MCMINNVILLE TOWN SPRING/QUARRY SITE

HERITAGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

September 2014

A Public Service of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
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For the

TOWN SPRING/QUARRY SITE
McMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE

A Public Service of the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area

By

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September 2014
METHODOLOGY

This Heritage Development Plan is the result of a project partnership between McMinnville Heritage Preservation, Inc., and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA). McMinnville Heritage Development owns and leases the Town Spring/Quarry site located in McMinnville, Warren County, Tennessee. Leigh Ann Gardner and Jessica White of the TCWNHA first met with Dr. Neil Schultz of McMinnville Heritage Preservation in January 2014 to discuss the site.

Leigh Ann Gardner and Jessica White documented the site. Leigh Ann Gardner and Torren Gaston, Graduate Research Assistant, worked on researching the history of the site.

Thanks to Dr. Neil Schultz and Mary Robbins for the information they provided about the site, and for their work in the preservation of the site. Thanks also to Mayor Jimmy Haley of McMinnville for the history he provided regarding the site.
Located at the intersection of E. Colville Street and Depot Streets in McMinnville, Tennessee, the site in question consists of the former town spring, a cave, and remnants of an earlier rock quarry, hereinafter referred to as “Town Spring/Quarry” site for the purposes of this report. The site is bounded by Depot Street to the west, E. Colville Street to the north, and Egypt Alley to the south. The site is not part of the McMinnville Historic District, but is located one (1) block south of the district.
Map of the McMinnville Historic District. The site is circled in red on this map, showing its location in relation to the Historic District.

The site consists of two parcels of land, totaling approximately two (2) acres. McMinnville Heritage Preservation, Inc., a local non-profit group, owns the 0.62 acre parcel that consists of the spring, quarry site and cave. McMinnville Heritage Preservation leases the other parcel, currently owned by Burroughs-Ross-Colville, Inc. There are no buildings on the parcels either owned or leased by McMinnville Heritage Preservation.
A level parking area, unpaved, is located on the northwest end of the property. The entire site is heavily treed. The quarry is located at the northeast section of the property, and consists of several levels of terraced rock. Tool marks can still be seen on some of the stones in this area. The property contains a wooden picnic table. There are also landscape lights around the perimeter of the property. Both the table and the lighting have been installed by McMinnville Heritage Preservation.
Parking area at the site.

Tool marks on stones at the site, showing evidence of the quarry once located here.
Parcel map of the Town Spring/Quarry site. The portion owned by McMinnville Heritage Preservation is shaded in yellow. The portion leased by McMinnville Heritage Preservation is labeled "A".
A cave, located at the site, passes through most of downtown McMinnville, and has an exit at the town spring. Some have claimed to have walked the paths of the cave beneath McMinnville before the streets were paved.\textsuperscript{1} Historically, there was also a large rock overhang at the site. It is reportedly blasted away for use as building material.\textsuperscript{2}

\begin{figure}
\centering
\includegraphics[width=\textwidth]{cave.jpg}
\caption{The cave at the site.}
\end{figure}

\bibliography{references}

\begin{thebibliography}{1}
\bibitem{2} Wanamaker and Keathley, \textit{McMinnville}, 16.
\end{thebibliography}
View of the spring, looking towards E. Colville Street

Looking west towards Depot Street. The cave is in the middle distance.
A calaboose, or jail, has also been historically located on the town spring site. As late as 1902, the Sanborn Insurance map shows a calaboose being present on the site.³ In 1890, the Southern Standard mentioned the calaboose, stating, “On Tuesday a negro boy named Charley Mercer was arrested and confined in the calaboose for throwing rocks on the streets.”⁴ The calaboose is listed on the 1907 Sanborn map,⁵ and the 1926 Sanborn map also shows the calaboose as being directly behind the “Christian Church (Colored)”.⁶ By 1930, however, the calaboose was no longer standing as it is not depicted on the 1930 Sanborn map.⁷

³ Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 4, October 1902.
⁴ “Town Topics,” Southern Standard, April 12, 1890.
⁵ Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 4, June 1907.
⁶ Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 3, March 1926.
⁷ Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 2, August 1930.
1926 Sanborn Insurance Map, showing a calaboose on the site, located directly behind the Christian Church (Colored). By 1930, the calaboose is no longer on the map of the area.

