

Historic Washington offers insight into a nineteenth century community and a glimpse at the people and events of the Territorial, Antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction eras in Arkansas's history.

The museum village includes historic, public, and private buildings as well as many of Washington's nineteenth century landscape features - streets bordered with catalpa, magnolia, and other ornamental trees which have shaded the community for 150 years. The historic structures and grounds give a fascinating view of Washington and a taste of the peace and beauty of southwest Arkansas.

Established in 1824, the town of Washington was a convenient stop for travelers on the rugged Southwest Trail leading to Texas. It soon became the economic, political, and cultural center for a large rural population in Hempstead County, Arkansas. The area's wealth came from cotton and other agricultural products including corn, livestock, and fruit. The townspeople added valuable skills in a number of professions. By 1860, Washington and vicinity had sixteen doctors, fifteen carpenters, nine teachers, nine blacksmiths, three carriage makers, seventeen lawyers, fifteen merchants, six printers, and three hotel keepers. During the Civil War, Washington boomed while serving as the state's Confederate Capital after Little Rock was taken by the Union Army in 1863.

When the Cairo and Fulton Railroad bypassed the town in 1874, Washington's heyday was ending. The following year, fire destroyed 4½ blocks of the business district. Another fire in 1883 engulfed 24 more businesses, yet the town refused to die. The Washington preservation movement began in 1929 when the Arkansas Legislature approved \$5,000 for restoring Arkansas's Confederate Capitol - the first state funds for historic preservation in Arkansas. In 1958, citizens of Washington formed the **Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation** to preserve the town's other historic structures. **Old Washington Historic State Park** was established in 1973. The **Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives**, dedicated to collecting and preserving documents and photographs of southwest Arkansas, began in 1978. In 1980, the **Ethnic Minority Memorabilia Association** was incorporated to preserve and interpret black history. Today, these organizations and the citizens of Washington work together to preserve and interpret the town's nineteenth century story. In 2006 the park name was changed from Old Washington Historic State Park to **Historic Washington State Park**.

INTERPRETIVE SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Historic Washington State Park sponsors several special events each year. The **Jonquil Festival** celebrates spring each March with special tours, programs, arts and crafts, and music.

The **Civil War Experience** commemorates Washington's role as Confederate Capitol and includes living history battles, special tours, and demonstrations.

Five Trails Rendezvous celebrates the founding of Washington and Arkansas's pioneer heritage. Activities include historic demonstrations, special programs, and tours. In July, historians share knowledge of the nineteenth century at the **Red River Heritage Symposium**.

Each December, nineteenth century decorations transform the town for **Christmas and Candlelight**. Activities include strolling carolers, twilight tours, music, and a special dinner served at Williams' Tavern Restaurant.

Exhibits and activities celebrating Arkansas's heritage and culture occur monthly. Calendars of events are available at the park and on the website.

Programs, speakers, and slide presentations about the park are available for civic clubs, schools, and other organizations with advance notice. School tours relating to Arkansas history, culture, and architecture are also available upon advance request. Call (870) 983-2684 for more information.

WILLIAMS' TAVERN RESTAURANT (870) 983-2890

Serving meals with warm southern hospitality is a tradition here. Join us for lunch in this historic 1832 tavern, which continues to serve our guests traditional southern cuisine.

Hours: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. daily, and evenings during events and for special parties.

Williams' Tavern Restaurant is available for evening parties. To plan a special evening in the historic tavern, call (870) 983-2660. Our tavern also offers extended evening hours during park festivals and events. Contact the Tavern for details concerning particular event hours and menus. The restaurant is closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

RENTAL FACILITIES

The stately, red brick **1914 Washington schoolhouse** has been renovated into a state-of-the-art **meeting facility** with audio-visual equipment, small kitchen, and meeting rooms of several sizes, including the original auditorium with stage. The facility will also sleep 54 in 3 bunk-type



rooms. Modern restrooms, showers, and laundry are in a new, adjacent building. The schoolhouse is popular for retreats, reunions, weddings, board meetings, and workshops. Meals can be catered from the Williams' Tavern Restaurant.

The **1940 WPA Gym** is in the heart of historic Washington. The structure retains its original gym-like character, but has been renovated into a **meeting facility for large groups** and has been used for weddings, receptions, reunions, and banquets. In addition to restoration of the original gym floor, bleachers, and stage, restrooms and showers have been modernized and a full catering kitchen has been added. Call (870) 983-2660 for more details.

FEES AND HOURS

Visitors may select from walking tours and self-guided driving tours. **The homes and museums that are available for tours change on a regular basis. Tickets may be purchased at the visitor center (1874 Courthouse).** Organized groups of 20 or more with advance notice will receive a discount.

OPEN YEAR ROUND: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CLOSED: Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day

LOCATION

The park is on Highway 278, nine miles northwest of Hope, and eighteen miles southeast of Nashville. From Interstate 30, take Exit 30, turning north on Highway 278.

