DRIVING/BIKING ROUTE FOR INTERPRETED 6.3-MILE TOUR

OF THE EASTERN PORTION OF THE ROSEMARK-KERRVILLE HERITAGE LOOP

Rural Heritage Trust of Southwest Tennessee, Inc.

Revised July 15, 2020

The Rural Heritage Trust of Southwest Tennessee (“RHT”) has developed the following 6.3-mile tour of the eastern portion of the Rosemark-Kerrville Heritage Loop. The RHT plans to develop multiple interpreted tours of this route centered on themes such as agriculture, the Civil War, African-American history, transportation, education/culture, commerce/politics, etc. Thus, the narrative below is an introduction to the rich history of the area that will be developed more fully and in a more focused way for each themed tour.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Mileage**  **of Leg** | **Cue** | **Description** | **Cumulative**  **Mileage** |
| 0.4 | Right | Start at the parking lot of Tipton-Rosemark Academy/Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, located near the northeast corner of Kerrville-Rosemark Road and Rosemark Road in the Rosemark community. See this historic church and its Shelby County Historical Commission marker (to be erected in September 2016). Tipton-Rosemark Academy was established as Rosemark School, part of the Shelby County School District, around 1910. It closed in the 1960s, but the buildings were purchased by a private school and reopened in 1970 as Tipton-Rosemark. The original structure of red brick and limestone, with its separate entrances for boys and girls, was demolished in 2008, and the school now operates in modern facilities. Turn right out of the parking lot and travel northward on Rosemark Road. See numerous homes from the late 19th and early 20th centuries, including the *circa* 1890 home/office of Dr. Peter Flippin. View the Shelby County Historical Commission marker for Dr. Flippin. Note that many of the old homes have well houses from the period before “city water” came to the area. See the Richland Masonic Lodge. This lodge of the Masonic Order was chartered in 1948 and the building erected seven years later. Travel past Triple L Angus Farm and Tipton-Rosemark Academy’s Paul Barret, Jr. Sportsplex, built in 2006 at a cost of over $1,000,000. Turn right onto Gragg Road. | 0.4 |
| 0.4 | Left | Travel east on Gragg Road and turn left on Barret Road. | 0.8 |
| 0.5 | Right | The main part of Barretville, founded in 1856 by Anthony R. Barret, is along Barret Road. Ride past the Walter Barret house, “The Oaks,” located at 8970 Barret Road and built around 1890, and the Raymond-Barret house at 8998 Barret Road, which began as a dogtrot house in the 1830’s and was modernized and enlarged in the mid- and late 20th century. See the Tennessee Civil War Trails marker for “Hurst’s Raid at Barretville,” which occurred on April 8, 1863, as well as Tennessee Historical Commission markers for internationally-known blues singer Bobby Blue Bland (1930-2013), who grew up and began his singing career in Barretville, and political leader and banker Paul W. Barret (1899-1976). Paul Barret’s residence, “Squire’s Rest,” built in 1920 and located at 8993 Barret Road, is on the National Register of Historic Places. He played a supporting role in *Baker v. Carr*, the 1962 U.S. Supreme Court case that established the “one man, one vote” rule and led to reapportionment of legislative bodies throughout the country. Learn about J.H. Barret & Son Store, established as Barret & Witherington in 1856 and one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in Shelby County when it closed in the 1990s. The current store building dates to 1932. Shortly thereafter, the adjacent J.H. Barret & Son Warehouse was constructed. The store sold not only groceries, but also hardware, shoes, clothing, animal feed, fertilizer, coal, and, for a period, mortuary services. On May 10, 1931, an earlier building that housed the store and Barretville Bank was destroyed by fire during a late-night robbery. The night watchman, 23-year-old James McFerrin, was killed in the blaze. The ensuing robbery-arson-murder trial lasted 47 days and was the lengthiest and most expensive criminal trial in Shelby County history up until that time. After the fire, the structure was rebuilt to house only the store. In 1932 a brick and limestone building was completed, just to the south, for Barretville Bank. That building still stands and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. By 1943, the FDIC declared Barretville Bank to be one of the largest “R.F.D.” (*i.e.