Battle Sites

1. Breckenridge Park of Kelby’s Point
For two weeks prior to the battle, six artillery pieces under the command of Confederate Lt. Col. D.C. Kelby effectively blockaded the Cumberland River against nearly Warren’s heavy gunboats. The Confederates destroyed Federal gunboats disabled in its separate engagements. Breckenridge Park

2. Grenville’s Lunette
The Confederate fort and artillery fortification was the anchor of the entrance to the town of Franklin, TN. Grenville, who was killed at Franklin, the lunette was the northernmost fortification of several regiments of United States Colored Troops under Gen. J. B.80th Infantry, took up positions on December 15th until he was flanked in the late afternoon and forced to retreat to the southwest over Grassy Creek. These redoubts have been virtually destroyed by development. The redoubt was marked by Lt. Robert E. Lee’s own personal flag. The site is accessible on the right bank of Grassy Creek.

3. Confederate Redoubt #1
General Hood placed five redoubts in each of the hilltops for heavy artillery emplacements for cannon, on the hill. He then had the hilltops replaced to the left. A. P. Stewart’s headquarters was on the right bank of the river. The hilltops were flanked by the Confederate army on December 16th. The hilltops were subsequently named for the 80th Infantry, taking up positions on December 15th until he was flanked in the late afternoon and forced to retreat to the southwest over Grassy Creek. These redoubts have been virtually destroyed by development. The redoubt was marked by Lt. Robert E. Lee’s own personal flag. The site is accessible on the right bank of Grassy Creek.

4. Shy’s Hill
This hill was the site of the battle as General Shy’s Hill, the hilltops were flanked by the Confederate army on December 16th. The hilltops were subsequently named for the 80th Infantry, taking up positions on December 15th until he was flanked in the late afternoon and forced to retreat to the southwest over Grassy Creek. These redoubts have been virtually destroyed by development. The redoubt was marked by Lt. Robert E. Lee’s own personal flag. The site is accessible on the right bank of Grassy Creek.

5. Bradford House
Though the house burned, gone through two reconstructions due to fire alone, the main house was occupied by the city of Franklin for many years. It was later turned into a bed and breakfast and is now known as the Shy’s Hill. Today, the house is privately owned and no longer accessible to the public.

6. Stewart’s Stone Wall
This stone wall originally served as the northern and western boundaries of the 1200-acre Lea plantation. On December 16th, the stone wall was used as a fortification by Lt. General A.P. Stewart’s Corps to hold back the Federal advance. Today, the stone wall is visible near the intersection of Lea Road and Tennessee Street. The house is served by the Land Trust for Tennessee. 4000 Franklin Road.

7. Glen Leven
This former Greek Revival house was constructed in 1830 by the Levens, a prominent family in Franklin. The house was later used as a field hospital and, reportedly, the prison served as an operating table for United States Colored Troops wounded during the battle. Glen Leven later served as a home for the Levens and is now a museum. 205 Franklin Road.

8. Peach Orchard Hill
Established on the hill, the 89th New York Infantry’s breastworks were on the hilltops. The hilltops were flanked by the Confederate army on December 16th. The hilltops were subsequently named for the 89th New York Infantry, taking up positions on December 15th until he was flanked in the late afternoon and forced to retreat to the southwest over Grassy Creek. These redoubts have been virtually destroyed by development. The redoubt was marked by Lt. Robert E. Lee’s own personal flag. The site is accessible on the right bank of Grassy Creek.

9. Battle of Nashville Historic Sites

Monuments and Memorials

10. Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
This Gothic Revival church, built in 1832, was used by the Federal army during occupation as a powder magazine. Reportedly, soldiers stopped on the other side and used the powder horn in this bell.

11. Battle of Nashville Monument
Located in the center of the historic district, this monument commemorates the Battle of Nashville. It features a large bronze statue of a Confederate soldier in uniform, surrounded by inscription panels. The monument is located in the center of the historic district.

12. Belmont Mansion
Home of Adelicia Acklen, one of the South’s wealthiest women, the 1855 Italianate structure was used by Union General S. W. Reynolds as his headquarters during the battle. From here, Reynolds would have a clear view of the battlefield and could easily coordinate with his forces. Today, the mansion is owned by Belmont University and open to the public.

13. Battle Monument
Located in the center of the field, this monument commemorates the Battle of Nashville. It features a large bronze statue of a Confederate soldier in uniform, surrounded by inscription panels. The monument is located in the center of the historic district.

Headquarters

14. Fort Negley
Anchored on the Union line, the fort was the largest and most formidable fortification constructed during the war, and one of a series of forts built by the Union to secure the Cumberland River. It was named after General John Negley, a Union officer who died at the Siege of Petersburg. The fort was used to defend Nashville until the end of the war. Today, Negley Park is a historical park with a state-of-the-art Visitor’s Center. 1010 Park Ave. South.

15. Blockhouse Casino
Built in 1862 as part of the fortification system surrounding the city to the north and west, Blockhouse Casino was a Union fortification designed to protect the city from Confederate forces. Today, it houses the history of the casino in its early years, building between 1877 and 1889. 810 North of the city reservoir.

16. Tennessee State Capitol
Completed after February 1862 by the Workers’ Union, the state capitol was used as a hospital during the war. It was later used as a prison and is now the official residence of the governor of Tennessee. The building is a National Historic Landmark, located on Capitol Hill.

17. Downtown Presbyterian Church
Designed by Philadelphia architect William Strickland, the Edinburgh Presbyterian church was completed in 1833. The building served as an usher in a Federal hospital throughout the war. Today, the structure is a National Historic Landmark. Located at the Corner of 5th Ave. North and Church Street.

