

REMEMBER: Many of these sites are privately owned. We ask that you view from the road.

35. Kenner-Ferris Cottage - This house was built for Minor Kenner, the grandson of the last governor of the Natchez Territory (now Louisiana) when it was under Spanish rule. His brother, Representative Duncan Kenner, a Louisiana planter, and amateur racing horseman was sent to France by President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy to try to get help to end the Civil War. (89)

36. Mason-Fehery-Rogers Cottage - Built in 1861 by James Fehery, the family lived there until 1901. Mrs. Fehery's brother lived there until 1924, when it was sold to Arnold Kissling. He and his wife lived there until 1928, when Kissling cut down a tree that his wife loved; in her anger, she made him sell the house. Past owners include Victor and Carrie Coppinger Tate 1928-1952; Rev. & Mrs. Rogers and son Buddy 1952-1998; Michael Poulos purchased it in 1998 and restacked the logs and added an addition and opened Stone Door Yoga Retreat. Michael and Melody Green of Franklin purchased it in 2015. (104)

37. Nathan's Cottage - Nathan Bracken was the faithful slave of John Armfield and was well respected by all. Uncle Nathan purchased the house in 1876 and lived there with his family until he died around 1916. He deeded the house and property to his sons in 1911. Claude Coppinger purchased it in 1922. Mitchell Hobbs owned it until he sold it to Mrs. Davenport of McMinnville. The Woodlee family purchased it in 2018. (88)

38. Eve Cottage - This is one of the original houses and was owned by the family of Dr. Paul Eve, who was one of the greatest and most successful surgeons in the South during the late 1880s to 1940s. It is currently owned by the Stansburys. (81)

39. Hemlock Hall - Built around 1858, Hemlock Hall is an excellent example of Victorian Gothic architecture. Large hemlock trees shade the H-shaped cottage. Virginia Perkins Freeland of Mississippi was the first owner and was able to reclaim it after the Civil War even though it had been occupied and ransacked. Dr. Thomas Black and his family owned the house from 1894 to 1949. Dr. Black was a prominent physician and Mayor of McMinnville. Stories of Mississippi gamblers, blood-stained floors and ghosts are all part of the mystique of the property now owned by the Mazza family. (79)

40. Argo Cottage | Mountain Home Gifts - This cottage was built for Bishop James H. Otey of Tennessee who was known as the "Good Bishop." Bishop Otey was a classicist and a scholar who acquired a considerable library. He died in 1863, and after the Civil War school was held here for the children of Beersheba. In 1898, the house was a boarding house for those who could not afford the Hotel. In the 1940s, the house was purchased by the three Argo sisters. The house is currently owned by the Argo family and houses a gift shop called Mountain Home Gifts, Crafts & Antiques. Open Wednesday through Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. (78)

41. Howell Cottage - Given by John Armfield to Bishop Leonidas Polk of Louisiana. As one of Armfield's largest cottages, the gift was perhaps an incentive to consider the area as a site for a new Episcopal University. Bishops Polk and Otey soon chose Sewanee for the University of the South. Bishop Polk, known as "the fighting Bishop", was a Lt. General in the Army of Tennessee during the Civil War and was killed in the Battle of Pine Mountain in Georgia. After the war, the house was unoccupied for years until Morton B. and Bettie C. Howell acquired it in 1873, and their heirs still own it today. (73)

42. Big Red Barn - Renovated in 2009 and now is a popular venue for weddings and parties. www.BeershebaBarn.com

43. Beersheba Springs Church of Christ.

44. Beersheba Springs Dental Clinic - Open by appointment

45. Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic - A free Medical Clinic for the community started by Dr. Garrett Adams. www.BeershebaClinic.org

46. Beersheba Springs Market - a long-standing fixture of the community, "the store" was most recently owned and operated by the Whitman family. The Store was renovated in the Spring of 2023 and features groceries, gas, in-store dining, carry-out food, hardware, camping and RV gear, and more. www.BeershebaSpringsMarket.com "If we don't have it, you don't need it!"

