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Maury Christmas

Historic Home Tour
Vol. 2, No. 1

December 7 & 8, 2018



PRESENTED BY

THE MAURY COUNTY APTA

features

Maury Christmas
Volume 2, Number 1
December 2018

- 2 About the Tour
- 2 Tour Headquarters
- 3 Academy Hall & CMA Museum
- 5 Elm Springs
- 6 McLemore-Marino Home
- 8 Grace Episcopal Church
- 9 President James K. Polk Home
- 11 Mayes-Frierson-Hill Home
- 12 Rippavilla Plantation
- 14 Pullen Mill Farm
- 15 McKay-Marczak Home
- 16 Davis-Esslinger Home
- 17 Athenaeum Items & Antoinette Polk Flag
- 20 Places to Eat
- 21 Places to Stay

Cover Photo



*The Guard House on the campus of Columbia Academy.
Read more about this location on p. 3.*

Welcome to Maury County, Tennessee!

The 2018 Maury Christmas Historic Home Tour is one of the best tours the APTA has put together in its sixty-seven year history.

The history of Maury County is second to none and this tour highlights some great aspects of this history. During the tour, you will follow in the footsteps of a President of the United States. You will also follow in the footsteps of soldiers— Civil War soldiers at Elm Springs, the Athenaeum, & Rippavilla and Spanish-American War soldiers and military cadets at Academy Hall & the Guard House.

There is so much history to enjoy and many great things to see. If you can't see it all on this trip, plan to visit us again... and again!

Maury Christmas,

*Adam Southern
Maury County APTA, President*



About the Tour

The Maury Christmas Historic Home Tour is a Maury County tradition. The tour began in 1951 as the “Majestic Middle Tennessee Tour of Homes” and was held each year in the Fall. Since that time, the tour has evolved into a two-day event taking place annually on the first week-end of December.

This year’s tour features eleven sites. More information about the tour sites can be found within the pages of this publication.

Here’s how the tour works:

1) Purchase tickets. Tickets may be purchased at Tour Headquarters (the Athenaeum) or at any of the other ticket locations (the Maury County Visitor’s Center, the Polk Home, and Rippavilla Plantation).

2) Go tour! This tour is geared towards YOU. Once you have your ticket, you can go to whichever participat-

ing site you please. You can visit just a few of the sites or go to all eleven—the choice is yours.

Tour tickets are \$25.

For more information about the tour, call Tour Headquarters at (931) 381-4822 or visit the tour website, www.MauryChristmas.org.

The Maury Christmas Home Tour is the annual fundraiser of the Maury County Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA). Proceeds from this event go toward the operating costs and continued maintenance of the historic Athenaeum. Maury County APTA and the Maury County Visitor’s Bureau are proud sponsors of the Maury Christmas Home Tour.

Tour Headquarters— The Athenaeum

The historic Athenaeum Rectory in Columbia, Tennessee is an architectural oddity in Maury County. The style of construction is very unique and is called “Moorish-Gothic.” The home was built to resemble the castle-like Columbia Female Institute that was located next door.

This was very fitting, actually, since the home would go on to house the first headmaster of the Institute, the Reverend Mr. Franklin G.

Smith and his family, in 1837.

The home was commissioned in 1835 by Samuel Polk Walker, a nephew of President James K. Polk. The design of the home is believed to have come from the architectural firm of Drummond & Lutterloh. The firm designed the Institute. Maury County’s “Master Builder,” Nathan Vaught is given credit for the actual construction of the home.

In 1852, Rev. Smith left his post at the Institute and founded his own school, the Columbia Athenaeum, from which the home derives its name. Smith would operate his school until his death in 1866, at which time, his wife became principal. When Mrs. Smith died, their eldest son Robert became principal and operated the school until 1904 when he sold the property to the City of Columbia for use as a public school.



The family retained the rectory as their private residence. The home was passed from the eldest Smith son, Robert, to his son, Franklin Gillette “Lette” Smith, II. When Lette died without any heirs in 1919, the home was sold at public auction. Lette’s aunt, Clara, came to the auction in hopes of buying the family home. Once Clara raised her hand to bid, no one else bid against her and she was able to buy the Athe-

naeum. Clara’s daughter, Carrie Smith, lived in the home until her death in the 1970s.

The remaining Smith descendants, now living in Texas, decided to donate the property to the Maury County Chapter, Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities (APTA). The Maury County APTA has operated the site as a historic home and museum since 1974.

The APTA has several fund-raisers throughout the year to help preserve the Athenaeum for future generations. The Maury Christmas Tour is one of those fund-raisers.

While in Columbia during the tour, be sure to stop by the Athenaeum Rectory. In addition to the tour ornaments and shirts available at the Athenaeum, there will also be a bake sale with a variety of items made by APTA members and their friends.

