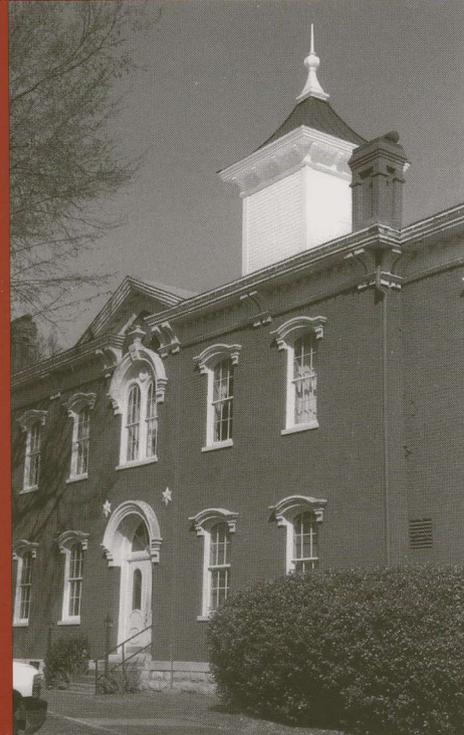
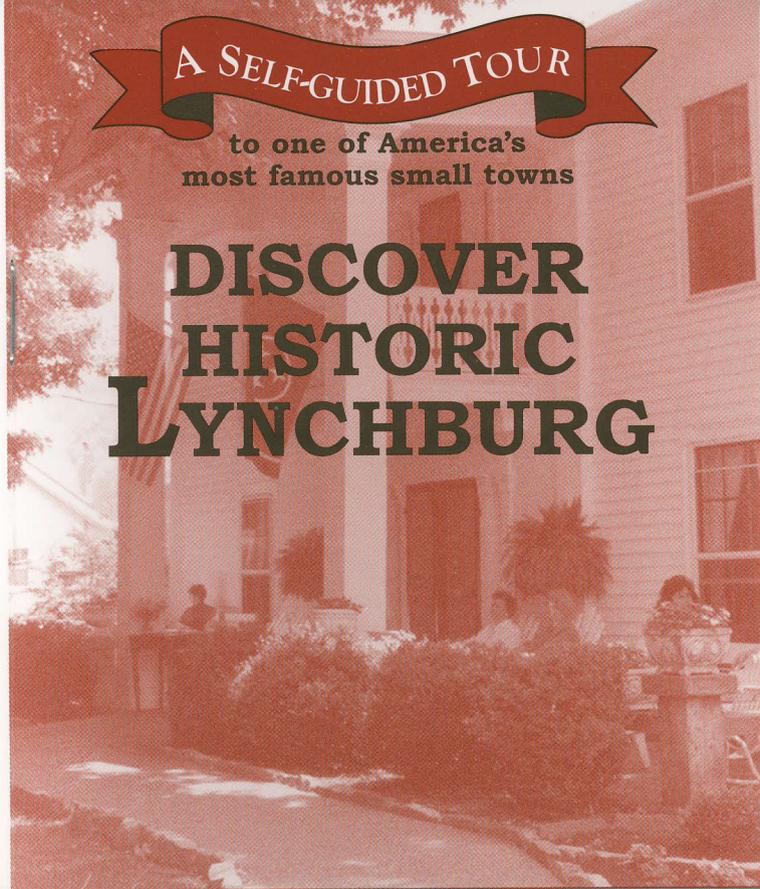


to one of America's  
most famous small towns

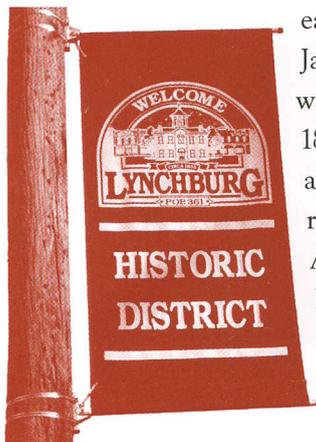
# DISCOVER HISTORIC LYNCHBURG



**Lynchburg**—one of the best known place names in all of rural America; one of the most treasured county seats in Tennessee; and one of the best places in the region to see the changes that the Reconstruction years brought to the southern landscape from 1865–1875.