47. Brown Cottage - The house was built in the Carpenter Queen Ann style about 1895 by Fred Schwoon who came to Beersheba to cut timber. It was built as a wedding present for his daughter Clara Schwoon Woodlee and her husband Henry. Henry Woodlee was the Postmaster of Beersheba at that time. After Clara died, Marvin and Tim Brown purchased the house in 1918 and lived there with their three sons Raymond, Dennis, and Stanley. The house is framed completely with yellow poplar and has heart pine floors. Dennis and Frances Brown's daughter, Charlotte Brown Boyd now owns the cottage.

48. Vallee Noire - Peggy and Alf Adams, Jr. built their house on the rim of Dark Hollow, using that name in its French translation for their house. Some of Beersheba's early industries were sited here. Among these were the Cagle Sawmill, Col. Armfield's tanning yard, and coalmines (down in the hollow). Construction of Vallee Noire began in 1973 and continued for 3 years. With the help of local friends, Alf repurposed large beams from the freight terminal in Nashville, logs from early 19th century homes and floorboards from a smokehouse. The Adams' flower and vegetable gardens and their beehives are appreciated by their guests and neighbors.

49. Dykes House - This board and batten house was built sometime during the 1800s. Its floor and ceiling joists were cut by a saw invented in 1805. Originally owned by Thomas and Nancy Brown, it sold to R. T. and Mary Frances (Polly) Dykes before 1890. Dykes was the Postmaster and ran the Post Office out of his house. It is now owned by Jean Garrett, a descendant of the Browns and Dykes.

50. United States Post Office - Beersheba Springs, TN 37305.

51. Brown House - Built in 1905 by Thomas Cagle, grandson of Ben Cagle. Thomas' son Toby invented the Cagle Break used on race cars and airplanes. Eddie and Emma Brown purchased the house in 1920 from his brother Marvin & Tim Brown and her brother Frank & Nellie Smith. They raised their family in this home and lived there until their deaths. It is owned by two of Eddie's and Emma's granddaughters. (94)

52. Grace Chapel - Built and given to the community by Miss Grace McCage of Clarksville in 1897. She became interested in Beersheba after spending several summers here with her parents.

53. Grace Baptist Church. (new structure)

54. Brown-Bean Cottage - Agnes Brown brought the logs from her grandparents' (Rev. Wm Sanford and Nancy Dykes Brown) home up the backbone and set them up on land her parents gave her. She built the frame structure around the log cabin where she and her husband, Rev. James Madison Bean, a Presbyterian pastor who served churches in several states, raised their family. Agnes remained in her home until her death in 1967. It remains in the Brown family today.

55. Indian Spring. - This is one of the several 'Beersheba Springs' that give this community its name. The spring is located 250 feet from the road down a well-worn path. The iron-laced water trickles through stacked rock into a sandstone bowl carved by Native Americans.

56. Dan - Built by Captain Eugene Herman Plumacher, responsible for the settlement of the Swiss at Gruetli. He served as United States Consul in Maracaibo, Venezuela from 1877 to 1910. The house burned under mysterious circumstances one Sunday morning. He rebuilt the house and planned it much like the Hotel, around a square courtyard. (91)

57. Beersheba Springs Community Center - Built in the 1800s, the one-room building served as the Beersheba Springs Schoolhouse until 1980 when North Elementary school opened.

Beersheba Springs Walking Tour

THE EARLY HISTORY OF BEERSHEBA SPRINGS

Although this "early" history primarily deals with the summer colony, the strength of Beersheba lies in its year-round residents. Many of these citizens are descendants of Beersheba's hardy early settlers, some of whom were here prior to 1833.

In 1833 Mrs. Beersheba Cain and her husband, John Cain, travelled on horseback across this mountain. When they stopped to rest, Mrs. Cain found a path which she followed to a spring of iron water. She has since been recorded as the first person to see the great Chalybeate spring which was afterwards called Beersheba's Spring.

