

ABOUT THE TRAIL

The *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). Along the Trail, you will uncover acts of bravery and violence, cooperation and resistance. The Trail is an introduction to the cultural changes that would transform Anniston into the city it is today.

The 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 residents revealed that many were unaware of the events that occurred in Anniston during the Civil Rights Movement. Local history was not taught in schools; therefore, students were not learning about the events and the people who risked their lives to bring about change. Committee members saw the Trail as a way to document the past as well as explain the present.

The *Anniston Civil Rights Trail* tells Anniston's story to present and 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 and heritage.

TIME

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

PARKING

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

VISITORS WITH PHYSICAL LIMITATIONS

Sites on the Trail are "windshield friendly"—park near a plaque, remain in your vehicle, and read the text from several feet away. A companion web site at annistoncivilrights.org connects you digitally to each site.

MAPS

Trail maps may be picked up at Anniston City Hall, 4309 McClellan Blvd, the Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County, 108 E. 10th St. and the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce, 1330 Quintard Ave.

MOTORCOACH

For information on navigating the trail via motorcoach, contact the Calhoun County Chamber of Commerce at (256) 237-3536.

MORE TO DO!

Check out visitcalhouncounty.com for 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

- Noble, Phil. *Beyond the Burning Bus: The Civil Rights Revolution in a Southern Town*. Montgomery, AL: NewSouth, 2003. Print. ISBN13: 9781588381200
- 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.



The Anniston Civil Rights Trail is made possible by the City of Anniston, the Alabama Department of Tourism, the Alabama Historical Commission Black Heritage Council and Jacksonville State University.



City of Anniston, 4309 McClellan Blvd, Anniston, AL 36206 | Phone: 256-236-3422
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ANNISTON CIVIL RIGHTS

TRAIL MAP



**CITY OF ANNISTON
HISTORIC TRAILS PROGRAM**



Anniston.al.gov/civil-rights-trail

ANNISTON CIVIL RIGHTS TRAIL SITES



THE HUMAN RELATIONS COUNCIL

The Anniston City Commission, on July 16, 1963, established by resolution the Human Relations Council, consisting of five white men and four black men. The Council's purpose was to bring about peace and understanding between the races. The Council was the first of its kind in Alabama. Its first president was Rev. J. Phillip Noble. Other presidents were Dr. J. B. Kennedy (1963-1965) and Rev. J. B. Kennedy (1965-1968).

Council Members:

Rev. J. Phillip Noble, Chair
Raleigh Boyd, Harold Edward Cooper, Willard Galbreath,
Marion C. Jones, Dr. J. B. Kennedy, James O. O'Connell,
Rev. James O. Reynolds, Leonard Roberts

CITY OF ANNISTON: 735.833.2222 | WWW.ANNISTON.GOV

Look for these historic markers at each site. Download a QR code reader on your smartphone to scan the QR code on each marker, and quickly link to the Trail web site.

The following suggested route is based on ease of navigating and parking:

- START** — — — Suggested Route
- 1 Southern Railways Station Attack
144 West 4th St.
(Currently Amtrak Station, bottom of map)
 - 2 Saint John United Methodist Church
329 East D St.
 - 3 Trailways Bus Station Attack
901 Noble Street.
Mural exhibit at this site.
 - 4 Greyhound Bus Station Protest
1031 Gurnee Ave.
Mural exhibit at this site.
 - 5 The Murder of Willie Brewster
34 West 11th St.
(Calhoun County Courthouse)
 - 6 Human Relations Council
1128 Gurnee Ave.
(U.S. Federal Court House)
 - 7 Desegregation of the Library
108 E. 10th St.
(Currently Public Library of Anniston and Calhoun County)
 - 8 Anniston Memorial Hospital
10th & Christine
(Currently Regional Medical Center)
 - 9 West 15th Street Historic District Mural Park
West 15th Street
 - 10 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.

