



Welcome to historic downtown Lenoir City. This tour of the downtown visits many of the sites and structures that were important in the establishment of this community. Some of the sites date back to the early 1800's, such as the Lenoir Home, while others are fine examples of small Southern towns in the early twentieth century.



On this tour, you will have the opportunity to visit:



Lenoir Family Cemetery

Lenoir City's Oldest Church: Trinity United Methodist Church



Lenoir City Company Building / Museum



Original Lenoir Family Home

Cotton Mill

Lenoir City Post Office & 1940s Era Mural



For more information contact:

City of Lenoir City

865-986-2715



LENOIR CITY
T E N N E S S E E

600 East Broadway

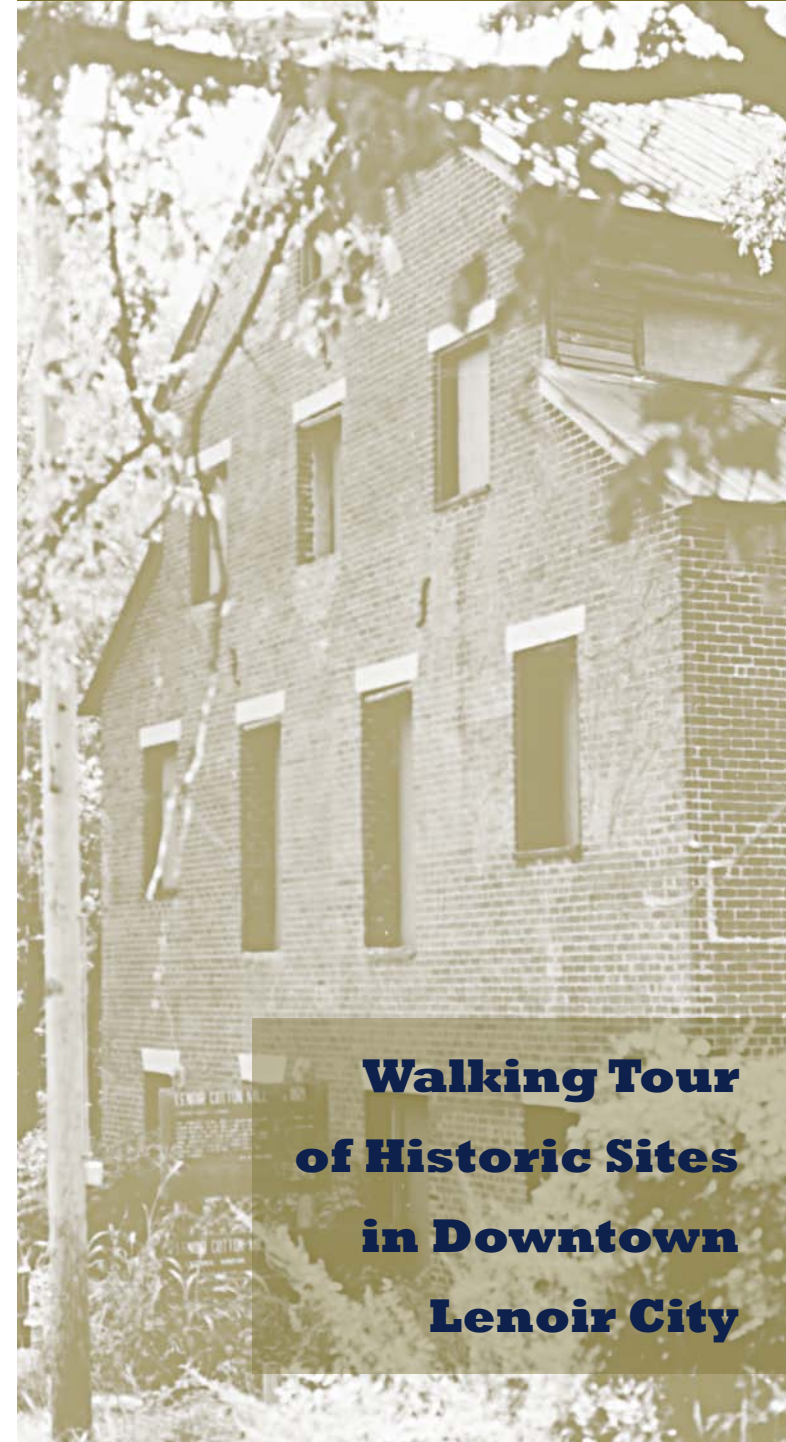
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LENOIR CITY
T E N N E S S E E

Established 1907



**Walking Tour
of Historic Sites
in Downtown
Lenoir City**

Before beginning the tour it will be beneficial to know the history of Lenoir City. The city itself was chartered in 1907, but a thriving community existed prior to this date. It started as a farm owned by Major William Lenoir. Major Lenoir's father, General William Lenoir was given this land, about 5000 acres for his services in the Revolutionary War. He gave the land to Major Lenoir who came here with his wife and family around 1810.