Academy Hall & CMA Museum

Dr. William J. Polk erected a large, beautiful home on the grounds of what is now Columbia Academy in 1834. This home was named Buena Vista, meaning “good view.” After Dr. Polk’s death, the property went to his daughter, Mary Polk Branch. Branch would write *Memoirs of Southern Woman ‘Within the Lines’* about her life in Maury County before and during the Civil War. The book also tells of a daring Civil War-time ride made by Antoinette Polk that began at Buena Vista and ended at Ashwood Hall.

Antoinette and Mary were cousins. And, while Antoinette was visiting Mary at Buena Vista, she saw a Federal patrol heading south toward her home, Ashwood Hall. She knew there was a group of Confederate soldiers on her home place and she knew she had to warn them or they would all be captured. So, Antoinette mounted her horse and galloped toward the Mt. Pleasant Pike, just ahead of the Union soldiers. When they saw Antoinette’s horse gallop through the gate ahead of them, the troops knew she was headed to warn someone, so they gave chase. One soldier got close enough to pull the feather from Antoinette’s hat, but that was as close as they could get.

Antoinette made it home to Ashwood Hall and warned the Confederates, allowing them to avoid capture. The Union troops went back to their commanding officer with an ostrich plume as their only prisoner. The officer, after hearing the story of Antoinette’s ride, was furious. He reportedly screamed, “Why the hell did you not shoot her in the back?”

Mary Polk Branch would sell the family farm to Sims Latta who would later sell the property to the U. S. government for use as an arsenal.

In 1888, the core of the Columbia Arsenal was built and had buildings erected with stone mined locally and imported from Warren County, Kentucky, where the white-stone industry had flourished since the early 1800s. It was one of only 11 arsenals in the United States, and troops here made harness and leather goods for the war effort during the Spanish-American War. The government spared no labor or expense in developing and landscaping the property. The iron fence around the 67 acres cost more than \$20,000.

After just 15 years, the federal government closed the Columbia Arsenal and considered it surplus property. With the help of Senator

Edward W. Carmack and other leaders, the government determined that the property should be used for education purposes. On April 23, 1904 the newly formed Columbia Military Academy Board of Trustees was formed. For 75 years Columbia Military Academy stood tall among the great preparatory schools of the nation, but, due to the anti-military sentiments of the Vietnam-era and the rise of private day schools, CMA’s numbers dropped significantly.

In 1979, the churches of Christ were deeded the property. This new board, created in 1979, opened the school that same year as Columbia Academy, a Christian school.

Academy Hall

Academy Hall (pictured below), formerly known as Carmack Hall and Gracy Hall, is one of the nine original buildings built in 1891. While part of CMA, Academy Hall served as a junior school as well as housing for as many as twenty-six upperclassmen, faculty members, and the commandant.

Academy Hall is undoubtedly one of the most unique and impressive structures in Maury County. The architect for the building and the original campus was Maury County’s own Edwin Carpenter. Academy Hall was one of his first works, soon to be followed by his designs for the Maury County Courthouse, the Stahlman, and Hermitage Hotel in Nashville.

The Guard House

Another of the original 1891 buildings is the Guard House. This was literally the station house for arsenal guards and was complete with a brig for unruly soldiers. Today, the Guard House is used to house the Columbia Military Academy museum.





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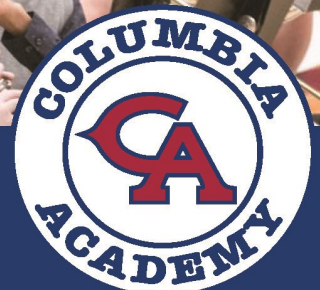
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Elm Springs

Elm Springs is a Greek Revival mansion built in 1837 by master builder Nathan Vaught. It is situated on the old stage road that led from Pulaski to Franklin. James and Nathaniel Dick, wealthy cotton merchants of the N & J Dick Company from New Orleans had the house built for their sister Sarah Todd and her husband Christopher, formerly of Virginia. During the War Between the States, the Todd's youngest daughter Susan and her husband, attorney and Tennessee State Senator Abraham Looney occupied the home. He commanded the famous Company H of the Maury County Grays.

Looney was an outspoken Southerner, and this almost resulted in the loss of Elm Springs. In November of 1864, Confederate Units of the famed Army of Tennessee began the march north for Nashville in what would be known as the Franklin-Nashville Campaign. The Federal Army, which had occupied Maury County for several months, was preparing defensive positions ahead of the oncoming Confederate troops under Gen. John B. Hood. Their line of defense extended from the Mooresville Pike to the Mt. Pleasant Pike. As Union forces under the command of Major-General John M. Schofield began their hasty withdrawal from Columbia, many of Maury County's majestic antebellum homes fell victim to the torch. Many houses were burned during those days and Elm Springs was slated to be destroyed also. In an act of retribution, the historic home of Confederate Lieutenant Colonel Abraham M. Looney was selected to be destroyed by fire as the last Union troops left Colum-

bia. Responding to pleas of assistance from local citizens, Confederate Brigadier General Frank C. Armstrong dispatched a squad of mounted infantry to insure the safety of Lt. Col. Looney's home and property. A Union soldier placed a burning broom under a stairwell, but a female servant removed it before it could do any major damage. Fires were started that might have burned the house except for the opportune arrival of Confederate troops who extinguished the flames.

