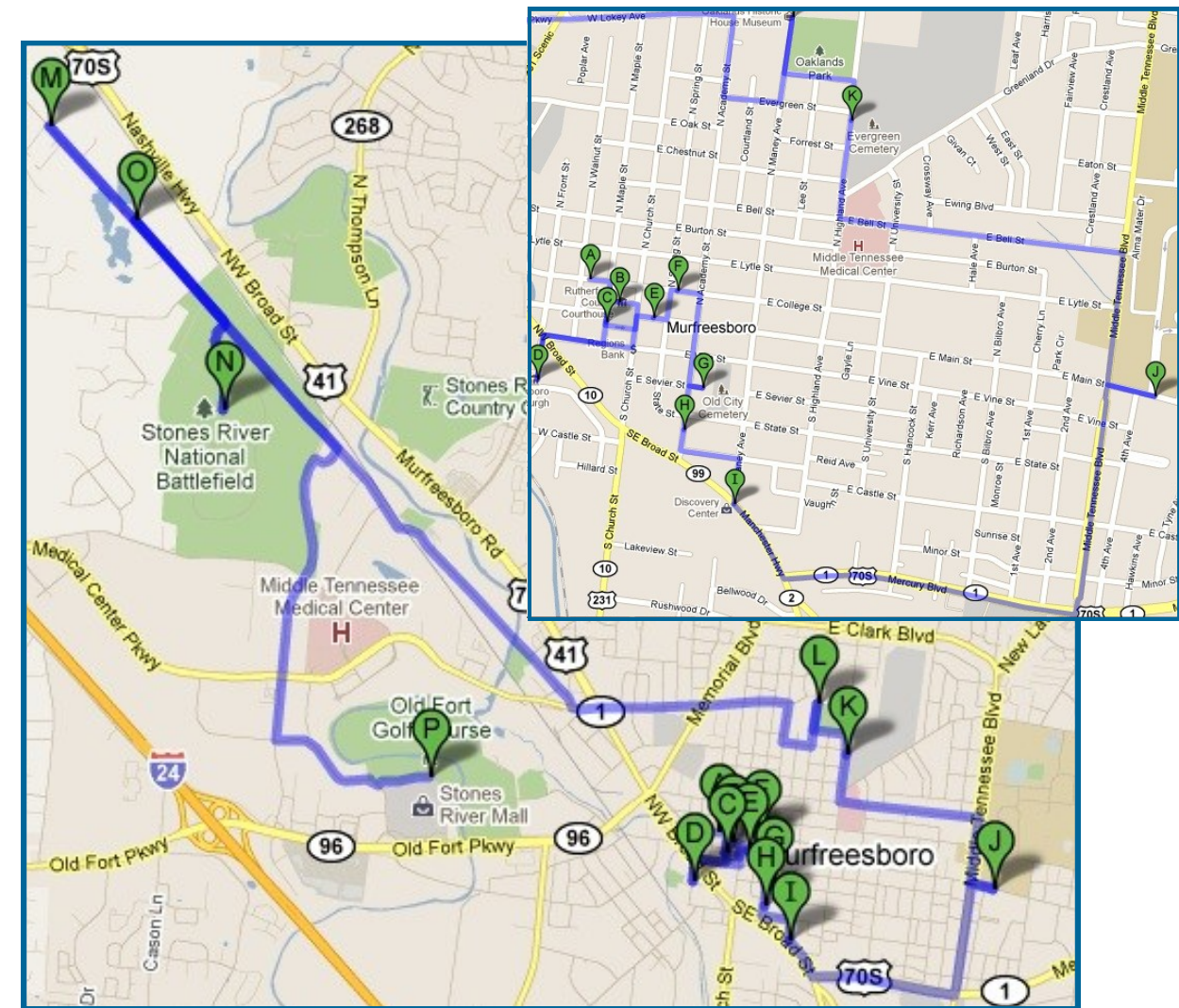


# HISTORIC MURFREESBORO DRIVING TOUR



Explore the historic sites of Murfreesboro, Tennessee. From a pioneer village, to an African American school, Civil War battlefields, churches and cemeteries make up just some of the significant places of Middle Tennessee history.

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# Driving Tour of Historic Murfreesboro, Tennessee

**A. Start at the Heritage Center, 225 West College Street**

**B. Rutherford County Courthouse, 20 N Public Square:**

The Rutherford County Courthouse is one of six remaining antebellum courthouses in Tennessee. After the Battle of Stones River during the Civil War, the courthouse served as the headquarters for the Union army. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973 and currently serves as the seat of Rutherford County government.



**C. Holden Hardware Store, 108 South Maple Street :** Holden's Hardware opened its doors in January 1947.



It has maintained its family owned, small town charm while offering a large inventory of hardware goods.

