

The Hermitage ★★★★★
HOME & PLANTATION OF PRESIDENT ANDREW JACKSON



A MAN TO MATCH THE TIMES



A mover and shaker who walked history's stage with giant steps, Andrew Jackson was the ideal embodiment of the unruly, contentious era that followed the young nation's birth.

On his journey from a Revolutionary battlefield at age 13 to two terms in the White House as America's seventh president, his unconventional, often controversial—and always fiercely held—principles and vision shook things up politically, culturally, and on the field of battle.

He blazed new trails and opened new possibilities. He was loved and loathed . . . revered and reviled . . . but seldom ignored. Whatever Andrew Jackson did, he did boldly, and with small regard for consequences.

His freewheeling campaigns and common man ideals transformed American politics. He was the first president with a nickname: "Old Hickory," courtesy of the troops he marched with who admired his staunch courage and iron will. He stonewalled the British, and engineered one of America's most stunning military victories, at the Battle of New Orleans. He declared "Our union, it must be preserved!" in the face of rebellion. He played a pivotal role in America's westward expansion, yet his legacy is also marked by slavery and Indian removal issues that still echo today.

In the perception-altering experience that is The Hermitage, you'll find not only the man, but also the seeds—and spirit—of the nation he helped shape.

Step into Andrew Jackson's world and discover more than you may have imagined about your country . . . your world . . . yourself.

Welcome.

Around every corner—in every inch and acre—of The Hermitage: glimpses of an era whose central issue was “NOW what?” *In little more than half a century following Independence, a young America stretched and struggled and shaped its future. Rolling up sleeves. Lifting stubborn chins. Getting on with it!*

With change the only constant as the volatile early decades of the nineteenth century unfolded, life was exciting, unpredictable and . . . challenging. It was the perfect setting for Andrew Jackson, himself both agent and product of change. So, too, does his Hermitage reflect the spirit and substance of those times that transformed every aspect of American life.



LIFE ON THE EDGE

In today's “sea to shining sea” America, it's difficult to imagine Tennessee as a rough-and-tumble frontier territory—far removed from the dynamic and stylish commercial and agricultural center it would become. You'll find

both Tennessees here: The sturdy frontier world of the Jacksons' log Hermitage side by side with the classical elegance of their plantation mansion.

CONNECTIONS, CONFIDENCE & COTTON

As transportation and communications expanded during the early 1800s, America was a nation more in touch—with itself and a global cotton market. In just 41 years at The Hermitage, the original 425-acre frontier farm evolved into a diversified 1,000-acre cotton plantation by the time of Jackson's death in 1845. Step with us into a time when life's essentials were truly home-grown—and cotton was king.

CONTRADICTION & CONFLICT

For the nation founded on the idea of individual liberty, it was an age when progress came hand-in-hand with contradiction. The most divisive of these issues: Indian removal and slavery. As a political and military leader, champion of the common man, and slave-owning cotton planter, Andrew Jackson was at the center of these controversies. Our Beyond the Mansion and



audio tours provide a uniquely up-close-and-personal encounter with the work and family lives of enslaved workers at The Hermitage.

POLITICS NOT-AS-USUAL

It was a time of political upheaval, too, as voting rights expanded to include most white men and the republican system of government envisioned by the founding fathers moved to an untempered democracy. All men, it seemed, had an opinion and a vote and never

hesitated to use both. Jackson's military hero status and enormous popularity with those he called “the humble members of society—the farmers, mechanics, and laborers...” carried him to two terms as president. His unconventional ideas and stands on controversial issues upset the status quo, brought muddy boots and common voices into the White House, and outraged the elite establishment.

A SENSE OF STYLE AND DESTINY

Americans were beginning to see themselves in a new light, as well—in what they read, what they admired, what they believed and hoped for. The influence of the classical design movement on that developing American culture can be found throughout the mansion and grounds. From architectural detail to formal garden, from decorative arts to fine arts, from sweeping landscape to intimate personal treasures, The Hermitage reflects America's unfolding vision of itself as a place of culture, elegance and optimism.