A family cemetery is located south of the house, where the last burial was in 1994. Confederate Naval Lieutenant Simeon Cummings was laid to rest in Southern soil after being buried in South Africa for over 130 years.

The Akin family acquired the property about 1910, and in 1985 the Gillham family purchased it and restored it to near-original state. The house and property were purchased in 1992 by the Sons of Confederate Veterans and Military Order of the Stars and Bars. The house now serves as headquarters for the SCV. In 2001, the house was redecorated by the United Daughters of the Confederacy and The Ladies of Columbia. The home is fully furnished with period antiques, some of which are original to Elm Springs. Hostesses will greet guests in period dress during the tour.

* * *



Elm Springs

McLemore—Marino Home

Although this house was not built until the 1870s, the property has a history that dates back to the Civil War.

This property is located on the base of Mount Parnassus. Since this hill has a commanding presence over all of Columbia, it was taken over for military purposes early in the war. The earthen and log fortifications on Mount Parnassus were known as Fort Mizner. At the base of the hill, where this beautiful Victorian stands today, all of the trees and large stumps were removed during the war, so that advancing troops could not take cover while assaulting the fortifications. The smaller stumps remained and telegraph wire was stretch from stump to stump to trip any advancing enemies. A small battery of artillery was also stationed near this site, facing west down West 7th Street, connected to the fort by earthworks and rifle pits.

When the Union army retreated from Columbia in November 1864, they set fire to Fort Mizner and the fort's magazine. Fortunately for residents around Fort Mizner, the magazine did not explode.

After the war, Confederate Colonel Nathaniel R. Wilkes purchased this lot to build a small home for his new bride in 1877. The Columbia Herald noted, "Col. N. R. Wilkes is preparing the foundation of his house next to George Beckett's on West Seventh."

In 1889, the couple enlarged their home greatly. It is believed that Mrs. Wilkes designed the home. However, the home would undergo some changes in the years to come.

After the Wilkes family, the home was owned by Mr. & Mrs. Park Morgan. Later owners would be Mr. & Mrs. E. E. McLemore.



The McLemore family really put their stamp on the home. The family had the interior of the home extensively remodeled and also had the circular porches added to the exterior.

Many Maury Countians remember this as the Maury County Arts Guild. The guild purchased the property in the 1970s and did more restoration to the home. And today, the home is owned by Paul and Carolyn Marino, who have breathed a breath of fresh air into the home.

During the home tour, the Marino's will have a special guest in the home—Mr. Bob Mitchel. Bob's mother, Aline Bowen, was adopted by the McLemore family. Bob was a frequent guest in the home and lived nearby. He has vivid memories from his time

in Columbia and has a wealth of information he can share with guests.

Prints from the West 7th Co. gallery will also be on display inside of the home.



Aline Bowen (Mitchel) pictured to the left and an unidentified friend. The McLemore-Marino Home can be seen in the background. Top of the page, the McLemore-Marino Home during a recent snow.

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Grace Episcopal Church

Grace Church was built in the year 1877. The plans for the building were drawn by P. J. Williamson, a well-known architect from Nashville, Tennessee. The cost of construction was \$1,800. The building lot was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Orville W. McKissick. The land was once the flower garden for the McKissick Home next door.

Grace Episcopal Church was consecrated on May 16, 1878 by the Right Rev. Charles T. Quintard, Bishop of Tennessee, assisted by Reverends Newell and Beckett.

The style of architecture is known as Carpenter Gothic. This style is sometimes referred to as Rural Gothic, as well.

The interior of the church is finished in walnut. Leaves and grapes are gracefully carved on the altar and rail.

The altar was a gift from Mr. & Mrs. Campbell Brown. Campbell Brown was the son of Lizinka Brown Ewell of Ewell Farm. James Oertel, a former minister and (at the time of construction) artist-in-residence at the Columbia Female Institute, is responsible for the altar.

The beautiful altar rail was constructed by T. S. Morton, a professor at the Branham & Hughes Academy in Spring Hill. The walnut wood— along with the wood for the altar— are all said to have come from Ewell Farm. The altar rail is so beloved by the congregation that when the building was threatened during a 1938 fire, the church's organist sent her daughter into the building with an ax, with orders to cut the rail out and save it should the church catch fire.

Several beautiful stained glass windows grace the church. Many are original to the building. Those that are not of the original 1877 construction were either given as gifts to the church or as memorials to past members. The oldest of these is behind the baptismal font and was "Erected by the Children of Beechcroft in 1888."