Lynchburg is all of these things, but first and foremost it is home to about 500, at last count, of the 6,000 residents of Moore County. Yes, Moore County is one of the smallest counties in Tennessee, but it is large in hospitality. Here are Tennesseans who are proud of their past and want visitors to know about their history. The first settlers of Lynchburg came in the early 1800s. For decades, it was a small village centered along both sides of Mulberry Creek; the Tennessee General Assembly incorporated the town during its 1841–1842 session.

During the Civil War, Lynchburg area residents formed Company E of the 1st Tennessee Infantry (CSA) Lynchburg. The Reconstruction years brought rapid change to the village, more so than many middle Tennessee towns. On the



east end of town, the Jack Daniel Distillery was established in 1866; it has become an internationally renowned business. A local Masonic lodge also formed in 1866. The next year came the landmark

Grand Central Hotel, better known today as Miss Mary Bobo's Boardinghouse, one of the South's most acclaimed traditional restaurants. In 1873, Lynchburg became the county seat of the recently created Moore County (1871). The county commissioners redesigned the town, placing a square in the middle of the village and the Moore County Courthouse, a Victorian landmark, in the middle of the square. At the same time, a small but vibrant African American neighborhood centered around a schoolhouse, a cemetery, and the Elm Street Church of Christ began to form on the town's west end.

Over the next 70 years, to the time of World War II, the town plan of Lynchburg filled out, with new brick businesses placed around the square and many new houses and churches situated along the residential streets. By the end of the 20th century, the town was acknowledged as one of the state's most intact and interesting rural county seats.

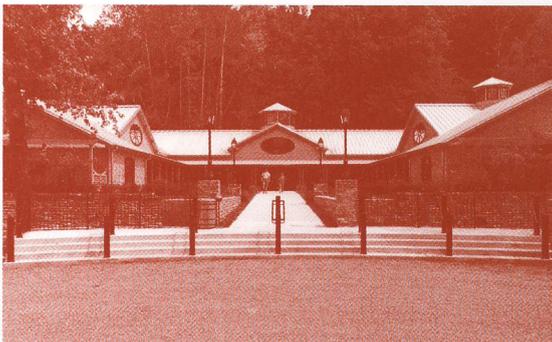
Today Lynchburg's National Register-listed historic district contains almost 100 buildings including Greek Revival-styled central-hall dwellings, picturesque Victorian cottages, unadorned gable-front businesses, and brick buildings with a touch of Art Deco styling. As you tour the historic district, you will find many buildings open to the public. Private homes are not open to the public and should be viewed from the sidewalks or roadside.

## 1. Jack Daniel Distillery

The visitor center, which has ample parking, is a good spot to begin your visit to Lynchburg. The distillery, listed in the National Register of Historic



Places, is the oldest registered distillery in the nation. It was established by Jasper "Jack" Daniel in 1866 as part of the Reconstruction era's rebuilding of battered middle Tennessee. A marble statue of Daniel was installed in 1941 at the mouth of Cave Spring. The original statue has now been moved into the visitor center and a new bronze one occupies the spot at the spring. The distillery is internationally known for its charcoal mellowing process, a traditional leaching process that "was handed down by slaves who made whiskey in the hills," according to a 1972 article in the *Tennessee Historical Quarterly*. In the hills above the town, you will notice many metal-clad warehouses, where the distilled whiskey is stored while it ages. Tours are offered daily at the distillery.



Visitor Center

*Walk across the footbridge from the distillery and turn right on Main Street to begin your tour of historic Lynchburg. The total distance is about 1.4 miles, so allow at least an hour. If you wish, you may drive to parts of the tour such as the cemeteries on North Elm Street and then come back down South Elm Street, turning left on Main Street to park on the square and visit the shops. As an alternate and shorter tour, you may proceed directly to the square and walk down Main Street and back. Take as much time as you like, sit in the rocking chairs in front of stores, rest in the shade of the gazebo, and enjoy some real Southern hospitality—Lynchburg style.*

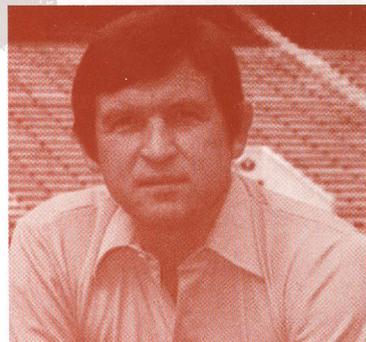
## **2. Eaton-Bean-Cobble House** **Main Street and Majors Boulevard**

Built in 1876, this Carpenter Gothic-styled dwelling has six prominent steep cross gables, with three on the side facing Main Street and three facing Johnny Majors Boulevard. Its full porch has spindlework railing and frieze, and the prominent center gable entrance features Victorian millwork in the form of three progressively smaller triangles.