1930 Sanborn Insurance Map. There is no longer a calaboose located at the site.
HISTORY OF THE SITE

McMinnville was founded in 1810 when Warren County Commissioners John Armstrong, James English, Benjamin Lockhart, Thomas Matthews, and James Taylor selected an approximately forty acre tract one mile from the log courthouse at Spring City. The spring located at the Town Spring/Quarry site served as the water source for the town from 1810 until the 1880s. In the years following the Civil War, the idea that a new water source was needed for the town began to grow, in part because of the inability to pipe the water to the square as it did not have enough pressure. In 1872, Asa Faulkner proposed to pipe water to the square from the Barren Fork River, using a water wheel and force pump. The Aldermen and Town Mayor rejected the proposal as impractical. In 1881, city leaders investigated “sinking a well for a permanent water supply” on the square. As part of this effort, a public meeting was held on August 27, 1881, the subject to be “a water supply on the public square.” A solution was not readily available, for as late as 1884, the Southern Standard noted, “The masonry work around the town spring, at the foot of spring street [sic], is very much in need of repair.” The City Minutes for November 18, 1887, noted that, “The Mayor states that here have been complaints of the condition of the town spring. . .” The Southern Standard reported that, “At a meeting of the board of Mayor and Aldermen last Monday morning the street committee was instructed to put the town spring at the foot of Spring street, in first-class repair again.” By 1890, it appears that a well had been dug, and that pipes had been laid to establish a water system.

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10 Satterwhite, “Teen Does His Best to Revitalize Old City Spring.”
11 Womack, McMinnville at a Milestone, 93.
12 Womack, McMinnville at a Milestone, 93.
13 Southern Standard, August 27, 1881.
15 City of McMinnville Minutes, November 18, 1887.
16 “Town Topics,” Southern Standard, November 26, 1887.
17 Womack, McMinnville at a Milestone, 95-96. Womack reports that a well was dug in the town park and was being used by 1884. In 1887, a windmill and pump were installed; however, it appears these frequently malfunctioned. It is not until 1898 that the Southern Standard reported that a water works had successfully been installed in McMinnville.
The town spring has long had associations with manufacturing and industry. Hoge and Smartt operated a tanyard and bark mill near the town spring sometime before 1820.18

**Railroad and Depot Bottom**

The Manchester and McMinnville Railroad was completed in 1856.19 The railroad connected with the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, which was completed in 1855. With the coming of the railroad, merchants and farmers in McMinnville were able to send and receive products from as far away as New Orleans, which aided in the development and growth of McMinnville.20 The depot for this line was located approximately a quarter mile from the site, and had an impact on the development of the Egypt Alley area.

The town spring and cave were part of a larger area known as “Depot Bottom.” Thomas Franklin Burroughs, Sr. opened the Burroughs, Olemacher, and Hughes Spoke Factory in Depot Bottom in 1873. This was the predecessor of the Burroughs-Ross-Colville Company that still operates.21 Mr. C.C. Murphy operated a brick kiln in the

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18 Womack, *McMinnville at a Milestone*, 45.
depot bottom area in the late 1880s. In 1884, T.J. Scott advertised that he had 40,000 bricks for sale at his yard in Depot Bottom. Depot Bottom was also the site of a large political rally for Robert Taylor in September 1886, in which the area of the rally was described as, “The depot bottom was a surging mass of humanity, and when the train rolled in bearing the candidates, a cheer loud and long rent the air and was echoed back from Ben Lomond’s rock-ribbed sides.” In 1888, a circus came to Depot Bottom, providing entertainment for the town.

Drainage and sanitation in this area was an ongoing concern. In 1882, the *Southern Standard* stated,

> Will our city fathers tell us whether they have observed the immense accumulation of water, and consequent drainage of all sorts of filth into the depot bottom during the recent rains? Will they tell us whether, as guardians of our “health and happiness,” they intend taking any steps towards having the bottom drained, instead of its being an eye-sore and rapid accumulator of the elements of pestilence and death?

The sanitation of this area continued to be a problem, as it was reported in 1889 that the railroad company planned to drain the area for sanitary purposes. Despite possible concerns over sanitation, Depot Bottom became an industrial hub in McMinnville following the Civil War. Lumber was a major industry in Depot Bottom, as shown in a variety of Sanborn maps over the years. The Singer Sewing Machine Company had a lumber yard across from the depot by July 1891, and Rice and Williams, a saw and planing mill was also located within eyesight of the depot in that year. A plant opened in Depot Bottom in 1890 to make staves for barrels for apple brandy, and in 1896, McMinnville’s first steam laundry opened in Depot Bottom. The McMinnville Manufacturing Company opened in 1894 and was located in Depot Bottom as well. It was originally a sawmill operation and expanded to create other wood products as well. As late as 1930, there were numerous lumber and sawmills in Depot Bottom, with the McMinnville Lumber Supply Company, Walker & Smith Lumber Company, and the Manchester Manufacturing Company all being located adjacent to the railroad depot.