A beautifully toned bell hangs high in the belfry. It is marked "England 1839." No one is sure of the bell's history. It is not known where or how the bell was used before becoming a fixture of Grace Church.

This is still, very much, an active congregation. Services are held twice on Sunday and once on Wednesdays. They are also known for their annual "Divine Swine" BBQ event held the first weekend in May.

Grace Church is on the National Register of Historic Places.

* * *

Right top, A 1974 rendering of Grace Episcopal Church at Christmastime by Mrs. Porter Woolwine.

Bottom right, Grace Episcopal today.



President James K. Polk Home

James Knox Polk was born in North Carolina in 1795, and when he was ten years old, his family moved to Maury County. A historical marker on Highway 31 indicates the site a few miles north of Columbia. While young James was attending the University of North Carolina in 1816, his father built the only residence in existence today in which the eleventh president lived other than the White House. Old accounts indicate that the structure was the first brick residence built in Columbia.

Sarah Childress of Murfreesboro married James K. Polk in 1824, and the following year, he was elected to the first of seven terms in the U.S. House of Representatives. He was the only President who ever served as Speaker of the House. In 1839 he returned to Tennessee and served a two year term as governor. Under his leadership as president, the United States was extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans. The Polks had no children, and Mrs. Polk often served as her husband's personal secretary.

The house is a museum of Polk's life as the furnishings

are those used by him and Mrs. Polk in the White House while some were used in his law office. A rare item is the Inaugural Bible, Mrs. Polk's inaugural gown, and the fan her husband had made for her. Several portraits are on display throughout the house, in addition to china, silver, crystal, and candelabra used for state dinners. Other buildings include the kitchen and Polk's Sisters House serves as the site's visitor center with a museum and a shop.

The gardens feature English boxwoods and the fountain from Polk Place, the Polks' Nashville home. There are also statues representing the "Four Seasons." These are original to the Columbia Institute—a girls' school that burned in 1959.

* * *



The Ancestral Home of President James K. Polk

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Mayes-Frierson-Hill Home

This beautiful home was built in 1833 at the command of Patrick McGuire. It was contracted to Master Craftsman Nathan Vaught to build a home as a wedding gift for his daughter Ellen and her fiancé Roger Bradley Mayes.

They were married in 1834 and settled into their new home. Within a year, the couple brought to the union the joyous celebration of a new child.

The home would remain in the hands of Patrick McGuire's descendants for the next century and half.

The home was designed by Adolphus Heiman and has a tie with the Athenaeum Rectory. Heiman also designed the Belmont mansion in Nashville.

Heiman designed the Mayes home in 1833 and in 1835 duplicated the floor plan at the Athenaeum. Both of these buildings were built by Nathan Vaught a well-documented Maury County Master Builder. In 1845 four bedrooms were added to the upstairs and the west wing became a double parlor. This home was surely used to entertain some of the most notable personalities that lived and visited Maury County at this period of time. The Victorian cottage was added in 1889 for Ellen McGuire Mayes. She lived there only a short time, sadly due to the fact she died within a year.

The home passed into several different owners through the years. Steve and Kathie Fuston did extensive renovation to bring the home to a more livable state and repair some structural repairs in recent years. They also removed seven layers of wallpaper to bring the original colors back to view.

David and Debra Hill purchased and continued to restore the home to its former glory. They replaced all ceiling chandeliers to period correct fixtures. They sanded all floors and repaired plumbing and electrical issues.

The mantels are original of cast iron as well as the original portraits of Ellen and Roger Bradley Mayes in the foyer. Also remaining in the home is a remnant of the wedding dishes from the Mayes Family. They are displayed in original built in cabinets and on the dining table.

It is furnished with fine, period antiques from David and Debra's extensive collection. The bedrooms all have either full tester or half tester beds made by Prudent Mallard.

The Hill's purchased the clock collection formally belonging to the Fustons, mainly to keep the collection together. In recent years, many have known this as the "clock home."

* * *



Mayes-Frierson-Hill Home on West 6th Street

Rippavilla Plantation

Nathaniel Cheairs gave the home he built between 1852-55 a two-word name, "Rippo Villa," instead of the combination, Rippavilla that we use today, a name which evolved over the years.

Nathaniel Francis Cheairs, born on December 5, 1818, in Maury County, was the tenth child of Nathaniel (1764-1846) and Sarah Rush (1778-1856) Cheairs, who came to Maury County circa 1810. On April 23, 1811, the elder Nathaniel (who had been born in Queen Anne's County, Maryland) bought 300 acres on Rutherford Creek from Leroy Pope, which began at Daniel Brown's Corner on Sanford's and Turner's line, joined Albert Russell's property, and was part of a 5000-acre grant to Ezekiel Polk, Jr.