## **3. Moore County Library (1963)** **17 Majors Boulevard**

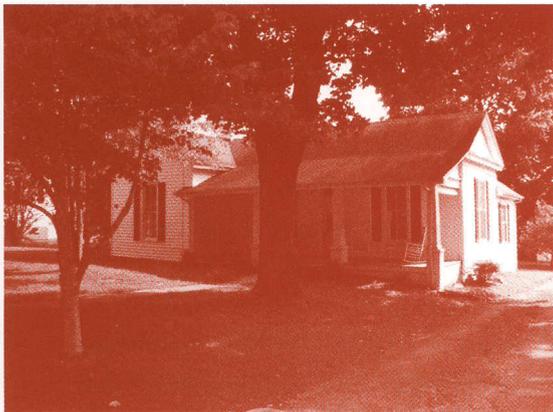
The county library has an excellent local history and genealogy collection that can provide additional information and details about the buildings in this historic town. The library was built by State Senator Reagor Motlow, who also maintained an office in the building. Prior to the library's construction, a house on this site was the home of University of Tennessee football great, John T. Majors, who was born in Lynchburg in 1935. Majors won the national championship as head coach of the University of Pittsburgh in 1976. He returned to U.T. in 1977 and led the Volunteers to three SEC championships. Majors Boulevard is named in his honor.



John T. Majors

#### **4. 56 North Mechanic Street**

This tree-lined street provides a glimpse of the varied styles of housing in Lynchburg. Incorporated into this residence is the county's first sheriff's office and jail. Over the years, it has been remodeled.



#### **5. First United Methodist Church 65 North Mechanic Street**

Organized in 1873, this congregation has worshipped at this location on Mechanic Street for many years. After fires destroyed church buildings in 1909 and 1936, the congregation met at the county courthouse. The present building dates to 1937 and 1962, when a major remodeling of the sanctuary and parsonage took place.

#### **6. Lynchburg Bed and Breakfast 107 North Mechanic Street**

On top of a hill north of town is the former home of J. A. Norman, a Confederate veteran of the 17th Tennessee Infantry (CSA) who was the first sheriff of Moore County. The house dates to 1877. Its projecting central gable entrance features a Victorian millwork balustrade on the first floor and square fluted posts and paneled double doors with sidelights on the first floor.



*After viewing this property, return to Majors Boulevard and turn right to continue your tour.*

## **7. Jennings-Moore-Cortner Funeral Home**

**96 Majors Boulevard**

This 1876 Greek Revival-styled house, dominated by its two-story central portico, has been a local landmark for years. In the 1920s, Dr. David McCord established a hospital in the building and installed an elevator, the town's first. In 1990, Nancy and Buford Jennings converted the house into a funeral home.

## **8. Hinkle-Price House**

**146 Majors Boulevard**

This one-story frame dwelling is an excellent example of a post-Civil War central hall plan house, with a classical pediment supported by square posts and a porch with turned Victorian columns. Its interior features decorative ceiling and wall murals painted by Fred Swanton, a carnival wagon painter who painted the interior of several houses in the Tullahoma-Lynchburg-Shelbyville area in the 1880s.



*Continue on this block and the next street will be North Elm. Turn right and proceed up Elm Street.*

## **9. Elm Street Church of Christ 44 North Elm Street**

Elm Street is the heart of the historic African American neighborhood of Lynchburg. This church building houses a very old African American congregation, one that dates at least to 1843. In 1863, during the middle of the Civil War, Jessie L. Bryant gave the property to the members to serve as the "Negro Church of Christ." Throughout the Reconstruction years until the early twentieth century, the church also served as the local black school. The present church building dates to the 1950s.