*, rural) banks in the country. By 1956 it was the eighth largest bank in West Tennessee. In October 1989, *Money* magazine named it “one of the safest banks in America” based on capital strength, liquidity, earnings, loan portfolio/diversity, and size. Travel northward on Barret Road until it ends at Mudville Road. Turn right onto Mudville Road, which was part of the original Randolph-LaGrange Road. | 1.3 |
| 1.4 | Left | Travel east on Mudville Road. At 9148 Mudville Road, view the Smith farmhouse, built in 1906 as the centerpiece of a then fairly typical 65-acre farm that raised cotton and corn, apples and peaches, and hogs, chickens, and turkeys. Cross Tennessee Highway 14 (Austin Peay Highway) and Crooked Creek, and enter the community of Mudville near the terminus of Mudville Road at Brunswick Road. At the southwest corner of Brunswick and Mudville Roads is the Sink-Hill house (*circa* 1867). | 2.7 |
| 1.7 | Right | Turn left onto Brunswick Road, heading north. Go by the site of the Mudville General Store and stop at Pleasant Union Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which began as a brush arbor church in 1858. To the left (south) of the church is Rosemark Cemetery, established in 1907 by the Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. To the right (north) of the church is a cemetery established in the 1880’s and originally known as Pleasant Union Cemetery, but now called Mudville Cemetery. On the grounds of the church, in 1927, was found the body of Tommie Williams, also known as Tommie Doyle, who was shot and killed by unknown assailants for allegedly assaulting Jennie McCreight Miller in the yard of her Mudville home. Williams/Doyle was black and Miller was white. The inquest jury considered the killing of Williams/Doyle to constitute a lynching. Exit the church parking lot and go back southward on Brunswick Road, traveling past fields, houses, and site of the old Stewartville Masonic Lodge, established in 1892. The lodge disbanded in 1942 but thereafter the building served as the polling place for area residents for approximately 20 years. It was also the political base of Paul W. Barret, a member of the Shelby County Quarterly Court (now the Shelby County Commission) from 1942 through 1966 and, as described by the *Commercial Appeal* newspaper in 1966, “long the most powerful individual in county politics.” The Stewartville voting precinct, known as “Paul Barret’s box,” unfailingly turned out practically unanimous votes for the candidates endorsed by Barret during the 1950s and 1960s. The FBI investigated but concluded that there was no illegal activity. Turn right onto East Kerrville-Rosemark Road. | 4.4 |
| 1.8 | Right | Heading west on East Kerrville-Rosemark Road, travel again over Crooked Creek and ride past the Rogers-McCalla house (*circa* 1866). See the newly restored Rosemark Telephone Exchange Building (owned and operated by “HARE,” Historic Archives of Rosemark and Its Environs) and the old Hamilton General Store. On the grounds of the Rosemark Telephone Exchange Building is a West Tennessee Historical Society Marker honoring Dr. Peter J. Flippin (1873-1950), a physician whose office was in his home in Rosemark. There he provided medical care to black and white residents of the area for 50 years, including delivering over 1,300 babies. Turn right onto Rosemark Road. | 6.2 |
| 0.1 | Right | Return to point of beginning, the parking lot of Tipton-Rosemark Academy and Richland Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. | 6.3 |
|  |  |  |  |

All rights reserved, 2020, by the Rural Heritage Trust of Southwest Tennessee, Inc., a Tennessee nonprofit corporation, which gratefully acknowledges information from *An Illustrated History of the People and Towns of Northeast Shelby County and South-Central Tipton County*, published 2010 by Historic Archives of Rosemark and Environs, Inc.

NOTE: When traveling these routes, exercise caution and pay attention at all times. Do not drive, bike, or walk while reading or otherwise distracted.