

# 'PLEASANT HISTORIC DISTRICT' WALKING TOUR



[www.historicmtpleasanttn.com](http://www.historicmtpleasanttn.com)  
[@historicmtpleasanttn](https://www.instagram.com/historicmtpleasanttn)



## The Tours



Historic Mt. Pleasant, Tenn was established in 1824. It was primarily a farming community in Maury County. It wasn't until phosphate, brown rock, was discovered in 1896 that the city became a boomtown. Population in 1890 was 466 and by 1900, it had exploded to 2,000. Today, it's approximately 5,000.

It wasn't until the discovery of phosphate, that many of the homes and commercial buildings were built to accommodate the influx of people and the needs of the community. Several mining companies began to set up businesses to get in on the mining craze. By 1911, there were 15 plants in the area.

John Ruhm, was President and GM for the Ruhm Phosphate Mining Co and educated people in the profitable use of raw brown rock in its application in soil as a fertilizer. You can view his magnificent home in the Pleasant Historic District.

The 'Pleasant Historic District' and the 'North Main Street Historic District' self-guided walking-driving tours feature homes dating back as early as pre-1824 through the early 1900's. During the walk, you will see many homes not listed in the brochure to appreciate and admire as well. Included in the tours, are some of the downtown commercial buildings which are part of the 'Commercial Historic District'. We have such a plethora of historic homes and buildings that are restored/preserved and others waiting for their next caregiver. Our historic homes are the reason so many homeowners choose Historic Mt. Pleasant as their community.

The Pleasant Historic District is the largest identified, undisturbed neighborhood in the City and reflects the enormous economic impact of the early phosphate boom.

All districts are listed on the National Register of Historic Places for its history in the phosphate industry as well as the variety of architectural styles. Historic preservation is important for our city's history and our future.

*"Taking Pride in Our City"*

# Enjoy the Tour!

Many of these locations are on private property. Please respect the privacy of the property owners as you walk or drive by their homes.



# 1

Breckenridge Hatter House | ca. 1819  
205 N. Main Street

Built in 1819, this is the oldest standing structure in Mt. Pleasant. It is constructed of cedar logs set on a stone foundation. Ebenezer Smith lived upstairs while operating a Hatter's Shop on the main floor. While not in the historic district, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and home to Mt. Pleasant's Visitor Center.



# 2

United States Post Office | ca. 1940  
201 N. Main Street

Adorned with a large American Eagle sitting atop the metal awning, is the Colonial Revival Post Office. In 1942 renowned artist Eugene Higgins painted a mural, "Early Settlers Entering Mt. Pleasant" which is displayed in the lobby. It is rumored that the basement was constructed and equipped as a Civil Defense shelter.



# 3

Unoccupied | ca. 1900  
103-105 N. Main Street

Sitting prominently on the Northeast corner of Main Street and Hay Long Ave, this historical building has been home to several businesses over the years. There is a beautiful apartment upstairs which is accessed by a separate entrance and center staircase. Both the building and the apartment remain unoccupied.



# 4

Long House | ca. 1880  
402 Hay Long Ave

An outstanding example of a ca. 1880 Victorian, Classical Revival style home. It has a concrete block foundation, porch supported by antae columns, pedimented entry, full cornice, gable end exterior brick chimneys.



# 5

Frierson-Davis House | ca. 1878  
403 Hay Long Ave

Projecting two canted gable bay end pavilions, you can't miss the Eastland Influence of this Queen Anne Victorian framed house with its Tuscan columns adorning the porch. This property was home to long time residents; the Davis family. Mrs. Davis was a teacher at the Mt. Pleasant elementary school.

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## 6 Ligon House | ca. 1879 307 Hay Long Ave

Nestled in among the beautiful shade trees this 1879 crafted Eastland influenced framed home provides a feeling of privacy and quietness. The property was once owned by A. W. Ligon who was an auditor for Petrified Bone Co. in the phosphate industry.



## 7 Alexander House | ca. 1895 305 Hay Long Ave

Sheathed in weatherboard, this Folk Victorian frame home is capped with a cross-gabled roof and a wrap around porch providing the residents with a step-back in time experience. Built for J. T. Alexander, his wife and two kids. Alexander was a liveryman for his own horse boarding stable. He also served as Mayor from 1901-1903.



## 8 Jenkins House | ca. 1917 104 Pleasant Ave

This 10,000 square foot craftsman's style log home was built for Mr. and Mrs. John Tate Jenkins by Robert Curtis of Summertown. Mr. Jenkins, a native of Arkansas and a pharmacist operated a drug store in Mt. Pleasant. He later became a contractor for phosphate rock.