## **10. Berry Chapel AME Church and Highview Cemetery**

**161 North Elm Street**

Berry Chapel AME is another important 19th-century African American institution; the date of its establishment is unknown but records refer to the church as early as 1891. This unadorned gable front building was constructed in 1904; the brick veneer and expansion occurred in 1969. A 1920 map of Lynchburg shows that a small rectangular fraternal lodge once stood behind the church. On the hill overlooking the church is the town's historic African American cemetery, established as the "Colored Cemetery" in 1891 and now known as Highview Cemetery. Many graves are unmarked or have lost their cemetery stones; the earliest identified marker dates to 1898. A large number of military veterans are buried here.

## 11. Lynchburg Cemetery

### North Elm Street at Cemetery Street

This historic cemetery was established in 1874. It contains the graves of the white political and commercial leaders—the Daniels, Dances, Bobos, Motlows, Tolleys, and other families—of the town and county from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. Confederate veterans such as Jasper N. Taylor (died 1907) and Zadock Motlow (died 1889) also are interred here. The distiller Jack Daniel is buried here.

## 12. Moore County Senior Citizens Center and Head Start School

(this complex may be viewed from  
North Elm Street though its entrance  
is off High Street)

This 1920s to 1950s complex of school buildings, known as Highview School, served African American students. An earlier black school, established in 1894, had existed on Elm Street until this larger complex of buildings was placed higher on the hill, with the first building erected in 1928. Other additions happened in 1950 (new classroom and stage), 1952 (kitchen), and in the late 1950s (new gymnasium). Integration began in Lynchburg in 1964, the same year the last eighth grade graduated from Highview.

*Return to Majors Boulevard and cross to South Elm Street. Walk one block and turn left on Main Street.*

## 13. 415 Main Street

Built around 1870, this one-story frame house, with interesting Victorian fish-scale shingles in its gable end, has an off-center entrance, typical of a hall and parlor plan house of the middle decades of the 19th century.



