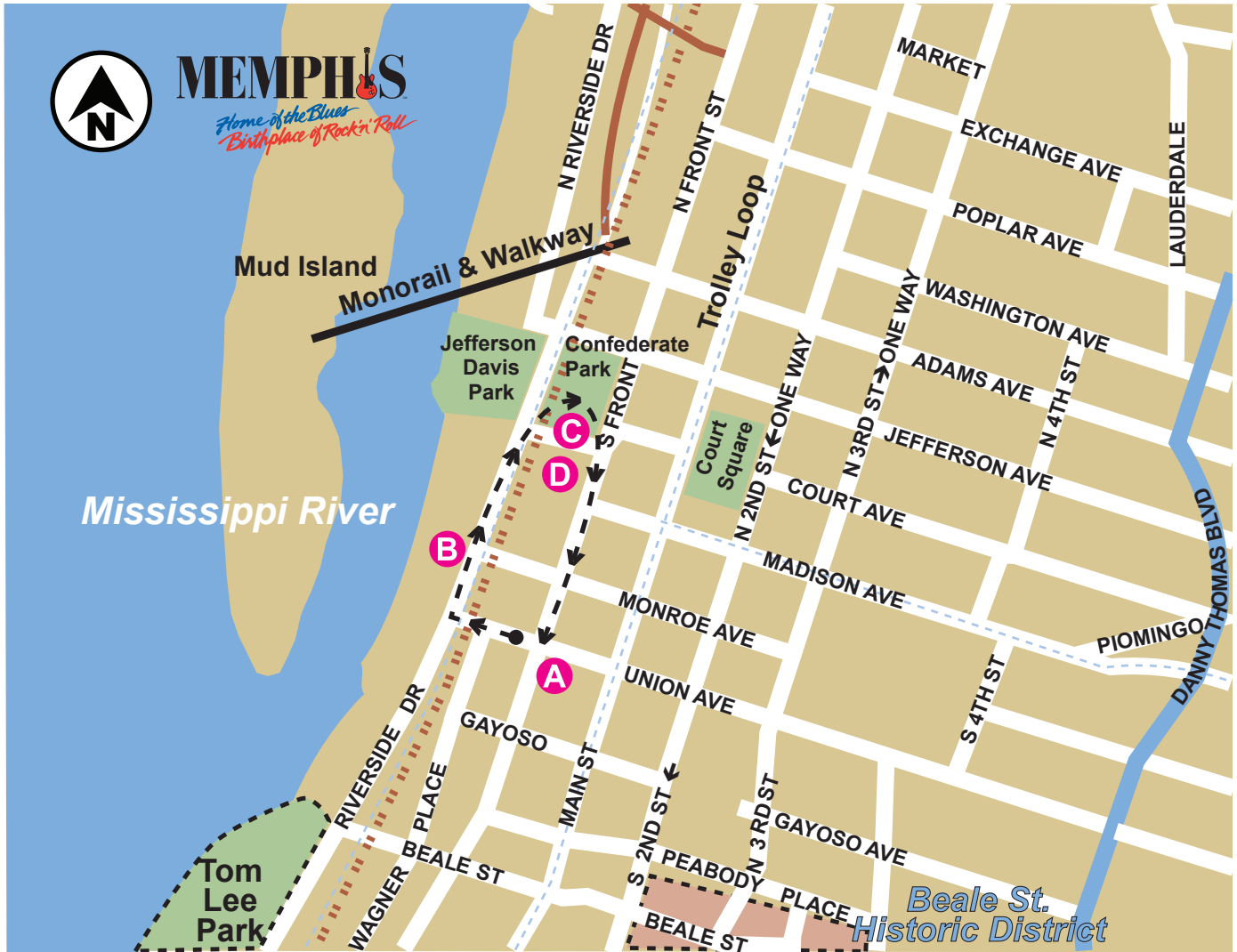


FROM COTTON AND THE CIVIL WAR TO MODERN DAY MEMPHIS

DOWNTOWN HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR (30-45 MINUTES - 7 BLOCKS)



(Approximately 30-45 minutes and 7 blocks)
Begins at the Cotton Museum at 65 Union Avenue.

