

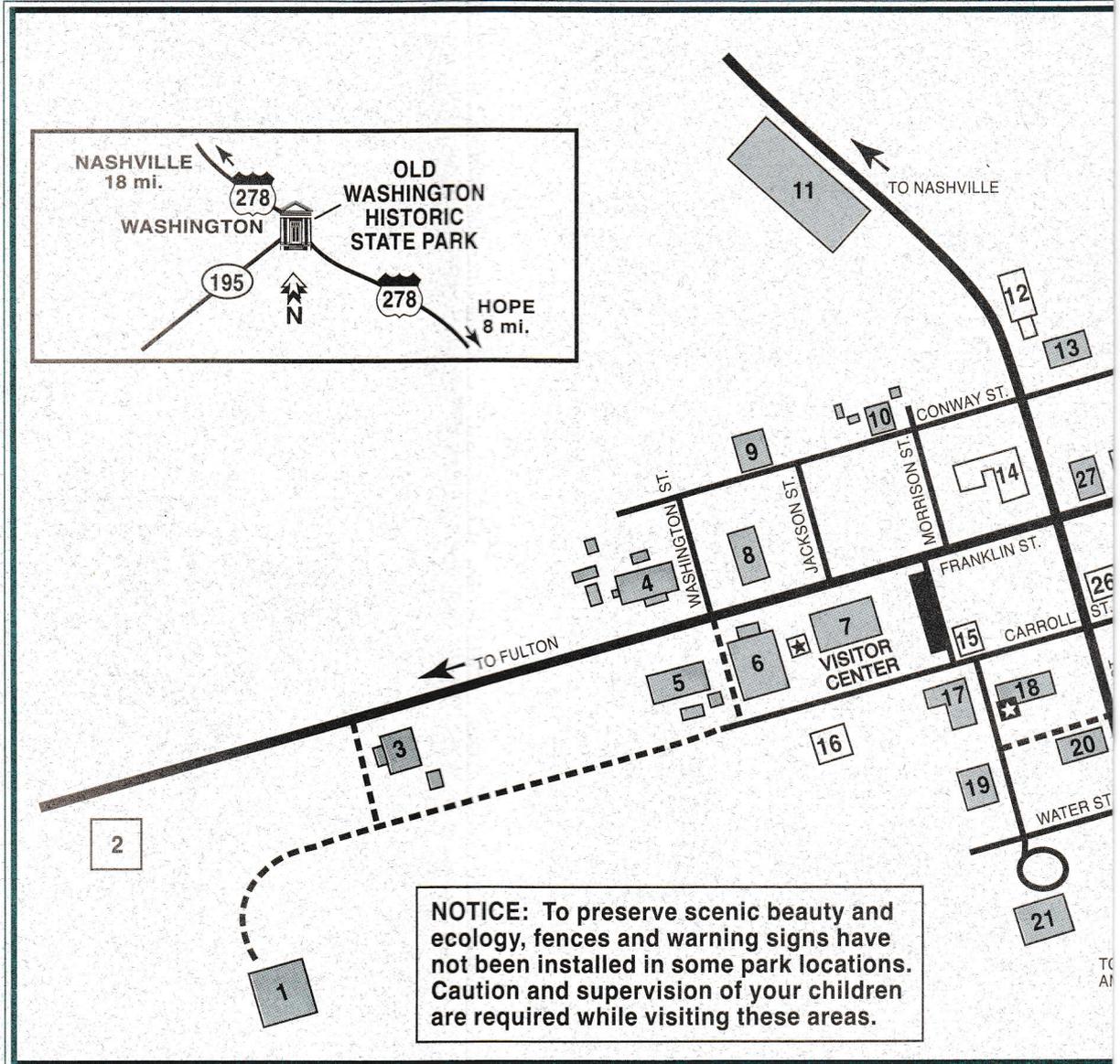
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## OLD WASHINGTON HISTORIC STATE PARK

Located in Washington, Arkansas, **Old Washington Historic State Park** offers insight into a nineteenth century community and a glimpse at the people and events of the Territorial, Antebellum, Civil War and Reconstruction eras in Arkansas's history. The Park includes historic, public and

private buildings as well as many of Washington's nineteenth century landscape features - streets that have never been paved, catalpa, magnolia and other ornamental trees which have shaded the community for 150 years. The historic structures and grounds give a fascinating view of Washington and a taste of the peace and beauty of southwest Arkansas.