## 9 Hay Long Chapel | ca. 1903 103 Hay Long Ave

This beautiful historic chapel was originally built as an Episcopal Church and has served the community for over 100 years in different capacities. In recent years, caretakers have restored the original floors and pews while making it a quaint and memorable place for weddings, private events and live music.



## 10 Mt. Pleasant Grille | ca. 1900 100 S. Main Street

This building stands proudly on Main Street near Town Square. It has been home to many different businesses over the years and to Mt. Pleasant Grille since 2007. The event room has a stage where Grand Ole Opry stars such as Roy Acuff and Minnie Pearl performed.. The Grille offers live music and American cuisine.

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## 11

Veritas Guitars | ca. 1940  
104 S. Main Street

Located in the Commercial Historic District this brick building with garage doors and metal awning was occupied by Rippey's Auto Parts for many years. Custom guitar manufacturer, Veritas Guitars, recently acquired the building and relocated their business from Washington State to Mt. Pleasant.



## 12

Mt. Pleasant History Museum | ca. 1911  
108 Public Square

Originally, this building was the First National Bank. It's a two-story Classical Revival of ashlar limestone and brick with a flat roof. In 1996, First Farmer's Bank donated the building to the museum. Jimmy and Irene Dugger were passionate about preserving Mt. Pleasant's history and its artifacts through the museum.



## 13

Bond House | ca. 1839  
204 Bond Street

The Greek Revival home was built for John Bond. Several generations of the Bond family lived here over the years. Although not actually situated in the boundaries of the Pleasant Historic District, this is one of the oldest homes in Mt. Pleasant. The house and gardens are beautiful and worth admiring.



## 14

Ruhm House | ca. 1906  
106 Pleasant Street

Built for John Ruhm and his wife, it was the first concrete block house in Mt. Pleasant with a Prairie Style influence. Ruhm was a leader in the phosphate industry organizing the Phosphate Mining Co. in the late 1800's and an attorney. He and his brother, Herman started the Mt. Pleasant Electric Company in 1899.



## 15

Cook - Smith House | ca. 1924  
414 Washington Ave

This one story Cottage Revival home originally built in 1917 was replaced with the current structure in 1924. The home was built for W. Ed Smith, a foreman for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad in the Mt. Pleasant yards. He lived here with his wife and two children.

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## 16 Mefford House | ca. 1915 502 Washington Ave

Built for J. T. Mefford and family, he was an accountant at a local lumber company. In the 1930's, he was a miller in a Flour and Feed Mill. This one and one-half story frame home shows a bungalow influence with weatherboard and a rectangular plan.



## 17 Hoge House | ca. 1915 505 Washington Ave

Susan Hoge, widow of Emmett Hoge, a successful farmer and businessman had the house built for her and her five children. The house is an American Foursquare with a Federal Revival influence and a large wrap around porch, known as the 'Party Porch' for the many gatherings that took place.



## 18 Earnest Irwin House | ca. 1910 501 Washington Ave

This 4,000 square foot home was built for Mr. Irwin and his family. His worked as a life and fire insurance agent. The house is a Craftsman Foursquare design with a central passage plan. It has a brick foundation, wrap around porch, and transom around door. This home includes an elevator for easy access to the 2nd floor.



## 19 Jones House | ca. 1910 311 Washington Ave

This residence was built for widow, Mattie Jones, and adopted daughter, Susie Jones; secretary for the Ruhm Phosphate Company. A popular four-square design at the turn of the century and in Mt. Pleasant. It has a large one story wraparound porch with Tuscan columns; perfect for sweet tea on a hot summer day.



## 20 Killebrew-Jackson Home | ca.1890 206 Pleasant Street

A stunning Victorian home with a Tudor revival influence built for George W. Killebrew, a leader in the phosphate industry. He served as Mayor from 1903-1905. The tall smokehouse on the property is the only known shingle-clad smokehouse in Maury County. In 1948 it became William's Funeral Home but is now a private residence.

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## 21 Manor Hall | ca. 1859

216 Pleasant Street

Built by Martin Luther Stockard, this Greek Revival home has four Corinthian columns. The pediment design was influenced by the Choragic Monument of Thrasylus. In June, 1872, Mr. Stockard was attacked on his front lawn by a mysterious assailant and never fully recovered. He died three years later. This home is the oldest residence in the Pleasant Historic District.



