

Battle Sites

1. Brookmeade Park at Kelley's Point

For two weeks prior to the battle, six artillery pieces under the command of Confederate Lt. Col. D.C. Kelley effectively blockaded the Cumberland River against seven heavily armed U.S. Navy gunboats. The Confederate cavalry and Federal gunboats clashed in six separate engagements. *Brookmeade Park*

2. Granbury's Lunette

This small infantry and artillery fortification was the anchor of the Confederate right flank on December 15th. Named for General Hiram Granbury, who was killed at Franklin, the Lunette was the first position assaulted in a diversionary attack just after 8 a.m. by several regiments of United States Colored Troops under Steedman. The USCTs panicked in the attempt and were caught in the railroad cut just below the lunette. The regiments took hundreds of casualties. *Located on Polk Ave.*



3. Confederate Redoubt #1

General Hood placed five redoubts, or heavy entrenchments for cannon, on the hills south of the city to reinforce his left wing. A. P. Stewart's Corps held these positions on December 15th until he was flanked in the late afternoon and forced to retreat to the southeast down Granny White Pike. The remains of city destroyed by development. This redoubt was manned by 120 infantry and a battery of four Napoleon cannon with 85 artillerymen. *Benham Lane near corner of Hillboro Pike and Woodmont Blvd.*

these redoubts have been virtually destroyed by development. This redoubt was manned by 120 infantry and a battery of four Napoleon cannon with 85 artillerymen. *Benham Lane near corner of Hillboro Pike and Woodmont Blvd.*



4. Shy's Hill

This hill, known at the time of the battle as Compton's Hill, was the main point of attack on the left by the Federal Army on the afternoon of December 16th. Throughout the day, the entrenched position was pounded by Federal artillery. Finally, Minnesota regiments under Division Commander John McArthur charged up the steep slope of the hill just after four in the afternoon. This assault began the route of the Army of Tennessee, sending the Southern troops in full retreat across the Granny White Pike toward Franklin Pike. The hill was renamed after the war in honor of Confederate Colonel William Shy, killed defending the hill on the 16th. *At Battery Lane & Benton Smith Road.*

5. Bradford House

Though the house has gone through two reconstructions due to fire since the 1860s, the home's occupant, Mary Bradford, was one of two women (Selene Harding) who tried to rally retreating Confederate troops on December 16th. The house sat between the battle lines. Today, the stone springhouse remains as a testament to the battle. *Lipscomb Dr.*



6. Stewart's Stone Wall

This stone fence originally served as the northern and western boundaries of the 1200-acre Lee plantation. On December 16th, the stacked stone was used as a fortification by Lt. General A.P. Stewart's Corps to hold back the Federal advance. To the taunts of "Remember Franklin" by Stewart's men, elements of Woods IV Corps were held in check throughout most of the day. *On Lealand Lane just south of Battery Lane.*

7. Gen Leven

This Greek Revival house was completed in 1859 by the Thompson family. During the fighting on the 16th, family legend says the back parlor was used by the Federal army as a field hospital and, reportedly, the piano served as an operating table for United States Colored Troops wounded while assaulting Peach Orchard Hill. Dozens of USCTs killed were initially buried on the Thompson plantation, and later removed to the National Cemetery east of town. Today, the home is owned by the Land Trust for Tennessee. *4000 Franklin Road.*

8. Peach Orchard Hill

Entrenched on this hill, Lt. Gen. S.D. Lee's Corps was the far right flank of Hood's Confederate Army. All day on the 16th, Lee's men held this position against attacks by Steedman's Division and Wood's Corps. Six regiments of United States Colored Troops made the attack, the largest use of Black troops at any battle during the war. During the afternoon, USCTs repeatedly attempted to dislodge Lee. One regiment took over 800 casualties in less than an hour. Lee was finally forced to pull back late in the afternoon where he protected the Confederate rear as they retreated toward Franklin. *Corner of Franklin Road & Harding Place.*

Battle of Nashville Historic Sites



Map by Battle of Nashville Preservation Society (www.bonps.org)

Sites may be visited in any order. Please be aware of any sites on private property and obey all property owner warnings.

Fortifications



14. Fort Negley

Anchoring the Union line, the fort was the largest inland masonry fortification constructed during the war, and one of a series of fort installations that surrounded the city. Supporting forts on the hills to the southwest, Casino and Morton, made Nashville an impregnable city. All were constructed by impressed Black refugees and slaves from surrounding plantations. The entire field of fire in front of the fort was cleared of trees leaving the landscape bare. On December 15, the guns from these fortifications signaled the Federal assault with an opening salvo. Today, Negley is an historical park with a state-of-the-art Visitor's Center. *Fl Negley Blvd. off 8th Ave. South.*

15. Blockhouse Casino

Blockhouse Casino was built in 1862 as part of the fortification system surrounding the city to the south and the west of town. Made of wood, the blockhouse guarded the Franklin Turnpike. Today, the hill is the site of the city reservoir, built between 1887 and 1889. *8th Ave. South at the city reservoir.*