The Lenoir farm quickly turned into a plantation in the 1820's when the four sons of Major William Lenoir started a system of mills, including several flour mills and a cotton mill. The plantation developed into a community known on the rail line as Lenoir's Station. The land was eventually sold to developers who divided it into lots and streets. The developers, who became the Lenoir City Company, planned this community that became Lenoir City. It was incorporated in 1907 by the Tennessee General Assembly. During the early 1900's Lenoir City remained a viable market because of the railroad and the main highway that connected it to cities in the north and the south.

DIRECTIONS: To get to downtown Lenoir City from Highway 321/95 go south until you come to the intersection of Highways 321 and 11; turn right onto Hwy 11/Broadway. Travel Broadway until you come to "C" Street (traffic light number 13). Turn up the hill until you come to Calvary Baptist Church on the corner of "C" Street and First Avenue. This is where the tour begins.

Beside the church you will find the **Lenoir family cemetery**. Here, guests are welcome to walk the grounds and view



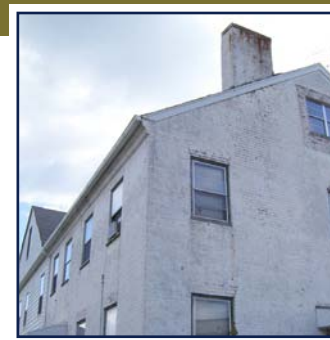
the monuments marking the graves of those who were so important to the founding of this community, including Major William Lenoir, his wife and their children. Guests will also find the monument of Civil War veteran, Dr. George M. Burdett, who married Eliza Hume Lenoir and served as a Confederate surgeon from the time he joined in 1861 until the war's end in 1865. For the next tour site continue up "C" Street until you come to Second Avenue. This is **Trinity United Methodist Church**.

Trinity is Lenoir City's oldest church, formed in 1867. The first services were held in the Lenoir Carpenter Shop, until the Lenoir brothers built the first church building and gave it to the Methodist Episcopal Church (now Trinity United Methodist) in 1898. The Church moved to this site in 1899. The home across the street was the original parsonage. From here visitors will need to travel back down "C" Street until once again at Broadway. On Broadway go left back toward the center of town until you come to "A" Street and follow it until you come to Depot Street.

To get to the next site simply cross over Depot Street. This Victorian cottage style building is known locally as the **Lenoir City Company building** and today houses the **Lenoir City Museum**. This

was the office of the developers who purchased the land and planned the community. It was built in 1890 and is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places.

Keep moving east on Depot Street to get to the next tour site; for safety, cross the street and

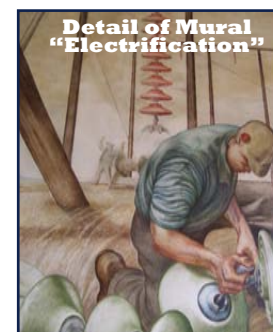


walk on the sidewalk behind First National Bank. Beside the Fire Hall you will see a white building that is today the Ledbetter Apartments. This building is the **original home of Major Lenoir and his family**.

The home was completed in 1820 and overlooked the bustling Lenoir estate. The brick portions give an idea of the home in its original state. The front of the home faces what was at one time the most prominent facility of the Lenoir estate—the Cotton Mill.

The **Cotton Mill** is the next site on this walking tour. Go down the road that runs beside the Lenoir Home (Ledbetter Apartment) and you will see the preserved ruins of this structure. Built in ca. 1821, and due to its unique architecture the mill was placed on the National Register in 1973. The Cotton Mill Association, a group formed to organize efforts to restore the Mill, had it partially renovated (photo on front panel) when it was burned in 1991.

The next site on the tour is back across Broadway on the corner of Hill Street—the **Lenoir City Post Office**. The post office was built in 1937 during the administration of President Franklin D. Roosevelt. As you step inside you will see a painting high on the right hand wall. The painting "Electrification," by David Stone Martin, was one in a series of post office murals during the Depression. Artists were commissioned to work for the federal government as a way to keep



them working during hard times. This effort was to also bring art into small towns, and rural area throughout the U.S. This mural was installed on August 3, 1940.