- A** Cotton Museum at the Memphis Cotton Exchange
- B** Riverside Drive
- C** Confederate Park
- D** University of Memphis Law School

ALL TOURS BEGIN AND END AT THE COTTON MUSEUM (UNION AVENUE AND FRONT STREET)

UNION AVENUE

[1] From Cotton Museum **A** front door, turn left and head west to intersection. Cross over Front Street to Front Street Deli. Proceed west past Howard's Row to Wagner Place.

Cross over Wagner Place and railroad tracks to Riverside Drive **B** .

[2] On west side of Riverside Drive view Cobblestone Wharf, Mud Island, Memphis Riverboats docks, Mississippi River and bridges.

RIVERSIDE DRIVE (1 BLOCK)

[3] Head north on west side of Riverside Drive to Jefferson Davis Park - view city skyline, railroad and trolley tracks, Cossitt Library and University of Memphis Law School.

COURT AVENUE (2 BLOCKS)

[4] Cross over Riverside Drive and railroad tracks to Confederate Park steps (if disability access is required, then proceed up sidewalk to Front Street access to park). View historical markers and statues in Confederate Park **C** . On east side of Confederate Park, view tall buildings and Court Square (from a distance).

NORTH FRONT STREET (1 BLOCK)

[5] Cross over Court Avenue, head south down Front Street on west side to Madison Avenue. View University of Memphis Law School **D** and Zero Milestone Marker.

[6] At Madison Avenue, look east to "Bankers' Row" at tall buildings such as Exchange and Sterick buildings.

SOUTH FRONT STREET (1 BLOCK)

[7] Proceed south on Front Street past Cossitt Library. View Shrine Building and view "Cotton Row".

[8] Cross over Monroe Avenue, heading south on Front Street, past parking garage and fire station (look south down Front Street at more "Cotton Row".)

UNION AVENUE (2 BLOCKS)

[9] Cross over Front Street to east side and then cross over Union Avenue to south side by Cotton Exchange building.

[10] Return to Cotton Museum. **A**

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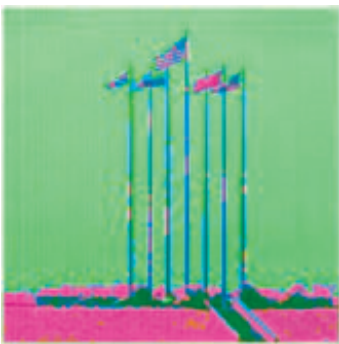
UNION AVENUE

[1] **Cotton Museum**: From the Cotton Museum **A** front door, turn left & head west to the intersection of Front Street and Union Avenue. Cross over Front Street to the Front Street Deli to proceed past **Howard's Row** – this set of buildings on the south side of Union Avenue was the original south limits of the first town plan in 1819 and the first “shopping center” for the town in the mid-1800s. The 47 Union Avenue building (now the offices of the Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau) was known as the Woolen Building, is the oldest existing commercial building in Memphis and the basement served as a hospital room for Union soldiers during the Civil War. Cross over to Wagner Place to the **railroad tracks**, which have had a presence on the Memphis riverfront here since 1881. Currently the Canadian National (CN) tracks, AMTRAK'S City of New Orleans passenger train still runs daily between Chicago and New Orleans. Proceed across Riverside Drive. The west side tracks handle the **riverfront loop** of the **Main Street Trolley** system.

Riverside Drive **B** was built in 1935 to connect the Downtown core with the two lower bridges at the time to the south of Downtown (Frisco Bridge – 1892 – and Harrahan Bridge – 1916). Beginning in 1949, a third bridge – the Memphis & Arkansas Bridge opened and now handles the I-55 interstate traffic.