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22 “Town Topics,” *Southern Standard*, June 18, 1887.
23 *Southern Standard*, September 20, 1884.
24 “Governor Taylor,” *Southern Standard*, September 18, 1886.
28 Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 4, July 1891.
29 Nunley, *Year by Year*, 15.
31 Sanborn Insurance Map of McMinnville, Sheet 13, August 1930.
The Civil War was devastating for McMinnville and for the area in what is now Depot Bottom. Lucy Virginia French mentions Union troops coming to occupy McMinnville in June 1862, describing a force of between four and five thousand coming to McMinnville.\textsuperscript{32} The town was occupied by both Confederate and Union forces at different times during the war. The railroad was damaged during the Civil War, and by August of 1862, Union occupation forces were working to repair the railroad.\textsuperscript{33} It is claimed that the Confederates burned the depot, railroads, and most of the surrounding manufacturing mills.\textsuperscript{34} Lucy Virginia French noted in her diary in August 1862 that the Union forces “savaged” the town, stating, “They savaged the town and vicinity from one end to the other – broke into every store except Mr. Henderson’s . . . took out everything they wanted; went into everybody’s garden, poultry, dairy, etc. and helped themselves.”\textsuperscript{35} There were many troops stationed in McMinnville over the course of the war; Lucy Virginia French reported that 15,000 Union troops were stationed in McMinnville, with more Union troops stationed in Manchester, Tullahoma, and Murfreesboro.\textsuperscript{36}

Due to the presence of the McMinnville and Manchester railroad, McMinnville was a town of strategic importance to both the Union and Confederate forces. In March 1862, Confederates were discussing the importance of guarding the McMinnville and Manchester Railroad. Assistant Adj. General H.L. Clay wrote to Brig. Gen. S.B. Maxey on March 24, 1862, stating,

Gen. Smith further directs me to say that it is of the first importance the railroad from Stevenson toward Nashville and the McMinnville and Manchester Railroad should be effectually obstructed, to prevent the enemy from using it for military purposes, and this will be done best by the destruction of bridges, &c., the blowing up of the culverts and tunnels. For this purpose blasting powder can be obtained at this place.\textsuperscript{37}  

The importance of McMinnville and its railroad was repeatedly emphasized in the military records. On June 6, 1862, Nashville Provost Marshall, Colonel Stanley Matthews, wrote to Military Governor Andrew Johnson, suggesting,

The posting of a brigade on the frontier between Middle and East Tennessee, with its Head Quarters at McMinnville,

\textsuperscript{34} Wanamaker and Keathley, \textit{McMinnville}, 8.
\textsuperscript{35} French journal, August 10, 1862.
\textsuperscript{36} French journal, August 17, 1862.
extending its defences from Sparta to Tullahoma. This would furnish the opportunity for opening and operating the railway communication with Nashville, and would cover the whole District of Middle Tennessee, from the guerillas that are now infesting and disturbing that mountain region, and disquieting the whole central portion of the state.38

Union leaders continued to emphasize the importance of retaining control of McMinnville. On August 24, 1862, Maj. Gen. Thomas reported to Gen. Buell that, “As I mentioned in one of my dispatches, I regard McMinnville as the most important point for occupation of any. The occupation of McMinnville, Sparta, and Murfreesborough will, in my opinion, secure the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad.”39 The railroad, and by extension, depot bottom, was an area of military importance throughout much of the war.

By August 1862, the situation in McMinnville was fluid; a report from D.C. Buell to Gen. Thomas in McMinnville stated, “Keep your position at McMinnville, but make nothing like a permanent establishment. Be always ready to move at a moment’s notice.”40 The railroad was of extreme importance to Thomas, and on August 21, 1862, he ordered Col. Stanley to guard six railroad bridges between McMinnville and Manchester. He also ordered that a strong blockade be built at each bridge to defend the Union positions.41

In 1863, parts of the Depot Bottom area were burned by Federal occupation troops.42 The Official Records report, “The railroad leading from McMinnville to Manchester may be said to be destroyed; all the bridges of any note, as well as trestle-work, are burned; also one locomotive and train of three cars, and various other detached cars at stations; depot buildings at McMinnville.”43 Despite the importance of the railroad, by 1864, the Union troops had abandoned the McMinnville and Manchester Railroad and stripped the rail for use elsewhere. It was rebuilt following the war; in 1871, the company, unable to repay the state for funds advanced for reconstruction, was sold in foreclosure.44

Although the Union eventually abandoned the McMinnville and Manchester railroad, Union troops maintained a presence in McMinnville over the course of the war. In May 1864, Col. W.P. Robinson, the Federal commander in McMinnville, requested from his superiors permission to keep men posted in McMinnville. He stated,

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42 Wanamaker and Keathley, McMinnville, 39.
I consider it my duty to state that in my view of matters here, the post McMinnville, Tenn., ought to be, at least for the present, occupied by troops, not only for the protection of the many loyal people here, but also to prevent the numerous small bands of bushwhackers from collecting in a body, which they will certainly do if not continually harassed and kept dispersed by troops.45

If the Federal forces did decide to abandon the post at McMinnville, Robinson went on to state, “Should this post be completely evacuated, I would respectfully recommend that the citizens be made aware of that fact, and sufficient time given them for removal to other parts of the State.”46

Following the end of the war, the area around the site and Depot Bottom flourished as an industrial area, and later still, as a center of African American life in McMinnville.