In 1836 Dr. Alfred Paine and his brother-in-law George Smart, drawn to Beersheba by their belief in the medicinal qualities of the spring water, purchased

1500 acres of the mountaintop near the bluff. There they built a tavern and several cabins, patterning the community after the then-popular Virginia resorts. In 1839 the Beersheba Springs Company was incorporated, and a modern road was built down the mountain to McMinnville.

In 1854, John Armfield (one of the most prolific slave traders in the country), bought the tavern and the several log cabins comprising the hotel along with 1500 acres of mountain top. He immediately began leasing lots for 20 years for \$1 a year with the proviso that the lessee must build a cabin on the lot within a year. Armfield himself built 20 cabins, 14 of which are still standing.

From 1858-60 the Hotel was a famous resort which attracted as many as 400 guests at a time, many of whom came from the lowlands to escape yellow fever and cholera, not to mention the heat. A New Orleans band played every night for

dancing, and the chef and all the servants were French. As a coach bringing guests reached the foot of the mountain, the driver blew a horn, signaling the number of arriving guests so the Hotel could have food prepared and beds warmed by the time of arrival.

When the Civil War broke out, Beersheba Springs became a place of refuge where distinguished men gathered for rest and a little culture. The Hotel and the cottages were frequently looted by deserters from both sides, who carried off clothing, silver, china, salt (a treasure at that time), and other provisions.

The Hotel reopened in 1870 after redecoration, but it was never again to attract the resort patrons it had before. The Hotel limped along for decades and was finally purchased by the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church in 1941 and from that time it has operated as a conference and retreat center.

THE FOLLOWING TOUR is designed to take you to sites and buildings on the historical circle-walking path and old houses with architectural charm. *Many are privately owned, and we ask that you view from the road.*

1. Hotel Beersheba Springs Assembly. A tavern was built in 1833, a few months after the chalybeate spring was discovered. In 1854, John Armfield bought the tavern and built a hotel with a two-story front, columns, and side wings. By 1858, other cabins were added, and the Hotel could accommodate 400 guests. Billiards and a bowling alley were available for guests, and a New Orleans band often played for dancing. The Hotel was raided several times during the Civil War and was also set on fire, but it survived. After several owners, in 1941, the Hotel and 22 acres were purchased by the Tennessee Conference of the Methodist Church for \$3,000 and is now a conference and retreat center as a part of the United Methodist TN conference. (8).

2. Lookout (observatory) - When the Hotel was in its heyday, there was a large wooden, roofed observatory here with wooden steps leading down to the springs.

3. United Methodist Chapel

4. The Burch Cottage - Referred to as the Northcut general store and post office for Beersheba, it was originally operated by Tommy Northcut and then Marvin Brown. The store was closed in 1929, and in 1932, Dr. & Mrs. Lucius Burch purchased the old store and converted it into a mountain home. In 1975, Mr. & Mrs. William Earthman bought the house. (51)

5. A small arched stone structure marks the site of the original Beersheba spring discovered by Beersheba Porter Cain. The spring is no longer active as it was affected by the blasting during the construction of TN 56.

6. Balancing Rock (see #8 The Cliffs)

7. The Papel Cottage - Built by Dr. Thomas Jefferson Harding of Nashville, whose wife was the daughter of John M. Bass and Malvina Grundy Bass. Dr. Harding was a first cousin of John Harding of Belle Meade Plantation in Nashville. This is the only home made from handmade bricks. Dr. Harding sold it to the Mitchell family of Nashville in 1892, who owned it until 1964. Mr. Charles Mitchell, a well-known Nashville confectioner and baker added the side porches and the cupola. The legend is that the cupola was built by a one-armed carpenter. The Drumright family of Nashville became the owners in 1964, and it is currently owned by one of the Drumright granddaughters and her family. (49)

