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Civil War Helena Tour

Numbers correspond to map on reverse.

A Delta Cultural Center Depot Museum, 95 Missouri

The region's Civil War history and the Battle of Helena are featured in exhibits that tell the story of the Arkansas Delta from prehistoric times to the present. Waysides outside of the Depot introduce Helena's multi-faceted Civil War story. Free admission

B Helena Museum, 623 Pecan

Phillips County history is told through exhibits using the museum's impressive collections. A diorama of the Battle of Helena, Thomas Hindman's desk, Patrick Cleburne's prayer book and more bring Helena's Civil War story vividly to life. Free admission

1 Union Army Marches into Helena, 1000 South Biscoe

In July 1862, Helena became a Union stronghold in Confederate Arkansas and an island of freedom for refugee slaves. Panels depicting Union soldiers and freedom seekers, artillery and a supply wagon encourage visitors to experience this momentous event. *Coming 2013*

2 Freedom Park, 700 South Biscoe

This beautiful park, once the location of a Contraband camp, encourages contemplation. Five exhibits explore the experiences of refugee slaves who came to Helena in search of freedom and a life of self-determination. Life-size figures, structures representing a plantation house and a refugee dwelling, and an earthwork interpret this National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom site.

3 Estevan Hall, 653 South Biscoe

Fleetwood Hanks' descendants lived in this house for 170 years. The history of the Hanks family and Estevan Hall are told in an outdoor exhibit. Estevan Hall is now being restored in preparation for its new life as the Civil War Helena Visitor Center.

4 The Hindman House, 320 Biscoe

In July 1862, while Confederate General Thomas C. Hindman and his family were in Little Rock, Union General Samuel Curtis seized the Hindman home. An exhibit representing the Hindman home discusses the Hindman family and Curtis's action. *Coming 2013*

5 St. Catherine Convent and Academy, on Biscoe at Arkansas

Refugee slaves found shelter in one of the St. Catherine's barns, and the Sisters of Mercy nursed Confederate and Union wounded for weeks after the Battle of Helena. These stories and more are told in exhibits on the former Academy grounds.

6 Battery D

One of four earthen batteries erected by the Union army in 1862, it was attacked by the Confederates during the Battle of Helena on July 4, 1863. Not open to the public at this time, historical marker on Military Road.

7 New Fort Curtis, 350 Columbia

New Fort Curtis allows visitors to experience an earthen fort firsthand, including the huge 24-pounder guns. Exhibits tell the story of the original Civil War fort built in 1862 and this unique reconstruction. Free admission

8 Moore-Hornor Home, 323 Beech

Given by the Hornor family to the Delta Cultural Center, exhibits will interpret its role as a hospital after the Battle of Helena. A wayside interpreting civilian life under martial law is located opposite the house, near the northwest corner of New Fort Curtis.

9 Site of the original Fort Curtis, Columbia at Porter

Fort Curtis was built soon after the Union army occupied Helena in July 1862. Exhibits discuss the Battle of Helena and the attack on Fort Curtis that took place after the Confederates took Battery C.

0 General Patrick Cleburne, Helena Museum, 623 Pecan

An outdoor exhibit featuring a life-size bronze describes Cleburne's life in Helena and the military career that ended tragically at the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee.

11 Beth El Heritage Hall, 406 Perry

The historic Temple Beth El was given to the Delta Cultural Center by its congregation. A wayside on Perry Street discusses northern benevolent organizations in Civil War Helena.

12 Court Square Park, 622 Cherry Street

A reproduction cannon stands next to an exhibit on Confederate Helena. Other exhibits discuss Freedmen's schools and African American participation in the 1868 Constitutional Convention.

B Kelly Courtyard, 415 Cherry

In the spring of 1863, the federal government began recruiting Freedmen into the Union army. Exhibits examine recruiting in Helena, why Freedmen chose to serve in the Union army, and USCT regiments that served in Helena.

14 Levee Walk, above Cherry Street on the levee

Civil War exhibits discuss the Battle of Helena, the Yazoo Pass Expedition, and changes Union occupation brought to Helena.

15 Helena River Park, follow Perry east, onto the levee

Learn why Union soldiers called the city "Hell-in-Arkansas" and what role the gunboat *Tyler* played in the Battle of Helena.

16 Tappan-Pillow House, 717 Poplar

Soon after the Federals occupied Helena, the Union army seized the home of Confederate James Camp Tappan. An exhibit tells the story of a family home despoiled.

1 Battery C, entrance at the end of Yorkshire

One of four earthen batteries erected by the Union army in 1862, it briefly fell to the Confederates during the Battle of Helena on July 4, 1863. Interpretive wayside, improvements coming in 2013

18 Battery B

One of four earthen batteries erected by the Union army in 1862, its gunners helped repulse the Confederate attacks on Batteries A and C during the July 4, 1863, Battle of Helena. Historical marker on Liberty between First and Summit, what remains of the battery, which is on private property, is visible from Liberty Street.

19 Battery A

One of four earthen batteries erected by the Union army in 1862, it was attacked by the Confederates during the Battle of Helena on July 4, 1863. Not open to the public at this time, historical marker on Adams at Beech.

20 Cleo Dunning Park, Cherry and Monroe

During the July 4, 1863, Battle of Helena, constant fire from Union cavalry and artillery near the levee helped stall the advance on Battery A. A wayside interprets the Union strategy and Confederate response.

21 Maple Hill Cemetery & Confederate Cemetery, entrance on North Holly

Exhibits near their graves discuss the lives of Thomas C.Hindman and James Tappan. Exhibits adjacent to and in the Confederate Cemetery interpret Helena's seven Confederate generals, the Confederate Cemetery and Patrick Cleburne's grave.

22 Magnolia Cemetery, entrance on Wire Road

W. H. Grey, Abraham Miller, Eliza A. Miller and other black leaders, and Civil War veterans are buried in this African American Cemetery established before the Civil War. *Wayside exhibits coming 2013*

23 The Polk House and Plantation

Confederate forces gathered at the Alan Polk house before the July 4, 1863, Battle of Helena. After the battle they retreated to the house, which became a field hospital, and the yard, a burial place. *Coming 2013*

24 The Lamb Plantation

Confederate General Archibald S. Dobbins' cavalry attacked the Lamb plantation in August 1864, as part of a campaign to destroy the plantation lease system and terrorize Freedmen.

25 The Plantation Lease System

In 1863, the federal government began leasing plantations abandoned by Confederates. Many Freedmen worked on these plantations, and received pay for the first time. *Coming 2013*