For further information on fees, hours, or events, contact:

Historic Washington State Park

P.O. Box 129

Washington, Arkansas 71862

(870) 983-2684

email: historicwashington@arkansas.com

HistoricWashingtonStatePark.com

HistoryStateParks.com

For information on Arkansas's other fine state parks, contact:

Arkansas State Parks

One Capitol Mall, 4A-900

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

(501) 682-1191

ArkansasStateParks.com



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HISTORIC WASHINGTON STATE PARK

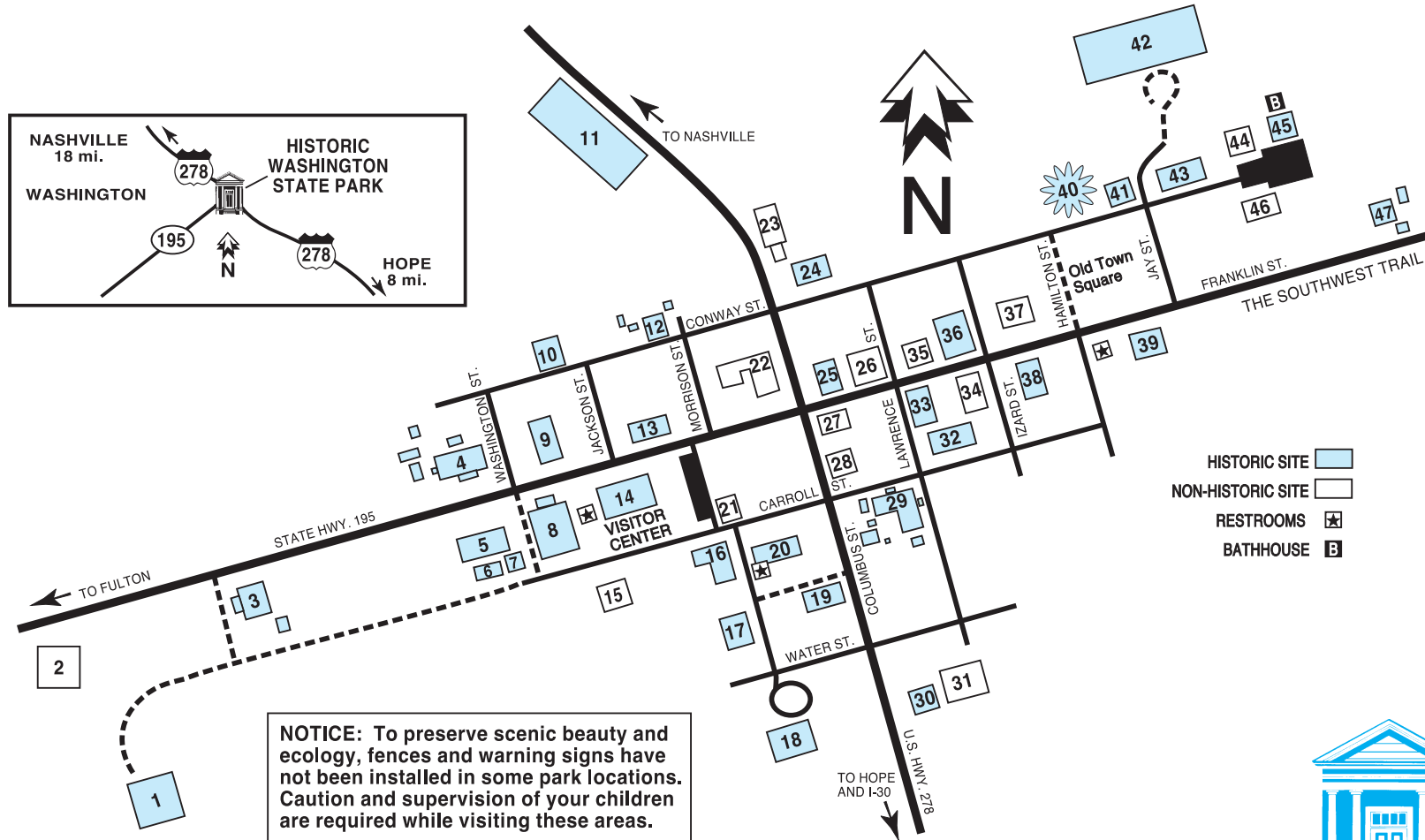


ARKANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM

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1. Brunson House (c. 1860)
2. Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives (S.A.R.A.) and State Park Collection Management Facility
3. Monroe House & outbuildings (1855)
4. Trimble House & outbuildings (c. 1847)
5. Woodlawn House (1853)
6. Clardy Kitchen (1860)
7. Goodlett Smokehouse (1890)
8. WPA Gym (1940)-large group facility
9. Methodist Church (c. 1865)
10. Hempstead County Jail (1918)
11. Presbyterian Cemetery (c. 1860)
12. Peck House & outbuildings (c. 1840)
13. Pioneer Washington Foundation Headquarters (c. 1852)
14. Hempstead County Courthouse (1874-1939) (Visitor Center)
15. Arkansas State Park Region Four Office
16. Crouch House (c. 1857)
17. Purdom House (c. 1850)
18. Royston House (1845)
19. Carrigan-Williamson House (c. 1850)
20. Williams' Tavern Restaurant (c. 1832)
21. Washington City (Pilkinton) Hall
22. Morrison's Tavern (1960)
23. Washington Baptist Church
24. Stuart-Smith House (c. 1852)
25. Black History Museum (c. 1895)
26. Washington City Fire Station
27. Park Administration Building
28. Livery Stable (c. 1996)
29. Sanders Farmstead (c. 1845)
30. Stephens House (c. 1870)
31. School of Bladesmithing
32. Presbyterian Church (1889)
33. B.W. Edwards Weapons Museum (c. 1925)
34. Washington City Post Office
35. Law Office
36. Print Museum (c. 1915)
37. Candle Shop & Gift Shop
38. Redmond House (c. 1927)
39. Hempstead County Courthouse (1836-1874)
40. Magnolia Tree (planted c. 1839)
41. Royston Log House (c. 1835)
42. Pioneer Cemetery (c. 1824)
43. Block-Catts House (c. 1832)
44. Pavilion
45. Washington Schoolhouse (c. 1914) -meeting facility/dormitory
46. Blacksmith Shop (1961)
47. Goodlett Cotton Gin and associated buildings (1883)



HISTORIC WASHINGTON STATE PARK



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!