On May 1, 1812, he witnessed a deed from the same Leroy Pope of Madison County, Mississippi Territory, to James Keer (*sic*, Kerr), of Maury County for forty acres on Rutherford creek, which joined Hammond and Perkins.

Nathaniel and Sarah Cheairs had eleven children: seven boys and four girls. Three of the sons, Martin, John, and Nathaniel, remained in the Spring Hill area.

On September 2, 1841, Nathaniel married Susan Peters McKissack, daughter of William and Jeanette Thomson McKissack. Since William McKissack owned a brickyard in Spring Hill, there is little doubt that the brick in Rippavilla came from Nathaniel's father-in-law. It is also probable that William's slave, Moses McKissack (of the Ashanti tribe of Africa) oversaw the construction of this fine home. It is thought that F. Stratton was the architect for both Rippavilla and Ferguson Hall, since there is much similarity between the two.

Nathaniel and Susan Cheairs had five children: Jeanette (born 1843), who married Austin C. Hickey; Thomas G. (born 1844), who did not marry; Sallie, who married James Moore and lived at Mooreland, now at the center of a Brentwood shopping center; Susan, who married William Hughes, a founder of Branham and Hughes; and William M. (1849-1922), the last of the family to live at Rippavilla.

In February 1862, as a major in Clack's Third Tennessee Infantry Column, Nathaniel played a sad role in the Civil War at Fort Donelson, when he carried a piece of canvas, torn from a tent, as a surrender flag. He was taken prisoner, as was most of the Confederate army stationed there. Not long after the surrender, while Nathaniel was in prison camp, General William "Bull" Nelson commandeered Rippavilla as his headquarters.

By 1863, the Confederates were back in Spring Hill, under the command of General Earl Van Dorn. Rippavilla still had a part to play in the war, however. In November 1864, General John Bell Hood determined to chase the Union army north, and thought he had them trapped. While Hood slept at nearby Oaklawn, the Union army slipped away to Franklin on a night march and set the stage for the tragic battle of Franklin.

Thus, on the morning of November Thirtieth, Rippavilla and Mrs. Cheairs hosted many of Hood's officers at breakfast, five of whom lay dead at the end of the day.

In 1920, Rippavilla was sold to J. Whitfield, who modernized and altered the house. P.D. Houston owned it next, and several owners followed. It is now operated by a nonprofit board and is open to the public.



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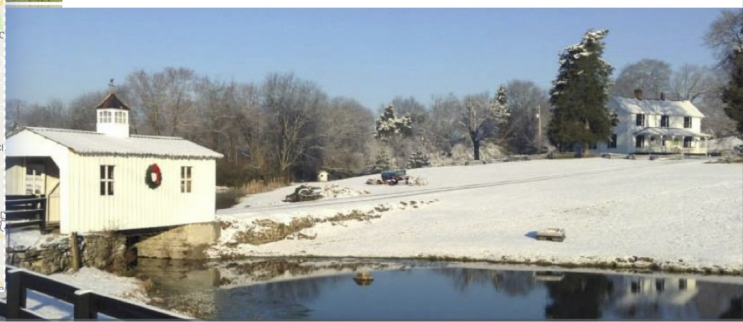
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Pullen Mill Farm

Pullen Mill Farm was established in 1806 by Thomas Gill. The original house is made of exquisite hand-hewn poplar logs, which is where Thomas and his first wife, Nancy, homesteaded as pioneers. They are buried on the small hill above the home in one of the oldest cemeteries in Maury County.

Thomas was born August 24, 1769 and died April 6, 1839 (69 years old). Thomas was a young drummer soldier during and after the American Revolutionary War. As a reward for his service, Thomas was land-granted 5,000 acres in the territory that would eventually become Maury County in the State of Tennessee. His acreage was bound by Fountain Creek and the Duck River.

His wife, Nancy, was born February 3, 1771 and she died December 20, 1815 (age 44). Nancy's tombstone is the oldest inscribed tombstone in Maury County. In the cemetery along with Thomas and Nancy is a tombstone for an 11 day old child who died on March 29, 1833, and three unmarked stones presumably for slaves at the time.

Following Nancy's death, Thomas remarried and had ten more children who inherited various parcels of the original land-grant homestead.

The original log home property also included a smokehouse, which has been restored by the current owner and serves as a charming guest house. The current owner also has the poplar logs for the original kitchen house, where all the cooking was done, in the large barn on the property and one day plans to rebuild the kitchen house in its original spot just outside the back door.