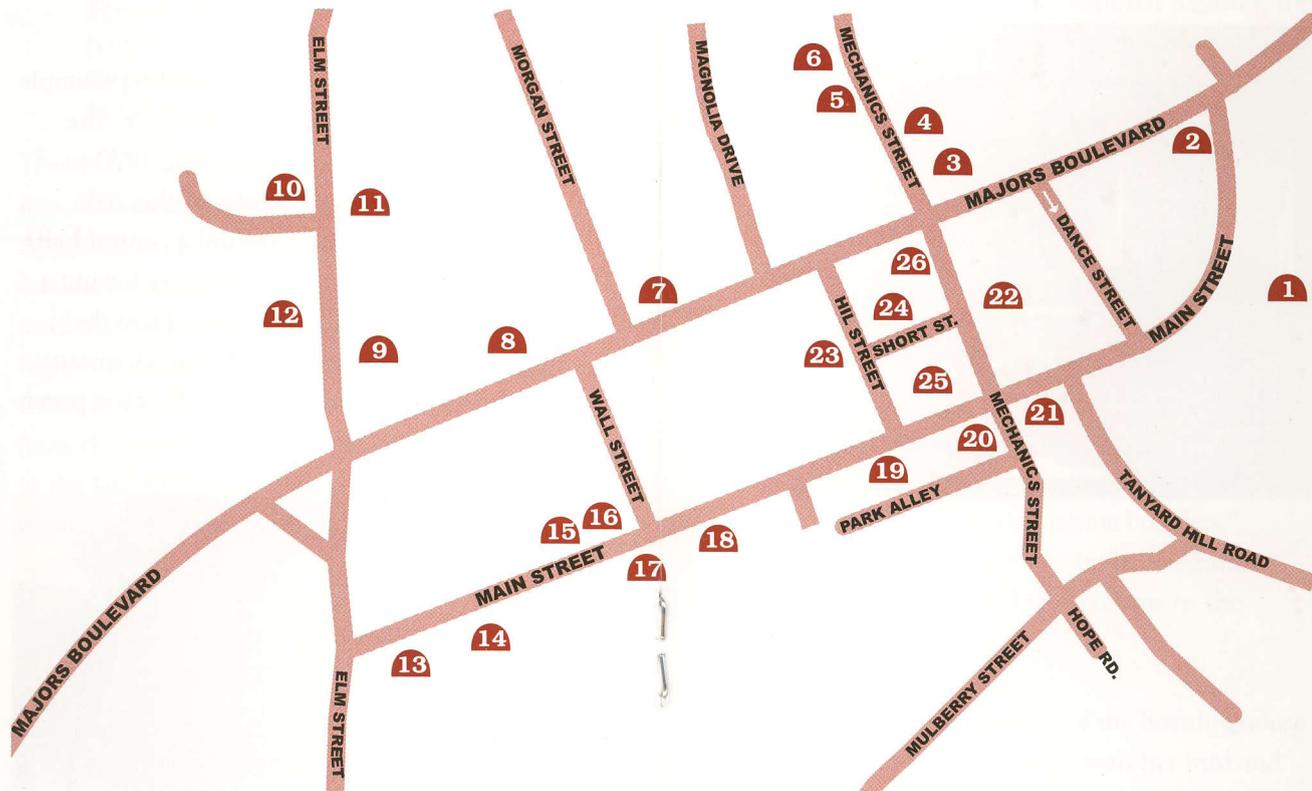
## 14. 399 Main Street

This frame dwelling is an outstanding example of a 19th century house type known as the “gable front and wing.” Built from 1870 to the early 20th century, homes of this style were typically organized around a central hall plan but with one side of the house having a distinctive projecting gable wing. Here the original builder added all types of Victorian detailing to the gable wing as well as the porch to create a stylish cottage.



## DISCOVER HISTORIC LYNCHBURG • MAP

1. Jack Daniel Distillery
2. Eaton-Bean-Cobble House,  
Main Street and Majors Boulevard
3. Moore County Library (1963), 17 Majors Boulevard
4. 56 North Mechanic Street
5. First United Methodist Church, 65 North Mechanic Street
6. Lynchburg Bed and Breakfast, 107 North Mechanic Street
7. Jennings-Moore-Cortner Funeral Home,  
96 Majors Boulevard
8. Hinkle-Price House, 146 Majors Boulevard
9. Elm Street Church of Christ, 44 North Elm Street
10. Berry Chapel AME Church and Highview Cemetery,  
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11. Lynchburg Cemetery, North Elm Street at Cemetery Street
12. Moore County Senior Citizens Center and  
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North Elm Street though its entrance is off High Street)
13. 415 Main Street
14. 399 Main Street
15. Lynchburg Church of Christ, 376 Main Street
16. 354 Main Street
17. 325 Main Street
18. Mary Bobo's Boardinghouse, 295 Main Street
19. Moore County Jail, 231 Main Street
20. Public Square, South Side
21. The Glove Factory, Main Street at South Mechanic Street
22. Public Square, East Side
23. Public Square, West Side
24. Public Square, North Side
25. Moore County Courthouse
26. Lynchburg Welcome Center,  
North Mechanic Street at Majors Boulevard





## **15. Lynchburg Church of Christ** **376 Main Street**

This historic congregation started a generation before the Civil War. The oldest section of this Classical Revival-styled building, with four fluted columns supporting a pediment, dates to 1875, with other expansions and updating occurring in the 20th century.

## **16. 354 Main Street**

An excellent example of the one-story central-hall house with gable-end chimneys and Greek Revival portico that was so popular in middle Tennessee at the time of the Civil War.



## **17. 325 Main Street**

The wraparound porch with Victorian-styled bargeboard is the defining architectural feature of this central-chimney, one-story home.