**Quarry**

As mentioned earlier in this report, a stone quarry exists at the site. The quarry at the site appears to have opened in approximately 1888, when it was noted in the *Southern Standard*, “Sam Leftwich has opened up a rock quarry near the Creamery for the purpose of getting out building stone. He has the contract for the foundation of the new livery stable, and put up seven perch of stone Wednesday.”47 Several ads ran in the newspaper for his business, stating, “Leftwick & Marbury will keep a full supply of fine Lime on hand at their quarry on the Town Spring Bluff and will also furnish BUILDING STONE in any quantities.”48 In 1889, the *Southern Standard* noted, “Leftwich & Marbury have just burned a fresh kiln of lime, which can be had either at the quarry on the Creamery bluff, or at the store of J.D. Tate.”49

Following the earlier destruction of the African American school to fire, the leaders in McMinnville decided to build a new African American school in 1891, and Samuel Leftwich was hired to work on the new facility. In July 1891, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen received bids for the construction of a school for African Americans in McMinnville.50 The minutes of the August 5, 1891 meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen reflected that they had “entered into a contract with Sam Leftrick, col., to build the foundation for the Colored School House to be erected at $290.” J.T. Kelton was hired to build the building itself.51 This is the school that was built in the Egypt Alley community discussed later in this report.

47 “Town Topics,” *Southern Standard*, April 7, 1888.
49 “Town Topics,” *Southern Standard*, October 12, 1889.
50 McMinnville City Minutes, July 16, 1891.
51 McMinnville City Minutes, August 5, 1891.
Samuel Franklin Leftwich (also spelled as Leftric and Leftrich at times) is one of the African American stone masons known by name. He was born in White County, Tennessee in c. June 1853.\textsuperscript{52} It is possible that his owner was Waman (or Wayman) Leftwich, a merchant in Sparta, the county seat of White County, for the 1860 Slave Schedule records that Mr. Leftwich owned a male slave approximately eight years old.\textsuperscript{53} On March 27, 1872, Samuel Leftwich married Clara Ware.\textsuperscript{54} In addition to his work as a stone mason, Samuel Leftwich also ran for School Commissioner in the first district of Warren County in 1884. He received 132 votes, behind H.H. Faulkner’s 294 votes but ahead of H. Higginbotham’s 37 votes.\textsuperscript{55} And although Mr. Leftwich worked as a mason and eventually owned a quarry, he began his career working on the railroad. The 1880 census records Sam Leftric as being thirty years of age and married to Clara, aged twenty-eight. Both Sam and Clara were able to read and write, and they were both born in Tennessee, as were their parents. Sam was the father of four children, Minnie, Thomas, Annie and Hattie, whose ages ranged from seven to two.\textsuperscript{56}

\textsuperscript{52} Death Certificate for Samuel Franklin Leftrick, filed May 12, 1935, Tennessee Death Records, 1908-1959, Roll #5.

\textsuperscript{53} 1860 U.S. Federal Census - Slave Schedule, White County, Sparta Township, p. 2. Mr. Leftwich may have also been the slave of Mr. Marbury of McMinnville, according to email correspondence from Jimmy Haley.


\textsuperscript{55} “Official Vote of Warren County” Southern Standard, August 16, 1884.

\textsuperscript{56} 1880 Census, Warren County, Tennessee, Roll 1283, Page **
By 1900, the census records Sam Leftrict working as a stone mason and living on Beersheba Street in McMinnville. He owned his home, mortgage-free. He was now married to Louella, and they had married in c. 1897. Two sons, Samuel and John, lived in the home. Interestingly, Samuel’s mother, Viny, lived in the house with them, having been born in 1820 in Tennessee. When Sam was no longer able to cut stones, he became a garbage man for the city, and may have discarded some of the trash in his old quarry. By 1930, Sam was a widower, and owned the home he lived in on Beersheba Street, which was valued at $1,000. His grandson, Thomas, lived with him as did a boarder, Alfred Parker, from Alabama. Sam was no longer working and was not a veteran.

Sam Leftrict died in May 1935 after a long illness. The funeral service was conducted by Rev. Houston and Rev. Nance of the “McMinnville Methodist Church, colored.” His son, James Thomas Leftict, died as the funeral procession for Sam was leaving the house. Both Sam and James Thomas are buried in Riverside Cemetery in McMinnville. Oral traditions in the community assert that Sam himself carved his own monument in the cemetery.