In 1901, after the original log home fell into disrepair, the then-owners built a new white clapboard home that had two bedrooms upstairs, a fireplace, parlor and wood stove in the entry. After many decades, in 1997, local Culleoka resident, George Thomas, who is an expert in restoring historic property, began a seven-year project to restore both houses. George painstakingly and lovingly rebuilt the two massive fireplace/chimneys in the log home, vaulted the ceiling of the living room and master bedroom, using the original floor boards. The floors are original poplar or pine and the log portion of the house has all exposed

beams. So as not to damage the logs or alter the historic look, George brilliantly renovated the two homes with a two-story connector that contains all of the HVAC and three bathrooms. One of the most charming aspects of the home is the powder room in the log portion that showcases a corn-cob pull and pump-handle bucket sink. George used a rat-trap and spring to engineer the flushing mechanism, just one of the many whimsical touches he added. George hand-built the solid custom poplar kitchen cabinets and bathroom vanities and reconstructed all of the railings and trim work throughout the home. As a nod to the little drummer boy, Thomas Gill, George made a paper-towel holder out of a Revolutionary War drumstick.

In 2005, the current owner, Terry Morris bought Pullen Mill Farm from George Thomas after it had been fully renovated. Terry and her son Chandler have made some additional renovations such as exposing the brick chimneys within the home, adding a screened porch with nostalgic "slamming" door, adding an additional shower in the guest room with all-natural cedar walls, courtesy of their friend and neighbor, Paul Westmoreland, Jr. Most noticeable, they added a covered bridge between the two ponds, designed and built by their friend Dwight Hines and next door neighbor Johnny Allred.

Terry and Chandler often have lots of kids and parents as visitors to Pullen Mill Farm and enjoy sharing the historic beauty and heritage of the home. Terry created a schoolroom with chalkboard wall above the entry way and uses the space as her home office. The large downstairs connect portion that George created serves as a dining hall that seats as many as 25 for meals. Guests can sit at two pews that saddle a 9-foot custom cedar table that Paul Westmoreland built. The pews came from Terry's church, Forest Hills Baptist in Nashville after the church renovated its chapel a few years ago. The attendance board in the dining hall came from Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and the home is filled with lots of local antiques and unique items. The hand-penciled drawings of Pullen Mill, the Campbell Station County Store, and the original clapboard house were gifts to Terry beautifully done by Johnny Allred.



The covered bridge of Pullen Mill Farm on a snowy day. The farm house can be seen in the distance on the right.

McKay-Marczak Home

This home, now owned by the family of Maury County Director of Schools, Dr. Chris Marczak, was built circa 1890 by prominent local attorney, George T. Hughes. A photo taken of the home in 1896 shows a different roof configuration than is seen now. It is likely that a flue fire occurred, resulting in a complete removal of the old roof and a new one installed.

In 1952, Robert M. “Pappy” McKay, Sr. purchased the home and he and his wife lived here until their deaths in the 1990s. Christmas was a big occasion in this home for the McKays and several of the grand children still remember the giant cedar Christmas tree that stood in the entrance hall, reaching all of the way up to the second story. Neighborhood children also found this a great place to come trick-or-treating, as the McKays gave great treats.

With Pappy’s passing, the home was sold to a real estate title company owned by Robert DuBois. He did extensive remodeling to the house, but kept the charm of its period.

A few years back, Dr. Marczak and his wife Sheila purchased the lovely old home. Together, they and their family, have added their own touches. The Marczaks—and all previous own-

ers—have jealously guarded the large stained glass window that graces the back wall of the entry.

The fence in front of the home is also of note, as it is possibly the oldest iron fence in the county. Late county historian, Jill K. Garrett wrote, “This fence was originally atop a walled courtyard at Union Bank, established in 1832. Later, this fence would move to the old Masonic Temple and, then, to the Presbyterian Church when it was located on the corner of Garden and Sixth Streets. According to Garrett, “in 1895 the fence made its final move to its present and fourth location when George T. Hughes had it erected in front of his new home.”

Be sure to admire the beautiful iron fence in front of the home and the gorgeous stained glass window within during the home tour.



Above, the McKay-Marczak Home as it appears today. Left, from the Century Review of Maury County, a winter scene of the G. T. Hughes Home. The trees make it hard to see the home, but the old “ram’s head” fence can be seen in the old photograph.

Davis-Esslinger Home

The land this home was built upon once belonged to the Hughes family of nearby Shadowlawn. The Hughes's owned all of the property to the railroad tracks and, when the first train came rolling into Columbia, the family threw a lavish party on the lawn to welcome the iron horse to town. Today, the Esslinger home sits on the site of that welcoming party.

Built in the spring of 1914, this home was built as a traditional "American Foursquare." This style or form of home is also called a "Prairie Box," since it shared many similarities with Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie architecture.

During the Victorian era, homes had become over-the-top with ornate features and architecture. The American Foursquare was a sober reaction to the Victorian style of building. The four-square was meant to be a simple home. The design became very popular and was one of the favorite mail-order or kit homes.

The traditional design of a foursquare is, of course, a square home that features four rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second. The rooflines also allows for great, large attics than can be converted into livable space if needed.

Many can remember this as the home of the Davis family. The Davis family changed the outward appearance of the home by adding the Juliet balcony and the four-columned portico, changing the outside to look more like a Natchez-style home instead of a foursquare.