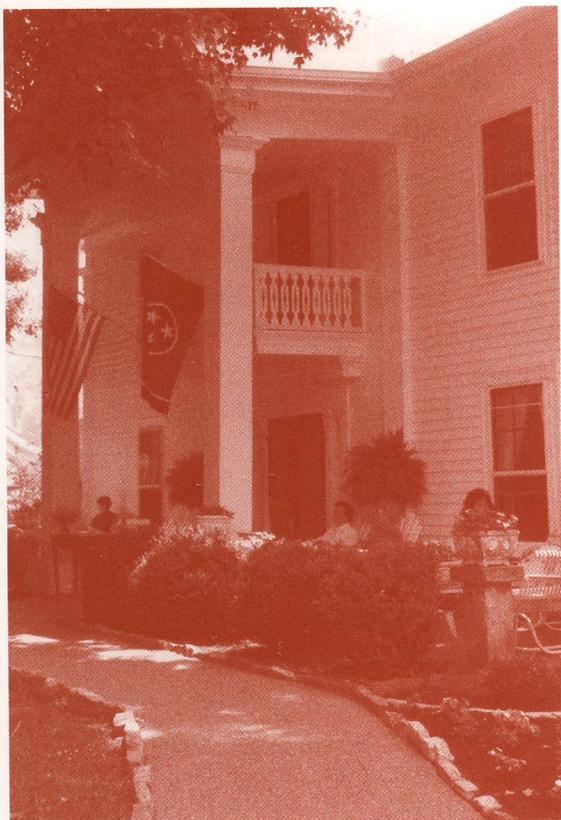


## **18. Mary Bobo's Boardinghouse** **295 Main Street**

Individually listed in the National Register, the boardinghouse began as the town's first residence by Thomas Rountree, who laid out the original town in 1818 and sold its first lots. Dr. E. Y. Salmon acquired the property in 1857. During the Civil War, he was captain of the Lynchburg Rangers, Company E of the 1st Tennessee Infantry (CSA). After the war, in 1867, Dr. Salmon added the frame Greek Revival section of the house. He maintained his office there and also rented out rooms in what he called the Grand Central Hotel. A writer in 1874 said, "Dr. Salmon loves good eating, good living, good company, and good paying boarders." Before the courthouse was built, Dr. Salmon rented out the second story rooms to the county court.

The most famous operator of the boardinghouse was Mary Evans Bobo, who, with her husband

Lacy Jackson Bobo, took over upon Dr. Salmon's retirement in 1908. Mary Bobo bought the business in 1914, changed its name to the Bobo Hotel, and continued to operate the boardinghouse until the 1980s. Her success as a hostess and businesswoman became a local legend; the house under her guidance became the town's social center. She also furthered its reputation for fine traditional Southern cooking. This tradition has been maintained by the Jack Daniel's Distillery which now owns and operates the boardinghouse as a restaurant.



## 19. Moore County Jail

### 231 Main Street

Individually listed in the National Register, this Italianate-styled jail building, constructed in 1893, was built by the Pauley Jail and Manufacturing Company. It once housed the county jail on the second floor and living quarters and office for the county sheriff on the first floor. Today the building exhibits the steel jail cells and includes a museum about the town and county's history, maintained by the Moore County Historical Society.



## 20. Public Square, South Side

These buildings date to the 1890s or later. Most of the early buildings burned in 1892. A newspaper reported, "The business houses burned were all frame structures and were old and well seasoned so that they made excellent food for the flames." Today the south side features the Walking Horse Museum. Horse and mule breeding have been important in Moore County since the Civil War. This museum provides a history of the breed and how the modern Walking Horse industry developed in middle Tennessee during the mid-20th century.



## 21. The Glove Factory Main Street at South Mechanic Street

Established as the Craftmore Glove Company in the late 1940s by Morrison-Shults Manufacturing of Grinnell, Iowa, this concrete block building with glass block windows at the entrance added a second major industry to the town during the middle decades of the 20th century. The factory closed in 1996 and was later converted into a book distribution center.

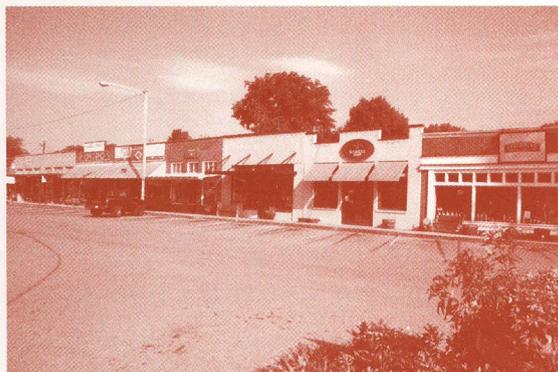
## 22. Public Square, East Side

This side contains the district's largest and most architecturally distinctive commercial buildings, including the historic Lynchburg Hardware store (1913) now a gift shop operated by Jack Daniels Distillery since 1974. All of the buildings date to the 1890s or later since the east side burned completely to the ground in 1892. "Every man, woman and child available was on the ground doing everything in his or her power to save all they could from the fire," the newspaper reported. "Lynchburg presents a scene of desolation that beggars description." But the town rebuilt and entered three decades of growth and prosperity in the early 20th century.



## 23. and 24. Public Square, West and North Sides

These brick and concrete buildings, such as the Lynchburg Pottery gallery on the north side and the old auto dealership on the south side, show the impact of prosperity and the automobile in the early 1900s. The state's new road system boosted the local economy by bringing more traffic into the town from Tullahoma, Shelbyville, and Fayetteville, helping to offset the negative impact that Prohibition had on the local economy in the 1910s and 1920s when the distillery was forced to close its doors.