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57 1900 Census, Warren County, Roll 1603, Page 19B.
58 Email correspondence from Jimmy Haley, April 28, 2014.
59 1930 Census, Warren County, Roll 2283, Page 5A.
60 Maxine Reggio, Obituaries II Extracted From Southern Standard Newspaper Warren County & Central Tennessee (1935 to 1940) (Bethany, Oklahoma: 1999), 15.
In addition to the spring, cave, and quarry at the site, historically there was an African American church located on the site. It first appears on the 1913 Sanborn Map as a one and one-half story building, and is marked as “Christian Church (Negro).” 61 It is also shown on the 1926, 1930, and 1939 Sanborn maps of the site as well. It is unclear when the church was demolished, although it is very likely that it was torn down during urban renewal. At the time of the site visit in January 2014, several bricks were noticed in the area of the site where the church was located. It is possible these are the remnants of the church on site.

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61 Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 5, November 1913.
1913 Sanborn Map, Sheet 5, showing the location of the African American church on the site.

One of the bricks found at the site.
Other Buildings on the Site

Various Sanborn maps of the site indicate that there were other buildings located on this site prior to urban renewal. In addition to the calaboose and church mentioned earlier, several dwellings are indicated on the site on the 1913 and 1926 Sanborn maps. They all appeared to have been one-story dwellings. The 1939 Sanborn map indicates that, in addition to the church and dwellings on the site, that there was a seed warehouse.  

African American Community at Egypt Alley

Although it is not clear why or when it happened, an African American community sprang up in the Egypt Alley neighborhood. It is also unclear where the name came from, although it was estimated in 2009 that the name had been in use for at least one hundred years. Sanborn maps of the area also show an African Alley in the neighborhood, indicating a larger, African American community located in the Depot Bottom area. Some dwellings and a Baptist church were located on African Alley. Also, the maps indicate that Egypt Alley extended further west than it does at present, and that there were several dwellings located along Egypt Alley. There may have also

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62 Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 2, January 1939.
64 Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 7, November 1913.
been a Congo Street in the community, as a Congo Street is listed in the 1942 City Directory. Names such as Egypt Alley, African Alley, and Congo Street all indicate the presence of an African American community.

These carvings were removed from a house located in the Egypt Alley community. They are excellent examples of local craftsmanship.
Journalist Carl T. Rowan, born in McMinnville and later Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and Ambassador to Finland, describes this neighborhood in his 1952 work, *South of Freedom*. He returned to McMinnville in 1951, and described the area as, "There was the colored section of town. It was the same squalor, the same unpainted dwellings huddled close to narrow, hole-filled streets, some of which town officials had named, with apparent sincerity, "African Avenue," "Egypt Alley," and "Congo Street." The same paths led through weedy backyards to smelly wooden privies." By 1951, he noted, there were some changes in the neighborhood, "Upon returning, I found the house still frame. It was partially wired for electricity and had an outdoor hydrant for city water, two improvements over my days there."

![1913 Sanborn Map, Sheet 7, showing the location of African Alley, south of Egypt Alley. The red arrow indicates the site of an African-American Baptist church.](image)

There was another African American stone quarry in this community, owned by George Huggins. Mr. Huggins was a protégé of Samuel Leftwich, and owned a quarry in African Alley, behind the old city cemetery on High Street. George Huggins is listed in the 1930 census as a stone mason, and he owned his home on African Alley. He was married to Hattie, and had three sons living at home.

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67 Email correspondence from Mr. Jimmy Haley, April 28, 2014.
68 1930 Census, McMinnville, Warren County, Roll 2283, Sheet 9A.
Prior to 1890, African Americans in McMinnville attended school in the old Waters and Walling College Building, located at the end of the present-day Church Street. This building burned on August 15, 1890.\textsuperscript{69} In his report published in the \textit{Southern Standard} in 1891, School Superintendent Jas. G. Meadors stated that the African American community had agreed to wait a year without a school until a new one could be built.\textsuperscript{70} Meadors requested that whenever the city built a building that it be constructed of brick.\textsuperscript{71} A school was built in the neighborhood in 1891, with the “church at the foot of Spring street, near the town spring” being used until the new building could be built.\textsuperscript{72} The \textit{Southern Standard} described the proposed building as “a neat, substantial frame building, of ample capacity for the school.”\textsuperscript{73} Others have reported that the school building in Egypt Alley was a small frame building with no electricity and approximately 250 students.\textsuperscript{74} One of the teachers, Ms. Bessie Taylor Gwynn, began teaching at the school in 1915, and was remembered as an inspirational teacher.\textsuperscript{75}

Numerous African American families lived at the end of Egypt Alley, as can be seen in the various census records for McMinnville and the 1942 McMinnville City Directory.