Established in 1824, the town of Washington was a convenient stop for travelers on the rugged Southwest Trail leading to Texas. It soon became the economic, political and cultural center for a large rural population

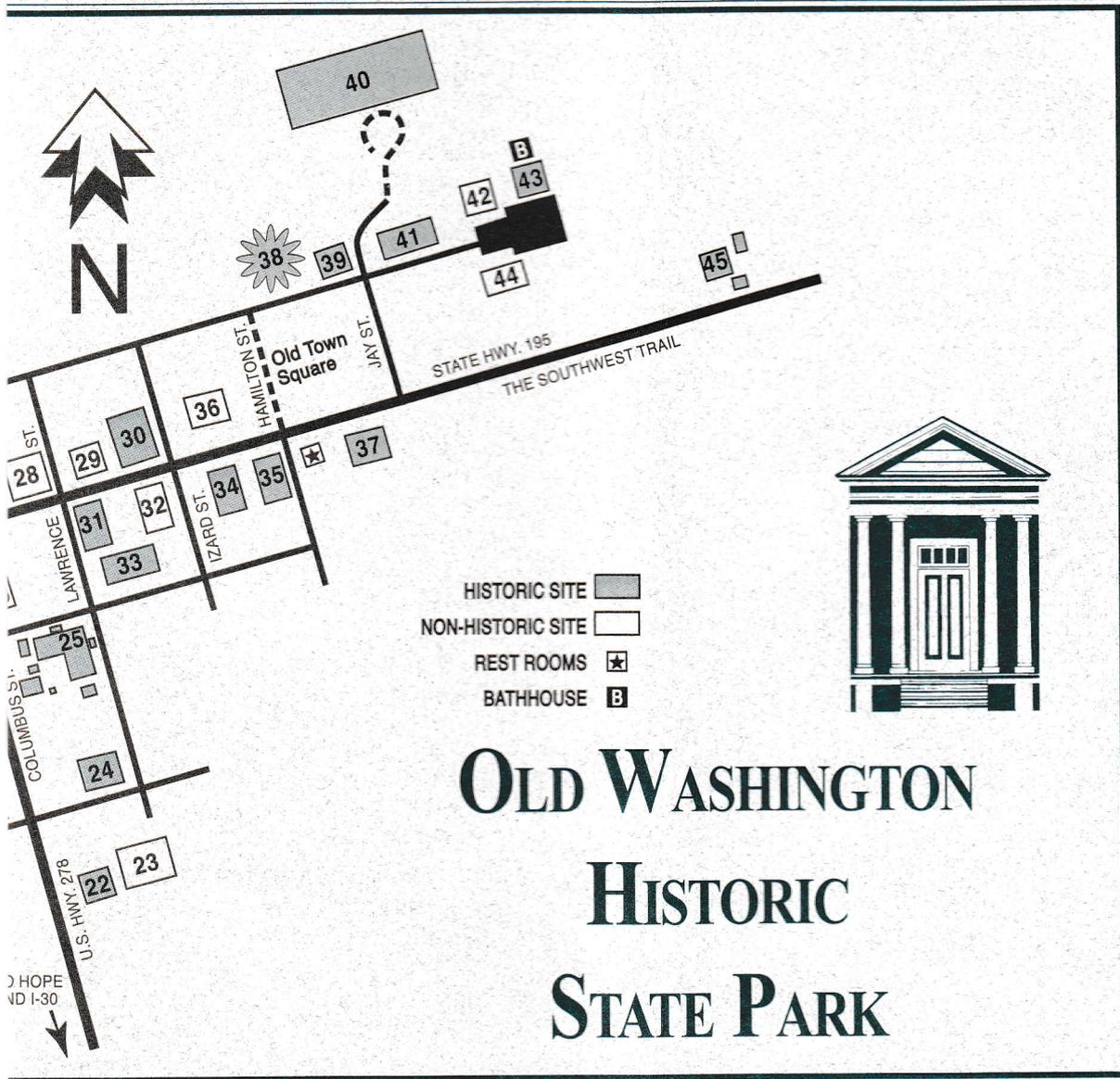


in Hempstead County, Arkansas. The area's wealth came from cotton and other agricultural products including corn, livestock, and fruit. The townspeople added valuable skills in a number of professions. By 1860 Washington and vicinity had sixteen doctors, fifteen carpenters, nine teachers, nine blacksmiths, three carriage makers, seventeen lawyers, fifteen merchants, six printers and three hotel keepers. During the Civil War, Washington boomed while serving as the state's Confederate Capital after Little Rock was taken by the Union Army in 1863.

When the Cairo and Fulton Railroad bypassed the town in 1874, Washington's heyday was ending. The following year, fire destroyed 4-1/2 blocks of the business district. Another fire in 1883 engulfed twenty-four more businesses, yet the town refused to die. The Washington preservation movement began in 1929 when the Arkansas Legislature approved \$5,000 for restoring Arkansas's Confederate Capitol - the first state funds for historic preservation in Arkansas.



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!



# OLD WASHINGTON HISTORIC STATE PARK

In 1958, the citizens of Washington formed the **Pioneer Washington Restoration Foundation** to preserve the town's other historic structures. **Old Washington Historic State Park** was established in 1973. The **Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives**, dedicated to collecting and preserving documents and photographs of southwest Arkansas, began in 1978. In 1980, the **Ethnic Minority Memorabilia Association** was incorporated to preserve and interpret black history. Today, these organizations, and the citizens of Washington, work together to preserve and interpret the town's nineteenth century story.