[2] On west side of Riverside Drive, view the **Cobblestone Wharf**, which was erected between 1852 and 1892 in nineteen different work sessions during the advent of the Great Steamboat Era on the Lower Mississippi River. There are over one million cobbles remaining in the largest original cobblestone wharf in the nation and the wharf is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The **Memphis Riverboats** docks have moored to the cobblestone wharf since 1955 providing a variety of daily passenger excursion, dinner cruises and private charters from a fleet of three “Made In Memphis” vessels – **Memphis Queen II, Memphis Queen III and Island Queen**.



Across the Wolf River Harbor is the **Mud Island River Park**, a 50-acre theme park which celebrates the heritage and lore of the Mississippi River with the 18-gallery Mississippi River Museum, 5-block-long Mississippi River Walk scale model, Monorail, 5,000-seat Amphitheatre, 110-slip Marina, restaurants, gift shops and numerous vistas of the river and delta. The seven flags that fly on the southern tip of the island represent the jurisdictions over the Memphis area for the past 450+ years – Spain, France, Great Britain, United States of America, Confederate States of America, North Carolina and Tennessee.

The **Hernando Desoto Bridge**, also known as the “Big M” Bridge, just north of Mud Island was opened in 1973 and handles the I-40 interstate traffic.

RIVERSIDE DRIVE (1 BLOCK)

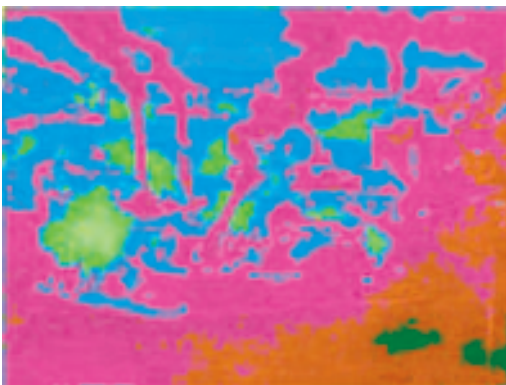
[3] Head north on west side of **Riverside Drive** to Jefferson Davis Park (1930), on the south side of Riverside Drive, north of the Cobblestone Wharf. Along the walk, view the City Skyline and Promenade property (from Front Street to the toe of the Cobblestones, and Union Avenue to The Pyramid) laid about by the City Founders in 1819 for public use in perpetuity. The red sandstone building on the east side of Riverside Drive at Monroe Avenue is the 1929 wing of the Cossitt Library, which was established in Downtown in 1893. Next to the Cossitt Library is the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (2010), which occupies the original United States Customs House & Courthouse opened in 1885, and remodeled in 1903 and 1929.



COURT AVENUE (2 BLOCKS)

[4] Cross over Riverside Drive & Railroad tracks to the Confederate Park steps (if disability access is required, then proceed up sidewalk to Front Street access to park).

Notice the 82-foot width of Court Avenue, designed purposely wide for mule wagons carrying heavy bales of cotton from the cobblestone wharf up the steep slope to Front Street, using a side-to-side tacking maneuver for the benefit of the mules.



View historical markers and statues in **Confederate Park** (1908) ©. Quite a few statues and/or historical markers reside in the park including the Jefferson Davis Statue (1964), the Elizabeth Avery Merriwether and Virginia “Ginnie” Bethel Moon historical markers, and two markers dedicated to the most significant local events of the Civil War. From this bluff, the citizens of Memphis on June 6, 1862 watched the Battle of Memphis, a naval skirmish in what is now the Wolf River Harbor to the west that lasted only ninety minutes and resulted in a resounding victory for the Union fleet.

Looking north to south from the east side of Confederate Park, view tall buildings - Morgan Keegan Tower (1987) at Front/Jefferson, Lincoln-American Tower (1924) on Main Street, a 30% scale reproduction of the Woolworth Building in New York City and the Falls Building (1912) at Front/Court. The Falls Building was known for its Alaskan Roof Garden of big band era music, the debut in 1916 of W.C. Handy’s St. Louis Blues and the first broadcast in Memphis of a major league baseball game transmitted from here. View eastward down Court Avenue to the centerpiece of Court Square, the Hebe Fountain, erected in 1876 by the citizens of Memphis to honor the nation’s centennial. Fifty citizens donated \$1,000 each for the erection of this beautiful fountain, and their names are inscribed in the surrounding wall.