The neighborhood was clearly located in the heart of McMinnville’s industrial neighborhood. The 1897 Sanborn Insurance Map shows both Egypt Alley and the African American school. Located near there is the T.F. Burrough Tannery, the Burrough-Ross-Colville Co.’s spoke factory, and T.H. Fastwood’s Machine Shop and Foundry.\textsuperscript{76}

\textsuperscript{69} Womack, \textit{McMinnville at a Milestone}, 251.
\textsuperscript{70} “Our City Schools,” \textit{Southern Standard}, March 7, 1891.
\textsuperscript{71} “Our City Schools.”
\textsuperscript{72} “Town Topics,” \textit{Southern Standard}, August 15, 1891.
\textsuperscript{73} “Town Topics”, \textit{Southern Standard}, July 18, 1891.
\textsuperscript{74} Wayne R. Wolford, Sr., \textit{Through Wolf’s Eyes} (Xlibris Corporation, 2013), e-book, Location 3234.
\textsuperscript{75} Wolford, \textit{Through Wolf’s Eyes}, Location 3217.
\textsuperscript{76} Sanborn Insurance Map, McMinnville, Sheet 5, September 1897.
The census data for Egypt Alley reflect that it was an overwhelmingly working-class, African American neighborhood. In 1930, there were nineteen households on Egypt Alley recorded in the census, all of which were African American. Of those, twelve rented their homes and seven owned their homes. While there was a preacher and a grocer who lived on Egypt Alley, the other working inhabitants were teamsters (four), servants (two), laborers (three), truck drivers (two), porter, cook, a concrete mason, a brick mason, and a fireman.\(^{77}\)

There were some African American businesses located in the Egypt Alley neighborhood. Benjamin Bates operated a restaurant at one of the corners of Spring Street and E. Colville Street and resided at the end of Egypt Alley.\(^{78}\)

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\(^{77}\) 1930 Census, Warren County, McMinnville, District 1, Sheets 2A, 2B.

\(^{78}\) McMinnville Tennessee 1942 City Directory, 41.
Urban Renewal

Part of the story of the town spring site is the impact urban renewal had on the site, and on the African American community at Egypt Alley. In 1963 McMinnville first qualified to take part in urban renewal. In 1965, funds were advanced for urban renewal projects in McMinnville that included the clearance of slum areas near the business district, and the construction of a roadway south of the business district, along the route of Colville Street.\(^79\) A second urban renewal project was approved in 1969, designated the Beersheba Heights project.\(^80\) Several structures important to the African American community, such as Clark United Methodist Church, were torn down as a result of urban renewal.\(^81\) Other losses in the African American community to urban renewal included the homes of several in the community and the Cope Lane “Church on the Hill.”\(^82\)

\(^{79}\) Nunley, Year by Year, 33.
\(^{80}\) Nunley, Year by Year, 35.
\(^{81}\) The Heritage of Warren County, TN, 130.
\(^{82}\) Wolford, Through Wolf’s Eyes, Location 3592.
INTERPRETING THE SITE

There are several possibilities available for interpreting the town spring/quarry site. There are ways in which to have the site remain/become a pocket park with low-impact interpretation of the different layers of history at the site.

Civil War Trail Marker

As most communities in Tennessee, McMinnville has a Civil War story that could be interpreted with a Tennessee Civil War Trails Marker. This would include the site in a network of other Civil War heritage sites and would increase the number to the site. A possible theme for a Civil War Trails marker at the site could be the African American community that developed here, and the increased opportunities for African Americans in McMinnville following the Civil War.

To be a part of the Civil War Trail Marker program, the site must have parking for visitors that is ADA compliant. The Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area can provide assistance in the research and writing of the marker. A copy of the Application for Trail Marker is included in Appendix A of this report.

African American Heritage

With its history as a quarry owned by an African American, and the location of another quarry on African Alley, also owned by an African American, the site is an ideal location for interpreting the history of the African American stone masons of the community. To this end, McMinnville Heritage Preservation has hauled in stones from an old wall in the community in the hopes of building a monument to the African American stone masons. It is believed that the stone masons were responsible for many of the foundations found in the older buildings of McMinnville.
In addition to erecting a monument to the African American stone masons of McMinnville, McMinnville Heritage Preservation may wish to consider partnering with local African American churches to aid in the interpretation of the site. Clark United Methodist Church has a long history in the local African American community, having been located in Egypt Alley for many years in a building built with bricks made by local African American masons. The African American school in the community was located in the lower level of Clark United Methodist Church until 1886. The church was located in the Egypt Alley neighborhood until 1974, when the building was razed as a part of urban renewal, and the congregation moved to the present location on Bernard Drive. Partnering with local African American churches could assist McMinnville Heritage Preservation in learning more of the stories associated with the site and with the African American stonemasons of McMinnville.

In addition to interpreting the African American stone masons of McMinnville, the site is a good place to interpret the community of Egypt Alley. The site was the home of one of the African American churches in the community, and stone from the site was likely used by Sam Leftwich when he built the foundation of the school at Egypt Alley.

