
Ridge Original
Church of God

is the heart of the small, rural community by the same name. By 1918, the community contained a school taught in that year by Sarah Frierson, a graduate of Tennessee A & I. The beginnings of the church trace to the revivals held yearly by Elder C.W. Gray beginning in 1928. The congregation met in the school until Elder A.W. Witherspoon decided to convert Lizzie Witherspoon's home into a church. The congregation received a donation of the land for the church & cemetery in 1945, and 1946 saw the official establishment of Booker Ridge Original Church of God. The historic Booker Ridge school still stands and is used as a community/fellowship hall.



**Dry Fork
Church of Christ**
*4855 Goodman Ln,
Hampshire*

*[Image courtesy of
the African American
Heritage Society of
Maury County]*

After finding it difficult to attend services at Pleasant Union Church of Christ, African American families, with the assistance of a white pastor named Tom Brooks, formed a new congregation in c. 1850. The congregation originally met in a house located in the back of the woods on the Lusk place, and that house burned for a second time in 1928. Since the building served as a school as well as a church, Maury County assisted in erecting a new one-room New Deal school building. The congregation purchased the building after the school closed.

The church was located on a site where the road conditions were very bad because of the rocky terrain. In 1960, the members of Dry Fork Church of Christ purchased one acre of land and, with the help of the Northside Church of Christ, moved the school building, now the Dry Fork Church of Christ, to a more suitable location. In 2000, a new building was completed and dedicated.



**Pleasant Union
Church & Cemetery**
*5083 Southpoint
Ridge Rd,
Hampshire (church);
Cemetery located
on Southpoint Ridge*

Rd, approximately 1.3 miles east of church

Revolutionary War veteran Griffith Cathey donated land before December 1838 for use by his slaves as a place of worship. Initially called the Meeting House Field, the site's log building gained the name of the "The Hilltop Church." By the late 1800s, members began using the ground around the log building for a cemetery. Oral history records that the name of the church changed to Pleasant Union Church of Christ.

In 1960, the congregation purchased land from Maury County Schools and built the current brick sanctuary. In 1967, Mrs. Blanche Farris Kennedy, who inherited the "Meeting House Field" from her great-great grandfather, agreed to deed the land to Pleasant Union Church of Christ at no cost. It is now a community cemetery.



Heading towards
Williamsport
on Tennessee Hwy 50



**Arrow Rock
Church of Christ**
*4102 Williamsport
Pike, Williamsport*

This c. 1870 congregation constructed its present concrete, block building in 1952, adding restrooms and a fellowship hall in the 1980s. Robert Nunnley, among many of the church's leaders, preached at Arrow Rock for seventy consecutive years, before his death in the mid-1990s.



**Claiborne Chapel
A.M.E. Church**
*3692 Old Williamsport Rd,
Williamsport*

Organized in c. 1875, Claiborne Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church takes its name from its first minister, John Claiborne. In the early 20th century, Rev. Aaron Brown organized an outstanding youth choir and added an organ to the music ministry. The current sanctuary dates to 1923, built during the tenure of Rev. A. J. Gordon with Hugh Porter giving the cornerstone. Music remains important to the congregation. For decades the church was known for its "Big Day," every August, when the congregation hosted huge crowds whose singing could be heard all over Williamsport.



Leaving Williamsport and heading towards

Spring Hill

on Tennessee Highway 247



Mt. Hope Missionary Baptist Church

*5276 Main St,
Spring Hill*

The Mt. Hope
Missionary
Baptist Church,

originally known as the Poor Saints Society of the Colored Baptist Church of Spring Hill, organized in c. 1908. In a deed executed by James R. Buckner and Frank Short, the society purchased this lot for \$196. In 1935, the congregation rebuilt the church under the leadership of Rev. C. H. Smith.



Newtown Church of Christ

*2615 Duplex
Rd, Spring
Hill*

Marshall Keeble, founder of the Nashville Christian Institute and an African American leader in the Church of Christ, and his student Alvin Simmons helped establish Newtown Church of Christ. In Spring Hill in 1962, they held a two-week gospel meeting, out of which came the initial members of the church. The congregation built a concrete-block sanctuary in 1954. A tornado destroyed it in 1962, but the congregation quickly rebuilt on the same lot. Newtown has been a training church for student preachers from the Nashville Christian Institute and the Christian College in Florence, Alabama.



Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church

511 McLemore Ave, Spring Hill

Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church was established in 1881. Newspapers mention Wesley Chapel Methodist Church as early as 1907, listing the church as being under the pastorate of Rev. M. Anderson. African American entertainer Prince Herman, who performed for President Theodore Roosevelt at Fisk University in 1907, also played at Wesley Chapel that spring. In January 1918, the church was the site of Spring Hill's Emancipation Day anniversary celebration of freedom.



St. Mark's United Primitive Baptist Church (NR)

*518 Maury Hill
St, Spring Hill*

In 1872, the Colored Primitive Baptist Churches of Middle Tennessee (later renamed the Big Harpeth United Primitive Baptist Association) convened in Spring Hill at Spring Hill Primitive Baptist Church, now known as St. Mark's United Primitive Baptist Church. The community used this historic building as a school until Spring Hill Rosenwald School (not extant) opened in the early 1920s.



Leaving Spring Hill and heading south towards

Columbia

on U.S. 31



Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church & Cemetery

3396 Les Chappell Rd, Spring Hill

Records indicate that Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church dates prior to 1871. Members initially held worship services at different white churches. Evangelists or traveling ministers often conducted services during the early years of the congregation. Desiring a permanent worship place to call their own, the congregation acquired land on which the church now stands, erected a meetinghouse, and named it Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist.



Bethel Church of God

1186 Old Hwy 99, Columbia

William Lockridge donated the land for this church, originally named "Little Bethel," built in 1906. The first minister was Elder Rev. Kinnard. Many of the early African American holiness churches in Tennessee were established because of the missionary work of Mother Mary Magdalena Tate, a Bishop in the Church of God.



Flint Valley United Primitive Baptist Church & Cemetery

1987 Nashville Hwy, Columbia

Elder Eli Gant organized the church in 1875, and the congregation held services under a brush arbor at the rear of the farm owned by Henry and Parthenia Alley. The congregation built a frame church, replacing it in 1963 with the present concrete-block building, last renovated in 2003. Located just behind the church, Flint Valley Cemetery contains burials dating to at least 1900. It is the final resting place of several military veterans as well as elders and deacons of the church. Four of the twenty-six marked graves mark the resting places of individuals who were born before the Civil War, presumably in slavery.



Friendship Cemetery/ Calvary Cemetery

1239 Witherspoon Rd, Columbia

Burials in the Friendship Cemetery, also known as the Calvary Cemetery, date back to the 1900s. It is the final resting place of several World War I, World War II, and Vietnam War veterans. The cemetery is located behind the site of the former church on Witherspoon Road in the Godwin community, approximately 6 miles from the site of the current Friendship Missionary Baptist Church on Wayne Street.

MIDDLE TENNESSEE

STATE UNIVERSITY



This brochure is a project of the MTSU Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA), a partnership unit of the National Park Service administered by the Center for Historic Preservation. Text by TCWNHA director Dr. Carroll Van West, staff member Leigh Ann Gardner, and graduate students Michael Fletcher, Torren Gatson, Brad Miller, and Veronica Sales. Special thanks to the African American Heritage Society of Maury County for assistance with text, research, images, and fieldwork. All images by Dr. Carroll Van West unless noted otherwise.