## 22 Wheeler House | ca.1903

211 Pleasant Street

This two story Colonial Revival was built in 1903 for phosphate dealer, M. E. Wheeler of Rutland, Vermont for his son, Frank. The property has a coalhouse and smokehouse all of which are listed as contributing resources in the Pleasant Historic District. It was home to Judge Hardin and his family for many years.



## 23 Jackson House | ca.1890

203 Pleasant Street

We conclude our Pleasant Historic District tour with a gorgeous Foursquare design with a bungalow influence and tapered wooden posts. This home was built for Granberry and Mattie Jackson and has over 4,000 square feet. Jackson was a proprietor of Jackson Phosphate Company.

Other historical sites to visit in/near Mt. Pleasant. Both require driving to get to there.



Rattle and Snap Plantation | ca. 1842 | 1522 N. Main Street, Mt. Pleasant

Rattle and Snap is a privately owned home available for [tours by appointment only](#). It was built for George and Sallie Polk. Known to be one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the U.S. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.



St. John's Episcopal Church | ca. 1842 | 6947 Trotwood, Columbia

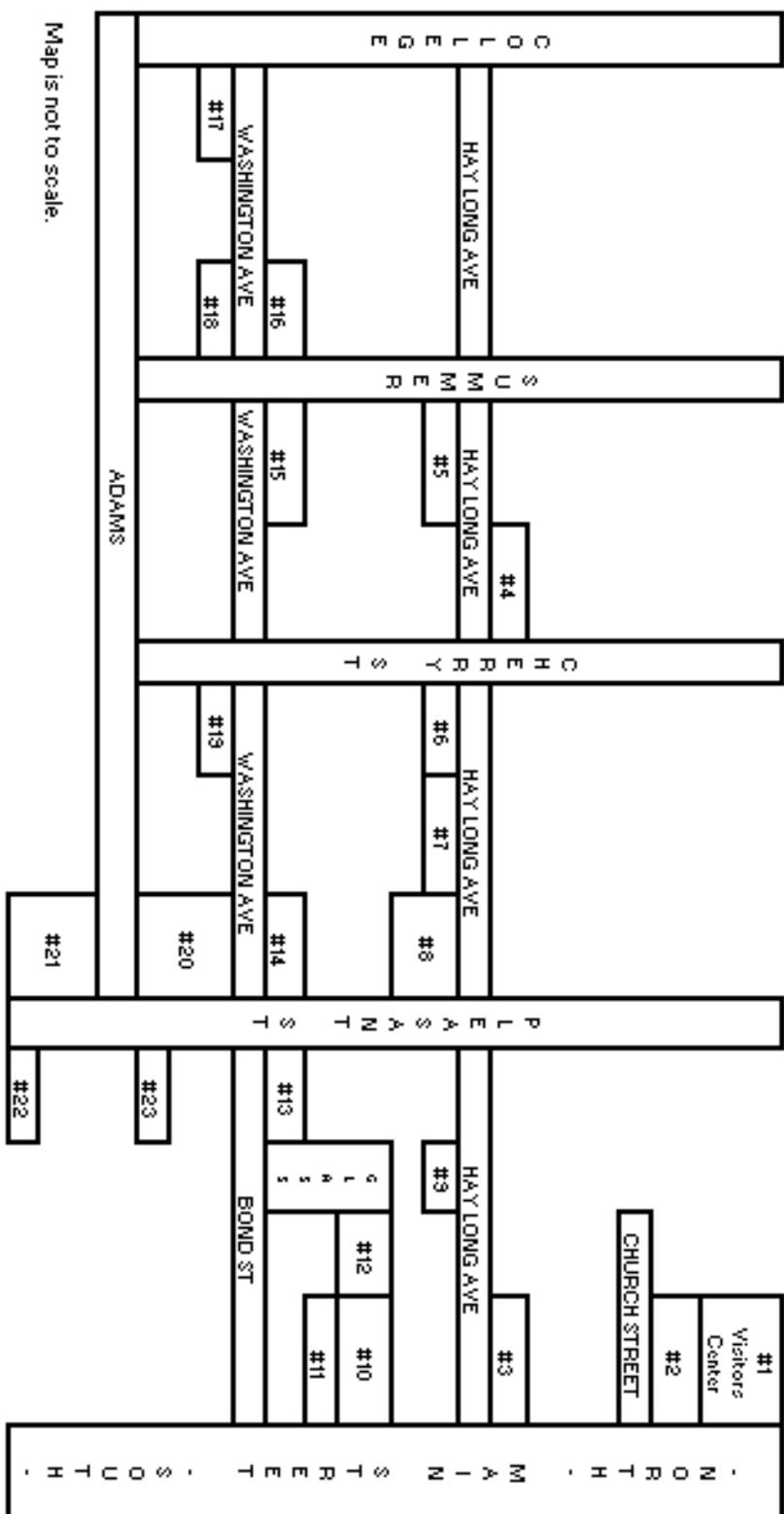
St. John's Church borders on Mt. Pleasant and Columbia. It was consecrated in 1842 by James Hervey Otey, the first Episcopal Bishop of Tennessee. The church was built by Leonidas Polk and his brothers. Since 1921, services are only held once a year on Whitsunday – the Feast of Pentecost.