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83 Wolford, *Through Wolf’s Eyes*, location 4055.
Creating of a Pocket Park/Greenway

The site is ideally situated for use as a pocket park. Pocket parks, also known as mini-parks, are small outdoor spaces, often located in an area surrounded by commercial buildings or on small residential lots. These places act as gathering spaces for people to relax. The site, located a block from downtown McMinnville and surrounded by industrial and commercial activity, would be an ideal pocket park. McMinnville has the Barren Fork Greenway, a 1.8 mile roundtrip walking trail on the Barren Fork River. McMinnville Heritage Preservation may wish to explore the possibility of partnering with McMinnville Parks and Recreation Department to create an extension of the greenway from the Barren Fork Greenway to the site.

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FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE SOURCES

As a non-profit entity, McMinnville Heritage Preservation may be eligible for a number of grants. Some grants may be used for programming needs and others may be applied to bricks-and-mortar projects. Grants are often competitive, so it is important to make sure your organization is grant-ready. The American Association of State and Local History suggests that you should begin with simple grants applications in your immediate area. Once you become comfortable applying for (and receiving) these types of grants, move on to the more complex grants. You should target each grant to its specific foundation. Try to avoid writing one proposal that you send to twenty different organizations.

The following suggestions are not intended as a comprehensive list of all available grants that the Alumni Association may be eligible for.

Assisting Agency: Tennessee Department of Community and Economic Development

Assistance Type: Community Development CDBG Program. This program includes grants for water and wastewater treatment facilities, housing rehabilitation and projects aimed at improving community livability. The grant is for communities with population of less than 50,000.

Eligible Projects: The grants are for projects that focus on “quality of life” projects rather than economic development. There are four categories of eligible projects: Water or Sewer Line Extensions, Water or Sewer System Improvements, Housing Rehabilitation and Community Livability. Community livability projects can include projects that look at health and safety conditions for a community.

Maximum Grant: $300,000.00

Restrictions: Local governments only may apply. McMinnville Heritage Preservation would need to partner with the City of McMinnville to write a grant that would fall under the parameters of the program and the City would need to administer the grant.

For More Information: www.tn.gov/ecd/CDBG/#3
Assisting Agency: Upper Cumberland Development District
Assistance Type: Historical Preservation Grants
Eligible Projects: The Cultural and Natural Resources and Historic Preservation department works with groups on a wide variety of projects and programs dealing with the historical, natural, and cultural assets of the region.

For More Information:
Upper Cumberland Development District
1225 South Willow Avenue
Cookeville, TN 38506
(931) 476-4152
Mark Dudney, - Cultural and Natural Resources
Michelle Price – Grant Writing & Administration, (931) 476-4173
http://www.ucdd.org/index.html

Assisting Agency: Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
Assistance Type: Tennessee Parks and Greenways Connections Small Grants Program
Eligible Projects: These awards range between $500 and $2,500, and can be used for trail enhancements, trail maintenance, surveys, planning, mapping, handicap accessible ramps or decks, interpretative displays, developing brochures and maps, signage, and trail construction supplies.

Restrictions:
The grant must be for a Middle Tennessee or East Tennessee project.

For More Information:
Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation
Iris Smith
117 30th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212
(615) 329-4441
http://www.tenngreen.org
Email: iris@tenngreen.org
Assisting Agency: Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation
Recreational Educational Services Divisions
Assistance Type: Parks and Recreation Grants
Eligible Projects: State, local, and federal land-managing agencies, as well as state-chartered, non-profit organizations can apply for these federally funded, state administered grants. The grants may be used for land acquisition, trail construction, trail maintenance, trail rehabilitation, and trail head support.
Restrictions: Grants require a 20% match.
For More Information: Recreational Educational Services Division
William R. Snodgrass Tennessee Tower
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, 2nd Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 532-0748
Alice Burke, Recreation Grant Questions
Email: Alice.Burke@tn.gov
http://tn.gov/environment/recreation/

Assisting Agency: U.S. Department of Agriculture
Assistance Type: Community Facilities Grants
Eligible Projects: The grant is available to non-profit groups as well as local governments. The funds can be used to improve facilities for community and public services.
Restrictions: Grants are for facilities located in rural areas with a population of less than 20,000. Applicants from small communities with low incomes will receive a higher proportion of grant money. You must apply for this grant through the local Rural Development Office.
For More Information: USDA Rural Development Office
Cookeville Office
Jerry Jolley, Area Director
390 S. Lowe Ave., Ste. K
Cookeville, TN 38501
(931) 528-6539 x 2
(800) 342-3149 x 1493
Email: Jerry.Jolley@tn.usda.gov
Assisting Agency: Tennessee Historical Commission (THC)
Assistance Type: The THC accepts grant applications for historic preservation projects, especially architectural, archaeological, and historic site survey projects. Surveys may be for sites associated with events significant in the state's history. Priorities for funding survey projects will include areas that are experiencing rapid growth, and development or other threats to cultural resources. In addition to historic surveys, assistance is available for other types of historic preservation projects. These may include preservation planning studies for towns and planning or pre-development work necessary to undertake restoration of an historic property. The grants are matching grants and will pay for up to 60% of the costs of approved project work. The remaining 40% must be provided by the grantee as matching funds.