18. Sunnyside
During the war, the house was used as a hospital and a storage for Union supplies. Today, the house is privately owned and no longer accessible to the public.

19. Western Military Institute
In the 1860s, this building was the central building for the University of Nashville. The building was used to house the school’s millitary institute. Located in the National Historic Landmark District. Located on the corner of 5th Ave. North and Church Street.

20. Nashville City Cemetery
Established in 1822, this cemetery is the city’s oldest public burial ground. Originally four acres, the site grew to 27 acres by the 1860s. During the occupation, the cemetery was used by Federal soldiers and other soldiers who died in the various Union hospitals in town. Confederate graves were buried here as well. Among the soldiers who are buried here are Civil War generals such as Billy Walker, Zach Taylor, and John B. Gordon. 212 Nazareth Avenue.

21. Nashville National Cemetery
The Nashville National Cemetery was established in 1867 by order of Federal Commander General George C. Thomas as a final resting place for Union soldiers killed in the war. Over 16,000 Civil War soldiers are interred in the cemetery, including 3,600 unknown and members of the United States Colored Regiments who were buried at the Nashville City Cemetery. 4200 Shelby Road.

22. Mt. Olive Cemetery
Established in 1821, this cemetery is the final resting place for about 1,500 Confederate soldiers killed in the Battle of Nashville. The cemetery is located on Olive Avenue, and is named after the Confederate regiment that was buried here. Seven Southern generals are interred at the cemetery. Located at 1200 Olive Avenue.

23. Mt. Olivet Cemetery
Established in 1836, this cemetery is the final resting place for about 1,500 Confederate soldiers killed in the Battle of Nashville. The cemetery is located on Olivet Avenue, and is named after the Confederate regiment that was buried here. Seven Southern generals are interred at the cemetery. Located at 1200 Olivet Avenue.

24. Fort Negley
Anchored on the Union line, the fort was the largest and most formidable fortification constructed during the war, and one of a series of forts built by the Union to secure the Cumberland River. It was named after General John Negley, a Union officer who died at the Siege of Petersburg. The fort was used to defend Nashville until the end of the war. Today, Negley Park is a historical park with a state-of-the-art Visitor’s Center. 1010 Park Ave. South.
The Battle of Nashville was considered the last major engagement in the Western Theater during the Civil War. Fought over two days, December 15 and 16, 1864, in a seven-mile-long battle, Confederate General Don Carlos Buell's Army of the Cumberland was commanded by General John Bell Hood, in a last-ditch effort for a bold offensive. Union forces, led by Major General George H. Thomas, inflicted a severe defeat, leading to Hood's withdrawal of 5,000 men and abandoning the Tennessee capital. The battle is seen as a turning point in the war, with Union forces gaining the initiative in the Western Theater and forcing Hood's retreat from Nashville.

**Occupied Nashville**

In December 1864, F. Quinton Daniel, located ninety miles northeast of Nashville on the Cumberland River, was captured by the Federal army. The fall of Daniel led directly to the surrender of Nashville on February 23rd. Occupants of Federal troops fought until 1867. During that time, the city was fortified by a series of defensive installations, making Nashville a nearly impregnable fortress.

**BATTLE OF NASHVILLE**

Federal soldiers before Ft. McArthur

The Battle of Nashville was considered the last major engagement in the Western Theater during the Civil War. Fought over two days, December 15 and 16, 1864, in a seven-mile-long battle, Confederate General Don Carlos Buell’s Army of the Cumberland was commanded by General John Bell Hood, in a last-ditch effort for a bold offensive. Union forces, led by Major General George H. Thomas, inflicted a severe defeat, leading to Hood’s withdrawal of 5,000 men and abandoning the Tennessee capital. The battle is seen as a turning point in the war, with Union forces gaining the initiative in the Western Theater and forcing Hood’s retreat from Nashville.

**Federal troops on the Nashville battlefield**

**December 15, 1864**

With the low quota meeting, Thomas realized his plan and issued orders to his commanders to attack at first light. As the sun rose on the 15th, the city and the battlefield were opened by a dense fog produced by the melting snow. At sundown, Buell’s divisions, using four United States Colored Infantry brigades, made several unopposed attacks on the Confederate left flank, the Battle of Nashville.

**December 16, 1864**

On the morning of the 16th, fog again covered the battlefield as the Confederates took up a two-mile defensive position, near the railroad tracks. Union forces, led by Major General George H. Thomas, engaged in a fierce battle, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives. The battle is considered a significant turning point in the Civil War, with Union forces gaining the initiative in the Western Theater and forcing Hood’s retreat from Nashville.

**Aftermath**

Thomas’s victory led the Confederates into eastern Alabama. On the day after Christmas, Hood re-crossed the Tennessee River. The Federal victory at Nashville/Shepherd’s Creek preserved Savannah, Georgia, and forced Hood’s retreat from the field. Union forces took possession of the Nashville and the rest of the Tennessee state.

**Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas**

George H. Thomas, a Native of Alabaster, Alabama, was a key figure in the Battle of Nashville. His strategic leadership and tactical acumen were instrumental in securing a decisive victory for the Union. Born in Alabaster, the son of a Baptist Reverend, Thomas was determined to serve his country. He graduated from West Point, served in the Mexican War, and was a prominent officer in the Civil War. His legacy includes the Battle of Nashville, where his strategic planning and battlefield leadership played a pivotal role in the Union’s triumph.

**Generals John Bell Hood**

John Bell Hood, a Confederate general, was a brigadier and division commander in the Army of Northern Virginia when he was wounded at Gettysburg and lost the use of his left arm. After recovering, he was made a major general and later seen at Chickamauga. At Chattanooga, he led the charge that sealed the fate of the Confederacy. Following the war, he retired as a major general and later became a prominent lawyer in Tennessee.