. . . AND A LOVE STORY

The enduring devotion of Andrew Jackson and his beloved Rachel Donelson wrote a story for the ages. Their marriage in 1791—before Rachel's union with her first husband had legally ended—set the stage for scandal that would haunt all their days. Yet their love never faltered, embracing and sustaining them through the years. They are side by side still, at rest together in the Greek inspired garden tomb Andrew built for Rachel in 1831, where he joined her in 1845.



*In the lessons of the past:
are the seeds of the future*

Much more than just historic buildings and surroundings, The Hermitage experience presents a singular opportunity to look at the questions and challenges of today in the light of the past. At the heart of our mission to preserve, educate, and inspire is this conviction: Knowing where we come from is essential to understanding who we are now . . . and how to get where we want to go next. Every element, every experience, of The Hermitage is designed to foster and interpret that critical link of past to present in a ‘now’ when our nation stands—as it did in Jackson's time—on the brink of its future.



EXPLORE AND ENJOY THE HERMITAGE IN THE WAY THAT SUITS YOU BEST.

- ★ In personal interpreter-led tours of the Hermitage mansion
- ★ With informative audio tours—in Adult, Family and Spanish versions—that explore and explain some 40+ sites around our sprawling 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark property
- ★ On self-guided Beyond the Mansion tours, or in moments of serenity at three historic cemeteries
- ★ Hike our 1.5 mile walking trail, or stroll through the historic plants, flowers, trees and shrubbery of the Jacksons' pleasure garden
- ★ Examine the elements, and treasured keepsakes, of daily life in the Visitor Center Museum
- ★ Claim a picnic table on the grounds, or savor the fare at the Garden Gate Café
- ★ Visit our museum store and take home a remembrance of your visit

AND DO TELL US WHAT YOU THINK; OUR SUGGESTION BOX IS READY AND WAITING.

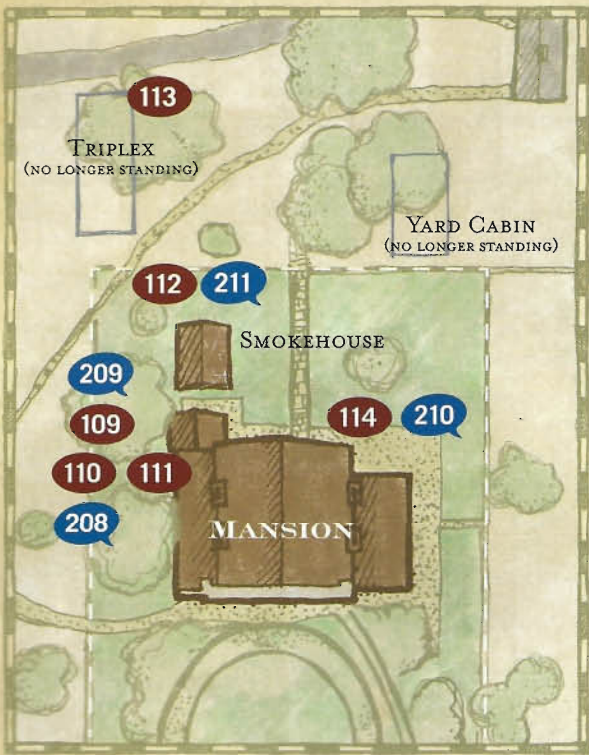
Your comments and reactions are our most valuable resource in polishing and enhancing a memorable Hermitage experience. Tell us what you liked, didn't like, hoped for but didn't find, what amused, surprised, intrigued or disappointed you. And anything else you'd like to share. We'll pay attention.