8. The Cliffs - The Armfield-Glasgow Cottage - In the early 1830's, the first house on this site was built with red cedar logs for William White of McMinnville. This house was purchased by John Armfield in 1854, when he bought the hotel. He enlarged the house and added several rooms, including a bedroom wing, porches on three sides, several outhouses, several slave quarters, a smokehouse, henhouse, corn crib, a wash house and a stable. It is said that Mrs. Armfield had a fireplace built in one of the privies when the couple lived on the mountain year-round during the Civil War. Col. Armfield died in 1871, and Mrs. Armfield held on to the house until 1892, when she sold it to Frank Porterfield of Nashville. Mr. Porterfield sold it to the former U.S. General Gates P. Thurston of Nashville, who died in 1912. The cottage was later sold to the Claude P. Street family of Nashville and again in 1943 to the Glasgow family of Nashville, who continue to enjoy it today. **Balancing Rock**, (#6) once a popular

trail, is located at the back of this property. However, it is no longer accessible(39).

9. Turner Cottage - Built in 1856 for John M. Bass, who served as mayor of Nashville in 1833 and was a close friend of John Armfield. Mr. Bass was married to Malvina Grundy, daughter of Felix Grundy. In 1899, Mr. & Mrs. R.W. Turner purchased the house, adding porches with large octagonal cupolas to catch the mountain breezes. The Turners added Beersheba's first indoor bathroom and toilet. In 1946, Sue Turner renovated the Victorian house and ran it as an inn until 1951. Her daughter and son-in-law, Suzanne and John Fassnacht, ran it as a guest house for several years, and it is still owned by the Fassnacht family. (44)

10. Peach Blossom Cabin - Originally built by Bob and Mary Trabue Meyer, the cabin is made of hand-hewn yellow poplar logs about 200 years old. The front door and sidelights, lintels and windows came from the Peach Blossom mansion (circa 1803) originally standing on Craighead Avenue in Nashville. Theresa (Mary's cousin) and Norm Carl and their daughter Sarah have owned and loved the cabin since 1986.

11. Picnic Rock - Built by Charles and Mary Trabue after the Trabue family's Beersheba home, Roundtop, burned in the early 1960s. Roundtop was built by Mr. & Mrs. Charles Trabue Sr., in the early 1920s and was the sight of many wonderful Beersheba gatherings. The driveway to the Roundtop can be seen just across from Benhame. Legend says that the cabin adjacent to Picnic Rock was used by the previous owner for nightly seances and such. The Trabue children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren continue to enjoy its stunning view and rich history.

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12. Armfield Cemetery - Col. Armfield, along with his former slave Nathan Bracken, are buried here. Olga Plumacher and her son Hermann are also among those buried here. Take time to see the lovely sculpture of hands created by Jo Fassnacht to commemorate the members of the family who have lived in the Turner Cottage.

13. Indian Rock- Originally built in 1912 by Miss Mary Means who ran the hotel with her parents from 1899 through 1901. The property was so named because many arrowheads were found there. After her death, the house was owned by a cousin, whose widow sold it to the Dr. Garrett Adams family (95).

14. Benhame (translates from the Gaelic as "Mountain Home"). Begun by Edna Davenport of McMinnville in 1961. The central two-story section was built with very old logs and chimney stones from Greeter's Longs Mill. Dr. & Mrs. Ben Caldwell bought the property in 1973 and added a guest wing. The Emanuel family of Oak Ridge, TN purchased the home in 2006. (96)

