Memphis
Clayborn Temple
Historic Beale Street District
Mason Temple Church of God in Christ
National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel
WDIA Radio Station

Nashville
Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library
Clark Memorial United Methodist Church
Davidson County Courthouse and the Witness Walls
Fisk University
Griggs Hall, American Baptist College
Woolworth on 5th

Clinton
Clinton 12 Statue and Green McAdoo Cultural Center

WHAT HAPPENED HERE CHANGED THE WORLD.

Learn about other states’ sites on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail at civilrightstrail.com.

For more information on each of Tennessee’s trail sites, visit tncivilrightstrail.com.

EXPERIENCE THE SITES that helped define the settings of the American civil rights story by visiting these 12 historical Tennessee locations on the U.S. Civil Rights Trail.

By combining the events, people, places, and stories that defined the Movement, the trail connects and commemorates, through immersive and educational travel experiences, the stories that shifted the course of history for our nation.

tennessee has 12 stops along the U.S. Civil Rights Trail that tell the stories of the brave people who, through peaceful protests and legal actions, fought for their civil rights. Follow their footsteps through Memphis, Nashville and the historically significant town of Clinton to learn the history of Tennessee’s role in the Civil Rights Movement.

THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL is a collection of historic churches, courthouses, schools, museums and other landmarks that played a pivotal role in advancing social justice in the 1940s, 50s and 60s.

Embark on a journey of meaningful discovery and memories, where the past will enrich the present and inspire the future.

TENNESSEE LOCATIONS ON THE U.S. CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL

WEST
Clayborn Temple
Historic Beale Street District
Mason Temple Church of God in Christ
National Civil Rights Museum of the Lorraine Motel

MIDDLE
Civil Rights Room at the Nashville Public Library
Clark Memorial United Methodist Church
Davidson County Courthouse and the Witness Walls
Fisk University
Griggs Hall, American Baptist College

EAST
Clinton 12 Statue and Green McAdoo Cultural Center

MEMPHIS
NASHVILLE
CLINTON

TENNESSEE SITES

The U.S. Civil Rights Trail

Travel-South-U.SA

The Roundtable of America’s MADE IN TENNESSEE

For more information on each of Tennessee’s trail sites, visit tncivilrightstrail.com.
Clayborn Temple

Clayborn Temple hosted the Civil Rights Movement's pivotal meeting in 1968 when it became headquarters for the Memphis Sanitation Workers' Strike. During the February 1968, nearly 3,800 protestors marched twice daily from the church to City Hall carrying signs declaring “I AM A MAN!” in the earnings, rising prices, and support for the sanctuary, or inspirational speeches. Tours are available appointment.

Beale Street

Though Beale Street was one of the most vibrant streets in America, it began as a thriving area for commerce, musicians, Black-owned businesses, and was home to a 1927 anti-organizational newspaper. It became a voice and venue for open dialogue and discovery. Visitors are invited to experience the story of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference annual meeting there in 1961.

Baptist College

A seminary for Black students, it became the center for non-violent training and activity in the Nashville area, especially the Nashville sit-in program. Griggs Hall, the first building constructed on the campus of American Baptist College, was a seminary for Black students who attended non-violent training and activity in the Nashville area, especially the Nashville sit-in program. Griggs Hall was restored in 2015 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Tours are available by appointment.

Beale Street

One of the most iconic streets in America, Beale Street was home to Ida B. Wells' anti-segregationist newspaper. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his prophetic “Mountaintop” speech on April 3, 1968, which would be the eve of his assassination. On that night, thousands streamed into the sanctuary at the church and Dr. King went in to Memphis to support the striking sanitation workers. To inspire the people, he famously told them, “I’ve been to the mountaintop” and had worn the Emmett Till mask. These prophetic statements were part of Dr. King’s last speech.

Woolworth on 5th

The Woolworth building is a registered historic site. Since the days of the 1960s, it has become a symbol of the struggle for civil rights. The Woolworth building's distinctive design is a part of downtown Nashville's Fifth Avenue Historic District. It is a symbol of the movement for non-violent protest and a key site in the Nashville sit-in program. Griggs Hall was restored in 2005 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Tours are available by appointment.

Baptist World Center

The W-B Center, a building that was once a Woolworth's, now serves as a place of worship for the Pembroke Baptist Church. It was originally a Woolworth's and its lunch counter.

Fisk University

Established in 1866, Fisk University is the oldest university in Nashville. Students were instrumental in many of the sit-ins demonstrations throughout the Civil Rights Movement. The university's history and its famous alumni, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall (the first African American Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court) and U.S. Representative John Lewis. You can also visit the extensive art collection in the Carl Van Vechten Gallery.

I-14\Nashville sit-in program. Visitors can enjoy soul food and live music grounded in the rock 'n' roll and soul of the 1950s and '60s. It resembles the Woolworth building's distinctive design is a part of downtown Nashville's Fifth Avenue Historic District. It is a symbol of the movement for non-violent protest and a key site in the Nashville sit-in program. Griggs Hall was restored in 2005 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Tours are available by appointment.

American Baptist College

In April of 1960, after the bombing of the home of Z. Alexander Looby, 2,500 protestors marched to the Courthouse. There, they met Mayor Ben West, who conceded that segregation was immoral and the city's lunch counters should be desegregated. Next to the Courthouse, the Witness Walls tell stories of the events and people who made history. Walk among the walls to see school desegregation, marches, Freedom Rides and more.

Fisk University

Fisk University, founded in 1866, is the oldest university in Nashville. Students were instrumental in many of the sit-ins demonstrations throughout the Civil Rights Movement. The university's history and its famous alumni, including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Thurgood Marshall (the first African American Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court) and U.S. Representative John Lewis. You can also visit the extensive art collection in the Carl Van Vechten Gallery.