OUT THE TRAIL

Anniston Civil Rights Trail recognizes and remembers key events, significant sites and people in the city of Anniston during the American Civil Rights Movement (1954–1968). By walking the Trail, you will uncover acts of bravery and conscience, cooperation and resistance. The Trail is an introduction to the cultural changes that would transform Anniston into the city it is today.

Anniston Civil Rights & Heritage Trail Committee began developing the Anniston Civil Rights Trail in 2010 as a project of the Spirit of Anniston. Conversations with local dentists revealed that many were unaware of the events that occurred in Anniston during the Civil Rights Movement. But history was not taught in schools; therefore, students were not learning about the events and the people who led their lives to bring about change. Committee members saw the Trail as a way to document the past as well as explain the present.

Anniston Civil Rights Trail tells Anniston’s story to present future Annistonians as well as to visitors. In this way, Anniston’s story becomes part of the national narrative on the rights of all people. We invite you to explore our history.

In driving the suggested route, be prepared to spend 45 minutes to 1 hour (light traffic) to see all sites.

IKING

There is street-side parking near all sites. Some sites may require a short walk from nearby parking.

ITORS WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

As on the Trail are “windshield friendly” — park near a queue, remain in your vehicle, and read the text from several feet away. A companion website at annistoncivilrightstrail.org connects digitally to each site.

PS

All maps may be picked up at Anniston City Hall, 1128 Mame Ave., the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County, 108 E. 10th St. and the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, 1330 Quintard Ave.

TORCOACH

Information on navigating the trail via motorcoach, contact the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce at (256) 773-3536.

RE TO DO!

Check out annistonevents.org and visitcalhouncounty.com lodging, dining, planning your visit and more.

ADDITIONAL POINTS OF INTEREST

Freedom Riders’ Park
Located east on Hwy 202, mile marker 4
A historic marker at this site recounts the events of May 14, 1961. Managed by Freedom Riders’ Park Board. Details: freedomriderspark.org.

Unity House at Zinn Park
Erected by the City in 1917 as a “rest and recreation room” for Camp McClellan-bound Doughboys. In 1920, it became the Choccolocco Boy Scout Headquarters. In 1972, it was used for Project P.A.Y., a youth initiative sponsored by the Federal Office of Economic Opportunity and under the leadership of the Rev. John S. Nettles, Pastor, Mount Olive Baptist Church.

LEARN MORE


— National Register of Historic Places, Downtown Anniston Historic District (Update and Boundary Increase), 2010.

— The Anniston Star Archives, annistonstar.com/vault

— The Archives of the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County. The Alabama Room maintains ephemera on the Civil Rights Movement. Individuals may view the archives M–F, 8:30a–5pm; Sat, 10am–5pm; and Sun, 1–5pm.

— annistoncivilrightstrail.org
The following suggested route is based on ease of navigating and parking:

**START**

1. **Southern Railways Station Attack**
   144 West 4th St. Currently Amtrak Station (bottom of map).

2. **Trailways Bus Station Attack**
   901 Noble Street. Mural exhibit at this site.

3. **Greyhound Bus Station Protest**
   1031 Gurnee Ave. Mural exhibit at this site.

4. **The Murder of Willie Brewster**
   34 West 11th St. Calhoun County Courthouse.

5. **Human Relations Council**
   1128 Gurnee Ave, Anniston City Hall.

6. **Desegregation of the Library**
   108 E. 10th St. Currently Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County.

7. **Anniston Memorial Hospital**
   10th & Christine. Currently Regional Medical Center.

8. **West 15th Street Historic District**
   West 15th Street Mural Park.

9. **Seventeenth Street Baptist Church**
   801 West 17th Street

Anniston’s downtown district is organized on a grid aligned to cardinal directions (east, west, north, south)—the result of its origin in the late 1800’s as The Woodstock Company, a planned, private community.