For More Information: E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr., Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 532-1550
http://www.state.tn.us/environment/hist

Assisting Agency: Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT)
Assistance Type: More than $200 million in grants have been distributed by TDOT since the Federal Transportation Enhancement Program began providing funds to local communities in 1991. The Federal government will cover 80% of the project’s cost provided there is a 20% local match. Officials have used the funds to build sidewalks, bike and pedestrian trails, and to renovate historic train depots and other transportation-related structures. To view a comprehensive overview of the Transportation Enhancement program nationwide, and/or to access databases of state-specific Transportation Enhancement information, including project lists, examples and contacts, visit the National Transportation Clearinghouse at http://www.enhancements.org/.

For More Information: Neil Hansen, Enhancement Program
Tennessee Department of Transportation
James K. Polk Building, Suite 700
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243-0349
(615) 741-4850
www.tdot.state.tn.us/local/grants.htm
**Assisting Agency:** Tennessee Preservation Trust (TPT)
**Assistance Type:** The Tennessee Preservation Trust promotes the preservation of our state’s diverse historic resources. TPT advocates for preservation issues across the state, while helping unify the diverse constituencies that make up the preservation movement in Tennessee. Their annual “most endangered” list gets media attention and can be used to leverage funding and other support for preservation.

**For More Information:**
Tennessee Preservation Trust  
P.O. Box 24373  
Nashville, TN 37202  
(615) 963-1255  
www.tennesseepreservationtrust.org

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**Assisting Agency:** National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP)
**Assistance Type:**
- **National Trust Preservation Fund**
  - This fund provides two types of assistance to nonprofit organizations and public agencies: matching grants from $500 to $5,000 for preservation planning and educational efforts, and intervention funds for preservation emergencies. Matching grant funds may be used to obtain professional expertise in areas such as architecture, archaeology, engineering, preservation planning, land-use planning, fund raising, organizational development and law as well as to provide preservation education activities to educate the public.

  - **Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation**
    - This fund provides nonprofit organizations and public agencies grants ranging from $2,500 to $10,000 for projects that contribute to the preservation or the recapture of an authentic sense of place. Funds may be used for professional advice, conferences, workshops and education programs.

  - **National Trust Loan Fund (NTLF)**
    - This fund supports preservation-based community development projects across the country. As a certified Community Development Financial Institution, it provides financial and technical resources to organizations that use historic preservation to support the revitalization of underserved and distressed communities. NTLF specializes in predevelopment, acquisition, mini-permanent, bridge and rehabilitation loans for residential, commercial and public use projects. Eligible borrowers include not-for-profit organizations, revitalization organizations or real estate developers
working in certified Main Street communities, local, state or regional
governments, and for profit developers of older and/or historic
buildings.

For More Information: Tracy Hayes
Southern Office
National Trust for Historic Preservation
456 King Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29403
(843) 722-8552
Email: Tracy_Hayes@nthp.org

National Trust Regional Office
1416 Holly Street
Nashville, Tennessee 37206
(615) 226-4078

Assisting Agency: Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC)
Assistance Type: The Commission provides an annual series of grants aligning with
the objectives of the ARC, a federal-state partnership aimed at
creating self-sustaining economic development and improved
quality of life for the people of the Appalachian region. Each state
receives a protected allocation of funds and does not have to
compete with other states. There is more flexibility in the utilization
of ARC funds than in most other federally funded programs. Within
Tennessee, the governor has the ability to respond to unique
problems or opportunities that are presented by a community with
an "opportunity projects" designation.

For More Information: Brooxie Carlton, Director
Federal Programs
Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development
312 Rosa L. Parks Avenue, Tenth Floor
Nashville, TN 37243
615.741.8806
Email: Brooxie.Carlton@tn.gov
Assisting Agency: Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area (TCWNHA)

Assistance Type: The Heritage Area provides staff expertise and funding to build new educational, tourism, and recreational opportunities across the state. The Heritage Area offers citizens, agencies, local governments, and property owners the following statewide programs.

Professional Services and Outreach
This program provides trained staff and assistance at no cost to local governments, property owners, and organizations developing heritage programs and projects.

Collaborative Partnerships
This program allows local governments and non-profit groups to apply for matching funds for programs and projects including interpretive brochures, exhibits, educational materials, and heritage tourism and preservation plans. All funds received from the Heritage Area must be matched 1:1 with non-federal money.

For More Information: Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area
Box 80
Middle Tennessee State University
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
http://www.tncivilwar.org