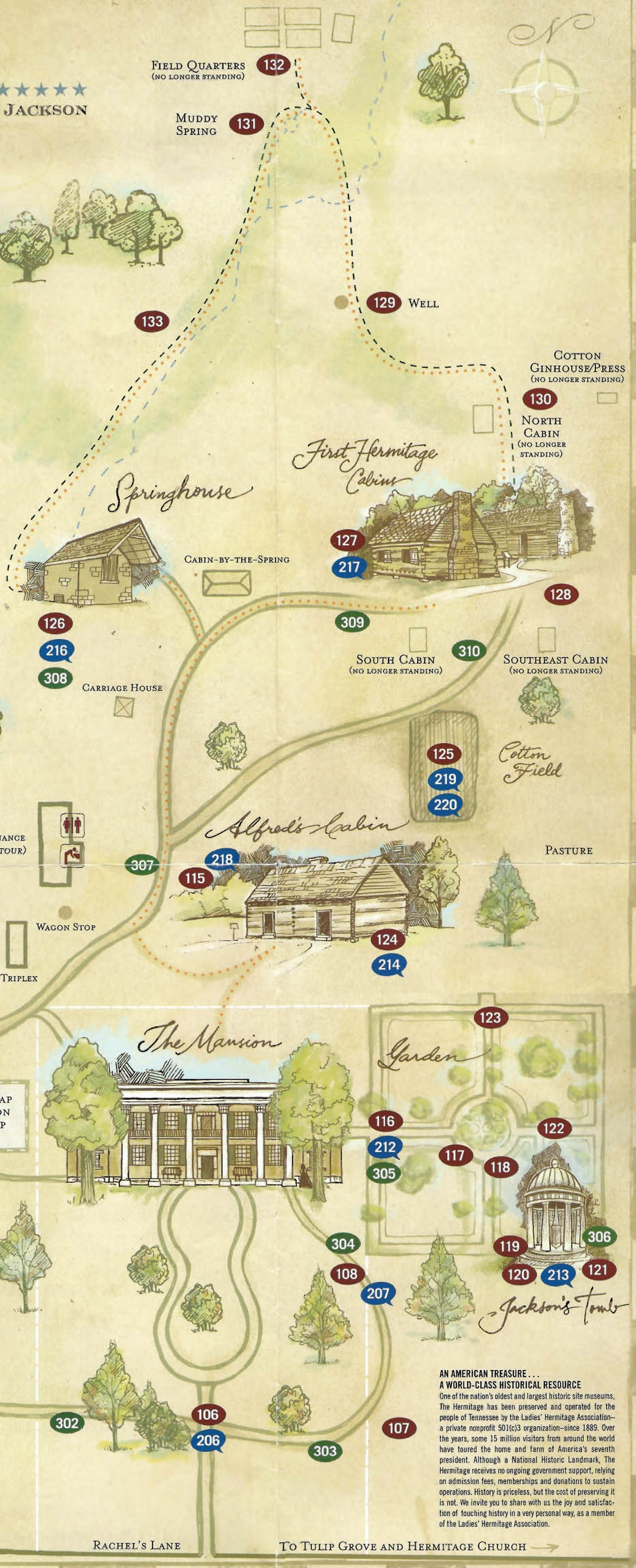
The Hermitage

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CLOSEUP OF MANSION AREA



ARCHAEOLOGY TRAIL
 NATURE TRAIL (APPROX. 1.5 MILE)
 FENCELINE
 SINKING CREEK



SEE INSET MAP FOR MANSION AUDIO STOP DETAIL

ENTER HERE

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- ANYWHERE STOPS** You can listen to these stops anytime.
- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 150 WOMEN AT THE HERMITAGE | 155 ANDREW AND RACHEL JACKSON'S LETTERS |
| 151 RELIGION AT THE HERMITAGE | 215 CHILDREN AT THE HERMITAGE |
| 152 HERMITAGE PRESERVATION | 311 THE HERMITAGE CHURCH |
| 153 WHO WERE JACKSON'S SLAVES? | 312 RACHEL & ANDREW JACKSON |
| 154 JACKSON AS A SLAVE OWNER | |

AN AMERICAN TREASURE... A WORLD-CLASS HISTORICAL RESOURCE
 One of the nation's oldest and largest historic site museums, The Hermitage has been preserved and operated for the people of Tennessee by the Ladies' Hermitage Association—a private nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization—since 1889. Over the years, some 15 million visitors from around the world have toured the home and farm of America's seventh president. Although a National Historic Landmark, The Hermitage receives no ongoing government support, relying on admission fees, memberships and donations to sustain operations. History is priceless, but the cost of preserving it is not. We invite you to share with us the joy and satisfaction of touching history in a very personal way, as a member of the Ladies' Hermitage Association.

TIMELINE OF JACKSON'S LIFE