NORTH FRONT STREET (1 BLOCK)

[5] Cross over Court Avenue, head south down Front Street on west side to Madison Avenue. View the new University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (2010) **D**. The original building was the United States Customs House & Courthouse opened in 1885 and renovated in 1903 and 1929. Continue south to the intersection of Madison Avenue and Front Street (west side) and view the Zero Milestone Marker. On the top of the 16-inch tall marker, erected in 1923 by the Engineers Club of Memphis, are the words “**Distance from Memphis Measured From this Point**”.

[6] At Madison Avenue, look east to “Bankers’ Row” at tall buildings such as Metro 67 (apartments, 2009) in the former Union Planters Bank Building (1914), the Madison Hotel (2005) in the former Tennessee Trust Building (1906), the Exchange Building (1910) now apartments on the northwest corner of Second/Madison and from 1910-1924, the tallest building in Memphis, and the Sterick Building (1930), when built was the tallest building in the entire South. The intersection of Madison Avenue and Front Street is “Where Cotton Met Banking in Memphis”. The Madison Avenue Trolley Line runs east from Main Street out Madison to just beyond the Medical District.

SOUTH FRONT STREET (1 BLOCK)

[7] Proceed south on Front Street past Cossitt Library. View the Shrine Building (1923), former home of the Al Chymia Shrine Temple and offices, now condominiums. The Mid-South Cotton Growers Association (southeast corner of Monroe/Front) was formed in 1931 to assist farmers during the Great Depression. The Little Tea Shop is a well-esteemed lunch spot in Downtown. Looking eastward down Monroe, one sees Brinkley Plaza (1925) on the northwest corner of Monroe/Main, former site of the original Peabody Hotel (1869-1923) in Memphis, Residence Inn in the former William Len Hotel (1930), One Commerce Square (1973), First Tennessee Bank (1964) and at Third Street, left field side of finest minor league baseball park in America according to Baseball America – **Autozone Park** (2000) – “The Taj Mahal of Minor League Parks” and the home of the Memphis Redbirds, AAA franchise of the St. Louis Cardinals.

The east side of Front Street between Monroe Avenue and Union Avenue represent buildings of world famous “**Cotton Row**”. Cotton Row, which once extended from Madison to Linden Avenue along Front Street, was the center of cotton trade in America from the 1850s to the 1970s. Front Street between Monroe and Gayoso has been designated as the Cotton Row Historic District by the Memphis landmarks Commission and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The ground floors of these (remaining) buildings were cotton classing offices, offices for factors and related businesses for the cotton industry, such as shipping, insurance and general merchandise, with the upper stories being unpartitioned and used for storage and sample rooms. The top floors were used for cotton classing and were constructed with skylights to capture the north light since it was necessary to use natural light in the classing of cotton.




This type of construction is no longer well-designed for today's large-scale operations, since the development of fluorescent lighting diminished the need for natural lighting, but the design has made the buildings ripe for re-adaptive use of residential and office development. Building exteriors show a variety of architectural styles. From 1880 to 1930, 70% of the nation's cotton crop was within 200 miles of Memphis.

[8] Cross over Monroe Avenue, heading south on Front Street, past the parking garage (1957) and Memphis Fire Department Headquarters (1959) and view further south down Front Street at more of "Cotton Row".

UNION AVENUE (2 BLOCKS)

[9] Cross over Front Street to east side and then cross over Union Avenue to south side by Cotton Exchange Building (1924). The Memphis Cotton Exchange, where the region's cotton is still bought and sold, was first organized in 1873. By the early 1950s a seat on the Exchange could cost a new member \$17,000. Memphis was the largest spot cotton market in the world from 1880 to 1930.

[10] Return to the **Cotton Museum**  on the historical Cotton Exchange floor as it takes each visitor through the science, history, economics and culture of the world of cotton in the Memphis and Mid-South area – from blues and sharecropping to international trade and genetically-engineered seed-giving context and more.