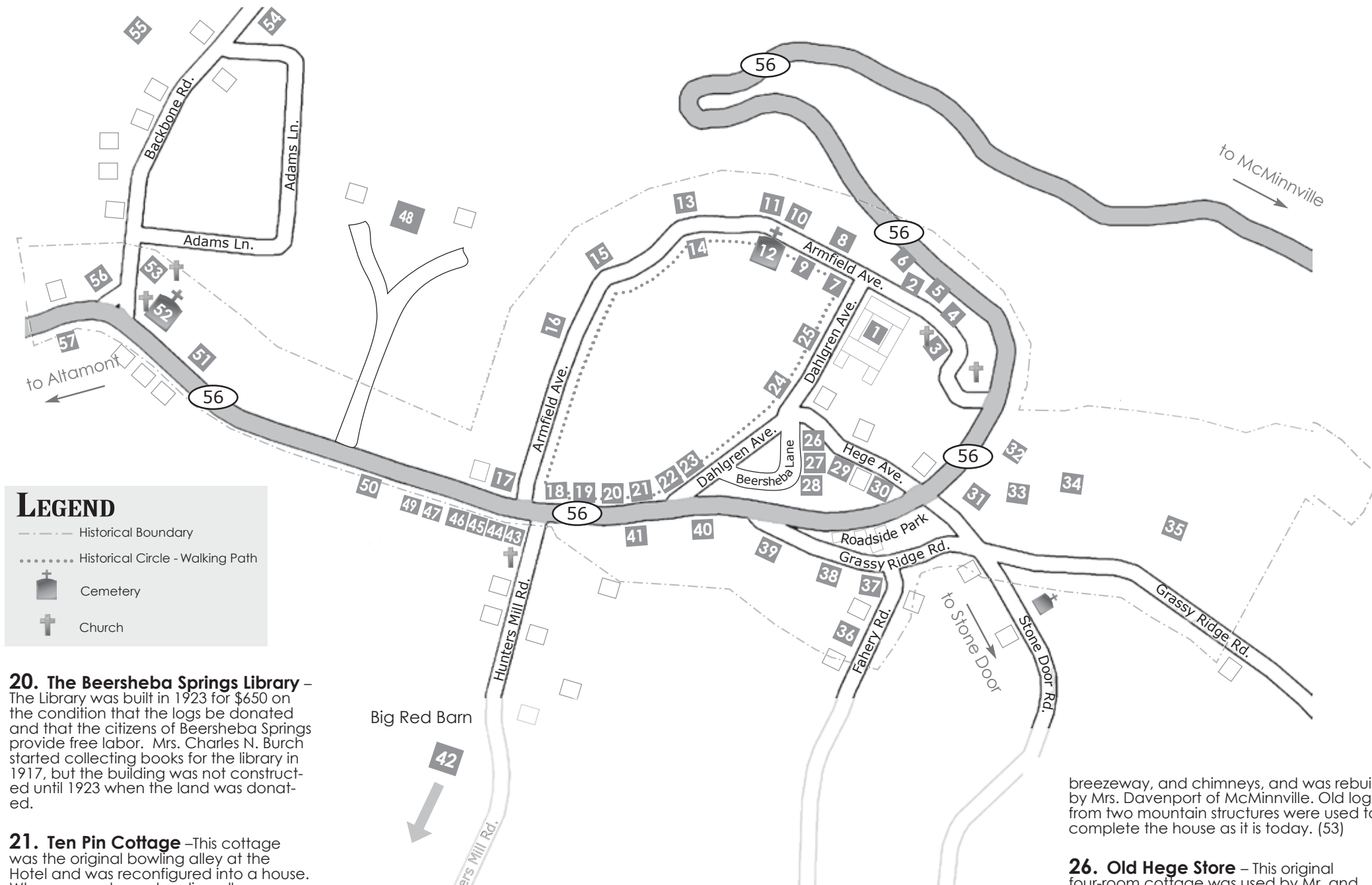
15. Leonard Tate Cottage - Leonard Tate, author of many articles and poems was considered the first native poet of consequence in the history of Grundy County. Tate was born on April 19, 1912, to William M. Tate and his second wife Martha Belle Smith Tate, the first librarian in Beersheba Springs. He was the youngest of five children. His book, *All the Lost Octobers* was published by the Beersheba Springs Historical Society in 1990, just after his death in 1989.

16. Wholemeal - Designed by Seab Tuck of Nashville and built by the Nelson Andrews and Sue Adams Andrews family in 1981. The home has several unusual features, including a firepole, a steam whistle and a drawbridge. In the gulch below the porch is the tanyard spring, where tanning vats from the 1800s were found about 45 years ago. (106).