16. Tennessee State Capitol

Occupied after February 1862 by Federal forces, Nashville was the main supply and transportation hub for the Union armies in the west. The capitol building was completed just prior to the war (1859) and artillery emplacements and cotton bale breastworks surrounded the structure. It was known as Fort Andrew Johnson, after the state's military governor during occupation. Johnson eventually became Lincoln's running mate in 1864 and then president after his assassination several months later. Johnson was present in Nashville during the battle. The building is a National Historic Landmark. *Located on Capitol Hill.*

Hospitals



17. Downtown Presbyterian Church

Designed by Philadelphia architect William Strickland, the Egyptian Revival church was completed in 1855. The building served on occasion as a Federal hospital throughout Nashville's occupation. Today, the structure is a National Historic Landmark. *Located at the Corner of 5th Ave. North and Church Street.*



18. Sunnyside

During the first day of the battle, Sunnyside (Sevier House) was in the direct line of fire from both armies. When restoration work was conducted during the 1940s, cannon balls, canisters, and Minie Balls were found embedded in the building. Today, the house serves as the office for the Metro Nashville Historical Commission. *In Sevier Park at Granny White Pike and Kirkwood Ave.*



19. Western Military Institute

In the 1850s, this building was the central hall for the University of Nashville, and was later used to house the school's military institute. Such notable Confederate generals as Bushrod Johnson (buried in the Nashville City Cemetery), Kirby Smith, and A.P. Stewart taught there before the war. Regiments in Steedman's Provisional Division, including two United States Colored Troop brigades, began their march down the Murfreesboro Pike at 6:30 a.m. to make a diversionary attack against the Confederate right at Granbury's Lunette. Today, the structure houses several of the city's government agencies. *800 2nd Ave South.*

Cemeteries



20. Nashville City Cemetery

Opened in 1822, the cemetery is the city's oldest public burial ground. Originally four acres, the site grew to 27 acres in the decade before the war. During the occupation, the Federal army used the cemetery to bury Federal soldiers who died in the numerous army hospitals in town. Confederates were buried there as well. Among the officers who rest in the cemetery are Confederate Generals Richard Ewell, Felix Zollicoffer, the first Confederate general killed in the western theatre, and "Bushrod" Johnson. *Corner of 4th Ave South and Oak Street.*

21. Nashville National Cemetery

The Nashville National Cemetery was established in 1867 by order of Federal Commander George H. Thomas as a final resting place for Union soldiers killed in and around Nashville during the war. Over 16,000 Civil War soldiers are interred in the cemetery, including 3,600 unknown and members of the United States Colored Regiments who were killed at the Battle of Nashville. *1420 Gallatin Rd.*



22. Mt. Olivet Cemetery

Established in 1855, Mt. Olivet Cemetery became the final resting place for almost 1,500 Confederate soldiers who were reinterred from various battlefield locations in middle Tennessee. Veterans who survived the war were also buried in Mt. Olivet in an area designated as Confederate Circle. Seven southern generals are interred at the cemetery: William B. Bate, William N. R. Beall, Benjamin F. Cheatham, William H. Jackson, George Maney, James E. Rains, and Thomas Benton Smith. *Located at 1101 Lebanon Rd.*

Monuments and Magazines



9. Battle of Nashville Peace Monument

Originally dedicated in 1927 to honor men who fought in the Civil War and World War I, the monument was moved in 1999 to this park along the Confederate forward line. This is the only monument on the battlefield that recognizes both Northern and Southern soldiers. *At corner of Granny White Pike & Battlefield Drive.*



10. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

This Gothic Revival church, built in 1852, was used by the Federal army during occupation as a powder magazine. Reportedly, soldiers chopped meat on the altar and used the baptismal font as a wash basin. After the war, the Federal government compensated the congregation for the damages. *615 6th Ave. South.*

Images courtesy of Tara Mielnik, Metro Historical Commission, David Currey

Headquarters

11. Travellers Rest
Built in 1799 by Judge John Overton, the antebellum plantation home was Confederate General John Bell Hood's army headquarters for the two weeks leading up to the battle. Hood retired from the house and moved across Franklin Pike to Lealand to be closer to the front on December 15th. During the battle on the second day the family hid in the cellar. The Overtons were Confederate supporters, but Federal officers were allowed to stay in the house following the battle to protect the family. *636 Farrell Parkway.*



12. Belmont Mansion

Home of Adelia Acklen, one of the South's wealthiest women, the 1853 Italianate structure was used by Union Brig. General T. J. Wood as his command post during the battle. From here, Wood's men moved south over Montgomery Hill before turning southeast to engage Confederate redoubt No. 1 along Hillboro Pike. Family art treasures were removed before fighting broke out, and were taken downtown to the home of former President James K. Polk's widow for safe-keeping. The water tower just south of the mansion was used as an observation post. *1900 Belmont Blvd.*

13. Belle Meade Plantation

Built in 1853 by wealthy planter William Giles Harding, the mansion served as headquarters for Confederate Brig. General James Chalmers, a commander in Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry, for two weeks prior to the battle. On the morning of December 15th, a skirmish took place between Federal and Confederate troops in the front yard. Selene Harding, the 19-year-old daughter of Colonel Harding, ran out of the house during the fighting in an attempt to rally the retreating Confederates. *5025 Harding Road.*