Today, the home is owned by David and Bonnie Esslinger.

David is an educator and Bonnie owns and operates Bleu 32 in Downtown Columbia. With Bonnie's love of antiques, the home is sure to be beautifully appointed and a tour favorite.



The Davis-Esslinger Home on West Seventh Street. Above that is a floor plan for foursquare Model No. 264B102.

Athenaeum Shirt & Ornaments

If you really want to get into the “Maury Christmas” spirit, be sure to stop by the Athenaeum anytime during the two-day tour and pick up some tour souvenirs, including shirts and Christmas ornaments.

This year’s shirt is pictured to the right. It features an outline of Maury County with Santa and his bag of toys in a wagon pulled by a red-nosed mule. The mule-drawn wagon is soaring across the county. This copyrighted image was drawn especially for the Maury Christmas tour by Cathey Montgomery of Columbia. Shirts are \$20 each.

The tour ornament will feature one of homes from this year’s tour lineup. This will be the fifth and last home tour ornament. The price for the ornament will be \$15. For a complete set of all five tour ornaments, the price is \$50— a savings of \$25!

Also at the Athenaeum during the tour will be the annual bake sale. Members of the Maury County APTA and their friends will have many goodies made and ready for sale on Friday and Saturday. Many of the goodies will be homemade candies, but shoppers may even find a whole cake or pie, too.

* * *

All of the proceeds from the shirts, ornaments, and bake sale benefit the Athenaeum and assist with the ongoing restoration of the 1835 home.

For more information, call (931) 381-4822 or visit www.MauryChristmas.org.



Antoinette Polk Flag at Rectory

During the two-day tour, be sure to stop by the Athenaeum. In addition to touring the home, guests will get the rare opportunity to see the “Antoinette Polk” flag.

Details about Antoinette Polk’s famous ride to warn the Confederate soldiers is detailed on page 3. But, what that story does not tell is that after her ride, Antoinette became a heroine of the Confederacy. Her story even reached the ear of Confederate General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The general looked forward to meeting this brave woman the next time he was in Maury County.

In the parlors of the Athenaeum, General Forrest met Antoinette Polk and presented her with a Union flag captured from Abel Streight in Alabama in 1863. Antoinette Polk would treasure the flag the rest of her life—a life that would take her from Maury County, Tennessee to Italy and, later, France where she married Baron Athanase Charles Marie Charette de la Contrie, thus becoming a baroness.

It is said that during World War I, when the United States entered the war, she enjoyed meeting soldiers from Tennessee and showing them the Union flag she had hanging in the chapel of her French estate.

On Thursday, December 6 at 6:30pm, Kayla Southern will give a lecture on the ride and life of Antoinette Polk and *her* flag at the Athenaeum as a kick-off event of the home tour.



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Friday December 7, 2018
Saturday December 8, 2018

4 seatings daily!

Breakfast - 9 am (\$25 p.p.)

Brunch - 11 am (\$25 p.p.)

Luncheon - 1 pm (\$25 p.p.)

High Tea - 3 pm (\$15 p.p.)

*Limited seating available.
To avoid disappointment,
advance reservations are required.*

931.982.0907

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Maury Christmas Historic Home Tour
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Places to Eat

Cities Restaurant

105 E. 6th Street
Columbia, TN 38401
931-548-2139
citiestn.com

Dotted Lime

1907 Shady Brook Street
Columbia, TN 38401
931-548-8445
facebook.com/thedottedlime/
(also located in Bleu 32 in Downtown
Columbia)

Southern Tre'

117 W. 7th Street
Columbia, TN 38401
931-548-8002
southernresteatkhouse.com

CAB Café

307 W 11th Street, Level 2
Columbia, TN 38401
931-548-6524
columbiaartsbuilding.com

Blend

30 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401
931-901-0818
facebook.com/blendcolumbia/

Square Market

36 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401
931-840-3636
squaremarketcafe.com

Bistro 822

822 S. Main Street
Columbia, TN 38401
931-901-0683
bistro822.com

Marcy Jo's Mealhouse

4205 US 431
Columbia, TN 38401
931-380-0968
joeyandrory.com/marcy-jos

Puckett's / Hattie Jane's Creamery

15 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401
931-490-4550
puckettsgro.com/columbia
hattiejanescreamery.com

The Windmill Bakery & Coffee Shop

1018 South Garden Street
Columbia, TN 38401
931-901-0531
[facebook.com/](https://facebook.com/windmillbakeryandcoffeeshop/)
windmillbakeryandcoffeeshop/

Sweet Bakes

1153 Trotwood Avenue
Columbia, TN 38401
sweetbakesdonuts.com

River Terrace

1000 Riverside Drive
Columbia, TN 38401
(931) 223-5135
riverterracerestaurant.com

Red 7 Pizza Co.