17. Museum - Beersheba Springs Historical Society. Margaret Brown Coppinger converted the building to a 'museum', though it was truly her office for historical research. She enjoyed telling others about the history of Beersheba Springs. Today the museum includes contributions from many local families chronicling the colorful history of the town. Open Saturdays 1-4 pm May through October. www.BeershebaSpringsHistoricalSociety.org

18. Whitehaven - The historic "White" building has been a post office, a dress shop, and before its most recent renovation by notable Nashville Designer, David White, the Beersheba Cafe. Now, it functions year-round as a contemporary Airbnb known as Whitehaven. The Stacy Beam Fine Art Gallery hosts special events periodically, and its popular Art On The Mountain has benefited the Beersheba Springs Medical Clinic since 2018. Gallery is open by appointment. www.stacybeam.com

19. Squared Log House - the logs were brought up the mountain on the Backbone Road in the early 1900's.



LEGEND

- Historical Boundary
- Historical Circle - Walking Path
- ☩ Cemetery
- ☩ Church

20. The Beersheba Springs Library - The Library was built in 1923 for \$650 on the condition that the logs be donated and that the citizens of Beersheba Springs provide free labor. Mrs. Charles N. Burch started collecting books for the library in 1917, but the building was not constructed until 1923 when the land was donated.

21. Ten Pin Cottage - This cottage was the original bowling alley at the Hotel and was reconfigured into a house. When a new, larger bowling alley was built at the Hotel, the original bowling alley was cut in two and rolled on logs to its present site by Tom Northcut, who added interior walls to convert the structure into a rental cottage. Marvin Brown, who ran the store after Tommy Northcut, probably lived here with his family until they moved to the Hotel in the 1920s. Various families rented Ten Pin until it sold in the early 1960s. In 1980, Mrs. A.G. Adams III and her daughter Faith Young bought Ten Pin. Mandy and Stephen Young and their children continue to enjoy it today. (102).

22. T'other House - Built for John Armfield's nephew, Captain Albert Hanner in 1854. Mr. Tom Northcut bought the house in 1879 and used it as a rental house for summer residents. Mr. & Mrs. A.G. Adams, Jr. took a twenty-year lease on the cottage and continued to use it until she bought the White House next door. The Northcut heirs owned T'other House until 1956, when it was sold to Katharine Chenoweth and Comfort Adams Randolph. It is currently owned by the Chenoweth family. (70)

NOTE: Much of the history in this walking tour comes from *Beersheba Springs, A History, Volume I* (1983), written and edited by Margaret Brown Coppinger, Hershel Gower, Samuel H. Howell, and Georgianna D. Overby. Page numbers () after each entry refer to this book. There are many references from *Beersheba Springs, A History, Volume II*. Other books about Beersheba Springs are available at the Beersheba Springs Market and the Beersheba Springs Museum. www.BeershebaSpringsHistoricalSociety.org

23. The White House - Built for William L. Murfree by John Armfield. It was later owned by the Merritt family of Clarksville. In 1924, Mrs. Adam G. Adams, Jr. bought the White House for her seven sons and their children. Mrs. Adams died in 1935 and her descendants still own and love the house. (63).

24. Nanhaven - Bought in 1859 by Charles G. Dahlgren, briefly a Mississippi Brigadier General in the Civil War. Herschel Gower wrote his biography: *Charles Dahlgren of Natchez*. He was the son of the first Swedish Consul to the United States and a descendant of King Gustavus Adolphus.

The house was bought in 1887 by Miss Fannie Thompson and named "Nanhaven" in her honor. The original log house was struck by lightning and destroyed in 2015. The cabin survived. A new energy-efficient house was completed in 2020 and is occupied by descendants of her sister, Jennie, and Alfred E. Howell.