*"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."*

Richard Moe, National Trust for Historic Preservation

You can follow the map in whichever order you choose.  
It starts at #1 which is the Mt. Pleasant Visitor Center.

PLEASANT HISTORIC DISTRICT SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR



Map is not to scale.

# THE TEAM



## ANGELA NEWMAN

I created Historic Mt. Pleasant, Tenn walking tours, website and social media platforms to highlight not only our city's historical homes and buildings but also the small businesses and events.

We are a city in the process of reinventing itself through revitalization efforts like many other Main Street America towns. My desire is to encourage others to visit our historic city, to shop and dine at our small businesses and to move and /or start a business here.

My husband Matt and I moved to Mt. Pleasant, Tenn in 2017 after falling in love with the city's charm and historical buildings. We purchased a ca.1915 home in the Pleasant Historic District and like other owners of historic homes, we see ourselves as the 'caretakers' of our home and someday will pass it onto another 'caretaker' to love and cherish.

My career has primarily been in healthcare business operations and I hold a Master's in Business Administration. Once moving here, I decided to open a business on Main Street, 1824 General Store, from 2017-2020 to fulfill a dream of mine and to contribute in some small way to the revitalization efforts. In addition, I provided oversight and consulting services to a local restaurant and shared information about vacant commercial buildings to attract entrepreneurs interested in occupying them.

After fulfilling those commitments, I decided to focus my efforts on marketing Historic Mt. Pleasant and share my passion for the city and its historic value. I absolutely LOVE Mt. Pleasant and want to see our community thrive.

Thanks to so many people and their efforts, we are experiencing growth and a renewed energy and interest in the city.

*"Taking Pride in Our City"*



## THE COMMUNITY

The rest of the team is 'the community' that makes up our city. It's the residents, the business owners, the educators, the city officials and the visitors. It's each and everyone of us doing our small part to preserve our history, to support small businesses and each other so our town continues to thrive.

All of us play a part in making our 'community' what it is today and defining what it will become in the future.

# THE COMMUNITY



Mt. Pleasant is one of the city's recognized in Nashville's Big Back Yard.

For more information about NBBY and Mike Wolfe's involvement, visit their website.

[www.nashvillesbigbackyard.org/](http://www.nashvillesbigbackyard.org/)

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## Downtown Shopping

The Blue Hydrangia | 111 N. Main St. | Home and Apparel

Bellissima Boutique | 110 N. Main St. | Clothing Boutique

A Pinch of the Past | 113 N. Main St. | Home Decor and More

Ye Peddler - MP | 108 Hay Long Ave. | Gifts and Clothing

Breckenridge Baby Boutique | 99 Public Square | Children's Boutique

Too Much Stuff Emporium | 104 Hay Long Ave | Gift and Home Decor

Veritas Guitars | 104 S. Main St. | Custom Guitars | By Appointment

Kinzer Pharmacy and Guns | 121 S. Main St. | Pharmacy, Guns

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## Downtown Food and Drink

Mt. Pleasant Grille | 100 S. Main | American Grille

Towne Coffee | 107 N. Main | Coffee Shop and Eatery

Mt. Pleasant Nutrition | 106 N. Main | Nutritional Shakes and More

Twisted Copper Brewing Co. | 121 S. Main | Craft Beer Brewery

The Mayan Riviera. | 305 N. Main | Mexican Restaurant

Dari Gem | 107 1st Ave | Hamburgers, Shakes and More

Pills and Pistols Deli | 121 S. Main Street | Deli Sandwiches and More

The Pizza Place | 206 N. Main Street | Pizza, Sandwiches and More

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## Downtown Places to Stay

The Cottage on Main | Airbnb | Located in the N. Main Historic District

The Loft at 109 | Airbnb | Located in the Commercial Historic District

Pleasant Place | Airbnb | Located in the Pleasant Historic District