319 W 7th St.
Columbia, TN 38401
red7pizza.com

Buckhead Coffeehouse

1173 Trotwood Ave
Columbia, TN 38401
931-388-0804

Truelove's Pizza & Grits

1144 Riverside Dr.
Columbia, TN 38401
931-388-7770
truelovespizza.com

Pancho's Place

136 Bear Creek Pike
Columbia, TN
931-490-2085
panchosplacetn.com

Muletown Coffee

23 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401
931-901-0220
muletowncoffee.com

Pie Sensations

26 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401
931-223-5846
piesensations.com

Fujiyama

1202 S James Campbell Blvd
Columbia, TN 38401
931-388-8383
fujiyamajapanese.com

Don Pepe's Mexican Grill

1202 S James Campbell Blvd
Columbia, TN 38401
931-381-2221
TACO SHOP: 32 Public Square
Columbia, TN 38401
931-548-8899
donpepesmexicangrill.com

Legends Steakhouse

2401 Pulaski Hwy
Columbia, TN 38401
931-380-1888
legendssteakhouse.com

Bingo's Burgers & Subs

502 South James Campbell Blvd,
Columbia, TN 38401
931-330-0044
bingoburgers.com

Kimmy G's Café

2632 Old Hwy 31 N.
Columbia, TN 38401
kimmygscafe.com

Paletas Tocumbo

406C James Campbell Boulevard
Columbia, TN 38401
paletastocumbo.com

Vanh Dy's

814 S. Main Street
Columbia, TN 38401
931-505-8128
vanhdys.com

Tennessee Coffee & Smoothie Company

1210 North Commerce Court
Columbia, TN 38401
931-490-4855
tenncoffee.com

And be sure to call our friends at Blythewood Inn Bed & Breakfast to check out their Maury Christmas dining options! They will have four seatings daily! See the previous page for more information.

Places to Stay

Holiday Inn Express
3003 Longford Drive
Spring Hill, TN 37174
615-645-1970
facebook.com/HIESpringHillTN/

Sleep Inn & Suites
605 Harley Davidson Boulevard
Columbia, TN 38401
931-548-2900

Guest Cottage at Amber Falls Winery
794 Ridgetop Road
Hampshire, TN 38461
931-285-0088
amberfallswinery.com

The Inn at Bigby Creek
1306 Trotwood Avenue
Columbia, TN 38401
931-982-6226
innatbigbycreek.com

America's Best Value Inn
1548 Bear Creek Pike
Columbia, TN 38401
931-381-1410
americasbestvalueinn.com

Days Inn
1504 Nashville Highway
Columbia, TN 38401
931-381-3297
daysinn.com

Hampton Inn Columbia
1551 Halifax Drive
Columbia, TN 38401
931-540-1222
hamtoninn3.hilton.com

Richland Inn
2405 Pulaski Pike
Columbia, TN 38401
931-381-4500
richlandinncolumbia.com

Hampton Inn Spring Hill
2056 Crossings Boulevard
Spring Hill, TN 37174
hamptoninn3.hilton.com

America's Best Value Inn & Suites
201 Stonebrooke Drive
Mt. Pleasant TN 38474
931-379-9800

Blythewood Inn Bed & Breakfast
109 Blythewood Drive
Columbia, TN 38401
931-982-0907
blythewoodinnbb.com

Best Western Spring Hill
104 Kedron Parkway
Spring Hill, TN 37174
(931) 486-1234
bestwestern.com

Extend-A-Suites
1208 Nashville Highway
Columbia, TN 38401
931-388-2720
extendasuites.com

Holiday Inn Express
1561 Halifax Drive
Columbia, TN 38401
931-380-2025
ihg.com

Super 8
1554 Bear Creek Pike
Columbia, TN 38401
931-380-1227
super8.com

The Eclectic Victorian B&B
302 S. Main Street
Mount Pleasant, TN 38474
931-698-6789
eclecticbedandbreakfast.com

Camper's RV Park
1792 Bear Creek Pike
Columbia, TN 38401
931-381-4112
campersrvtn.com

Forest Gully Farms
Santa Fe, TN
615-509-0533
forestgullyfarms.com

Comfort Inn
1544 Bear Creek Pike
Columbia, TN 38401
931-388-2500
comfortinncolumbia.com

Fairfield Inn & Suites
1545 Halifax Drive
Columbia, TN 38401
931-548-8444
marriot.com

Baymont Inn & Suites
715 James Campbell Boulevard
Columbia, TN 38401
931-388-3326
baymontinns.com

The Cottage at Noteworthy Farm
Hampshire, TN
airbnb.com/rooms/12002537

Walnut Hill House Retreat B&B
4449 Moore Lane
Culleoka, TN 38451
931-446-2337
walnuthillhouse.blogspot.com

Creekview Farm Retreat B&B
5177 Leipers Creek Road
Santa Fe, TN 38482
931-446-7993
natcheztracettravel.com

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