25. Cagle-Taylor Cottage - This house was built in 1857 by Armfield for Dr. & Mrs. John Waters and was situated on a six-acre lot known as "Orchard Tract." The property contained a tannery and a lumber mill in addition to the orchard. The original house, attached for \$1,000 after the war, was used for the post office for a short time. In 1948 the house burned, leaving only the kitchen,

breezeway, and chimneys, and was rebuilt by Mrs. Davenport of McMinnville. Old logs from two mountain structures were used to complete the house as it is today. (53)

26. Old Hege Store - This original four-room cottage was used by Mr. and Mrs. John Hege as a residence and store. It has been stated that wagons would pull up to side doors and be loaded with supplies. This property was rented out for many years to various families, including the Henry Brown family. It was bought at auction in 1956 by Robert and Lillian Daniel of McMinnville as part of the Fannie Moffitt estate. It is currently owned by their daughter and son-in-law, Melody and Mike Green.

27. Beersheba Lane Inn - For many years, the house was known as the "Middle Hege Cottage" and was owned by Ernest Hege. Margaret Coppinger's research revealed that the Sterling Cockrill family built the house c. 1850 to occupy while their summer home was built next door (now Beersheba Porcelain). The cottage is one of the earliest Armfield structures, with hand hewn logs and the typical Armfield front entryway. In 1971, the cottage passed to Ralph Baugh of Nashville, who operated it as a Bed and Breakfast and restaurant. It is now owned by the Adams Family who use it as an extension to The White House across the street. (93)

28. Beersheba Porcelain - Built in the early 1850s for Confederate aristocrat Sterling Cockrill. Because the Armfield sawmill was not built until 1855, this home's logs are hand-hewn. Phil and Terri Mayhew, along with their son Brad, purchased the house in 1985 and opened their business, Beersheba Porcelain, in 1986. Beersheba Porcelain produced and sold beautiful porcelain pottery and jewelry.

29. Hege Avenue Log House - Originally located in a small community half-way down the mountain on Backbone Road, it was moved to Hege Avenue, perhaps a century or more ago. Its logs are hand-hewn, which places its origin before the Armfield sawmill was built in August 1855. Unfortunately, its builder remains unknown, and it has been uninhabited for over 50 years.

30. The Mayhew Cottage - This cottage was built in 1942 by George Thompson for the Reverend and Mrs. T.W. Mayhew. Rev. Mayhew was a participant in the 1941 purchase of the Beersheba Springs Hotel by the United Methodist Church. The cottage is currently owned by Wilbur & Gail Mayhew Cate. Ms. Cate is the sister of Phil Mayhew, owner of the Sterling Cockrill cottage, also known as Beersheba Porcelain.

31. Hopper House - Originally at the back corner of the Hotel property facing Dahlgren Avenue, this cottage was one of the earliest houses built by Armfield. Rev. S.A. Hopper bought the house in the 1930s. Howell Adams purchased the house in the 1990s and moved it to its current location.

32. Dillinger House - Infamous bank robber John Dillinger stayed in this house in the spring of 1934 prior to meeting his demise in Chicago outside the Biograph Theater.

33. Hunerwadel House - Charles Phillips of New Orleans purchased lot #8 from Armfield in 1859. In 1868, Richard Clark of Cleveland (and a partner of J.D. Rockefeller) bought the house. Clark sold the house to John Hege in 1872. The House burned in 1911 and was re-built a year later by Hege's daughter Mina Hunerwadel and her family. It is said that while the house was burning Mr. Hunerwadel removed all the doors to reuse when the house was rebuilt. The Howell Adams family currently owns the house and property. (85)

34. Lovers Leap & Lovers Leap Lodge - Getting its name from the legend of a Revolutionary War soldier and a Native American princess who leapt from the point to their death so they could be together in the afterlife. The lot was originally purchased from Armfield in 1859 by Isaiah Garrett. William L. Murfree later purchased the lot and built a home he called Crag-Wyde. It is here that Mary Noailles Murfree, under the pen name of Charles Craddock, wrote her stories of the Tennessee Mountains. The original home either burned or was moved and in 1909, the current two-story, log home was built by Mr. Henry Brown. The logs were milled from white oak trees cut on the property. Lovers Leap is currently owned by the Hendrickson family. (83)