## 25. Moore County Courthouse

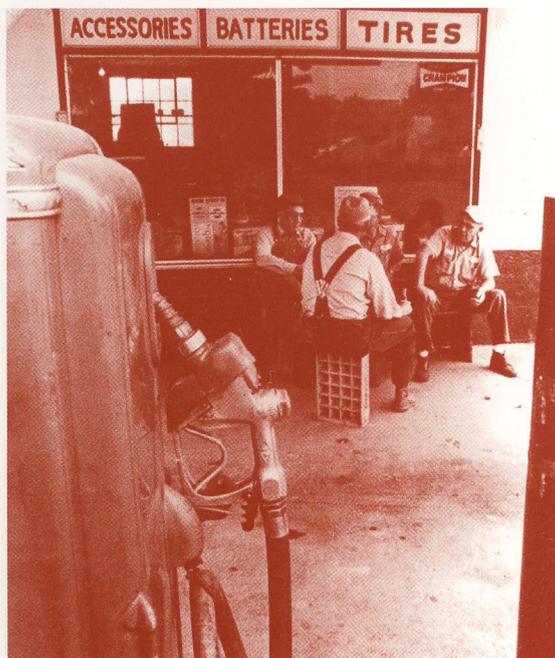
Individually listed in the National Register, the two-story red-brick Moore County Courthouse dates to 1885, with side additions from 1968. Its builder was S. L. P. Garrett; the original cost was \$6,875. The courthouse's Italianate style is expressed through its cupola, bracketed cornice, historic entrances, and window hoods. Moore County is named in honor of Col. William Moore (1786-1871), one of the region's earliest settlers, a prominent Jacksonian Democrat, a veteran of the War of 1812, and one of the founders of Tullahoma. Next to the courthouse is a Confederate soldiers monument, placed in 1927.

The courthouse square has been an important community gathering place for over a century. Election nights once were busy, exciting times at the courthouse. The square was a center for mule trading from the late 1800s to the mid-20th century. Today the courthouse is the seat for Tennessee's second "metropolitan" government combining both county and town into a single governing entity. It is among the smallest metro governments in the country.

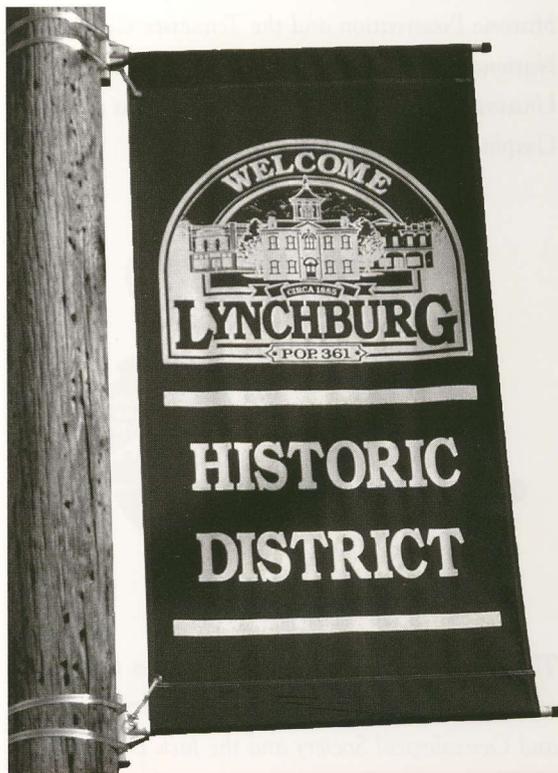


## 26. Lynchburg Welcome Center, North Mechanic Street at Majors Boulevard

This historic Texaco station, well located at the corner of Mechanic Street and Majors Boulevard (Tennessee Highway 55), has public restrooms and information about different businesses and attractions in Lynchburg.



## Thank you for visiting Historic Lynchburg.



Please come again.

*This walking tour, prepared at the request of the Lynchburg Historic Commission, was developed and produced as a public service by the Center for Historic Preservation and the Tennessee Civil War National Heritage Area at Middle Tennessee State University. Design by MTSU Publications and Graphics.*



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