**D. Cannonsburgh Village, 312 South Front Street:** Cannonsburgh, the first name given to Murfreesboro, is now better recognized as the outdoor museum established during the American Bicentennial. Newton Cannon was a state representative who would later be governor. After county magistrates selected sixty acres belonging to Captain William Lytle as the new county seat in 1811, state legislators named the new town Cannonsburgh. The name was changed, however, to Murfreesborough one month later in honor of Lytle's friend, Colonel Hardy Murfree.



**E. City Café, 113 East Main**

**Street :** City Café opened its doors on February 10, 1900 on the Southside of the Square by brothers Dorsy and Henry Cantrell. The eatery has served the area for over 110 years and continues to be a popular spot for locals to discuss politics and the latest news over a plate of Southern cooking.



**F. First Presbyterian Church, 210 North Spring Street :**

Founded in 1812, the church congregation first met in a log house next to Murfree Spring. A permanent location was built on the site of the Old City Cemetery on Vine

Street and served as a hospital during the Civil War by both Confederate and Union forces. The current building on Spring Street was erected in 1867.

**G. Old City Cemetery, 300 block of Vine Street:** Old City Cemetery dates back to the 1820s and served as the city's first cemetery site. It was also the original site for the First



Presbyterian Church, which also served as the state capitol building during the 1822 legislative session. Old City Cemetery held the #4 spot on the Tennessee Preservation Trust's Most Endangered Places of 2008.

**H. Bradley Academy, 415 South Academy Street :** Established in 1811, Bradley Academy was the first school in Rutherford County. Some of the first attendants of the school include James K. Polk and John Bell. The Academy served as a hospital during the Civil War. In 1884, it became the first institution in the county to offer formal education to African American students. Bradley re-



mained an African American school until desegregation in the 1960s. The building was restored during the 1990s to become a heritage/cultural center.



**I. Discovery Center/Murfree Springs, 502 Southeast Broad Street :** Murfree Springs served as a major water source for residents of the area. Overhill Cherokees and Chickmauga Native Americans were known to have settle-

ments near the spring. It was also a factor for choosing Murfreesboro as the county seat.

**J. Middle Tennessee State University, Kirksey Old Main, 1301 E Main St:** Founded on September 11, 1911 as Middle Tennessee State Normal School, the Kirksey Old Main building was the first building constructed. Named for the Professor of Education and former Vice President of Academic Affairs Howard Kirksey, the building housed the school's administrative offices as well as classrooms and auditorium.



**K. Evergreen Cemetery, 519 Greenland Drive :** The Murfreesboro city government passed an ordinance in 1872 for the purchase of 20 acres of land from James Maney for "Oakland" Cemetery. The name was changed to "Evergreen" cemetery in 1873. The cemetery features "Confederate Circle", where more than 2000 Confederate soldiers who were killed in the Battle of Stones River were buried.

**L. Oaklands Historic Home, 900 North Maney Avenue:** This Italianate style mansion served as the centerpiece of the 1500 acre plantation of the Dr. James Maney family. Sallie Murfree Maney inherited the property from her father, Colonel Hardy Murfree, after his death in 1809. During the Civil War, both Union and Confederate forces camped on the property. The site was vacant during several years during the 1950s and was obtained by a concerned group of women in the town. They formed the Oaklands Association in 1959 and raised the funds to restore it into a historic house museum.



**M. Stones River United Methodist Church, 3913 Old Nashville Highway and O. Ebenezer Church, 4122 Old Nashville Highway :** After the Civil War, many veterans of the 111<sup>th</sup> United States Colored Infantry and their families stayed in Murfreesboro to work as laborers at the National Cemetery. The area surrounding the battlefield became the site of a thriving African American community called "Cemetery" and included houses, farms, a school and several churches. Stones River United Methodist and Ebenezer Primitive Baptist are two of the original churches of the community and continue to hold services.



**N. Stones River National Battlefield, 3501 Old Nashville Hwy :** The Battle of Stone River took place on December 31, 1862 – January 2, 1863 and was one of the bloodiest conflicts of the Civil War. The Union Army's victory in this battle served as a turning point for the outcome of the Civil War. Also located on the site is Stones River National Cemetery, where over 6,100 Union soldiers are buried.

**P. Fortress Rosecrans at Old Fort Park, 1028 Golf Lane** Shortly after the Battle of Stones River, the men of the Army of Cumberland began building a massive fortification that was named after their commander, General William S. Rosecrans. The earthworks of Fortress Rosecrans covered more than 200 acres and protected the railroad and warehouses that housed supplies for the upcoming campaign.