1. **Brunson House (c. 1860)**
2. **Southwest Arkansas Regional Archives and State Park Collection Management Facility**
3. **Monroe House & outbuildings (1855)**
4. **Trimble House & outbuildings (c. 1847)**
5. **Woodlawn House & outbuildings (1853)**
6. **WPA Gym (1940)**
7. **Hempstead County Courthouse (1874-1939) (Visitor Center)**
8. **Methodist Church (1861)**
9. **Hempstead County Jail (1918)**
10. **Peck House & outbuildings (c. 1840)**
11. **Presbyterian Cemetery (c. 1860)**
12. **Washington Baptist Church**
13. **Stuart House (c. 1842)**
14. **Tavern Inn**
15. **Washington City (Pilkinton) Hall**
16. **Arkansas State Park Region Four Office**
17. **Crouch House (c. 1857)**
18. **Williams' Tavern Restaurant (c. 1832)**
19. **Purdum House (c. 1850)**
20. **Williamson-Carrigan House (c. 1850)**
21. **Royston House (1845)**
22. **Stephens House (c. 1870)**
23. **School of Bladesmithing**
24. **May House (c. 1857)**
25. **Sanders Farmstead (c. 1845)**
26. **Livery Stable**
27. **Black History Museum (c. 1895)**
28. **Washington City Fire Station**
29. **Law Office**
30. **Print Museum (c. 1915)**
31. **B.W. Edwards Weapons Museum (c. 1925)**
32. **Washington City Post Office**
33. **Presbyterian Church (1889)**
34. **Redmond House (c. 1870)**
35. **Boyette House (c. 1927)**
36. **Candle Shop**
37. **Hempstead County Courthouse (1836-1874)**
38. **Magnolia Tree (planted c. 1839)**
39. **Royston Log House (c. 1835)**

40. **Pioneer Cemetery (1824-1860)**
41. **Block House (c. 1832)**
42. **Pavilion**
43. **Washington Public School (1914)-multipurpose facility**
44. **Blacksmith Shop**
45. **Goodlett Cotton Gin and associated buildings (1883)**

## INTERPRETIVE SERVICES AND SPECIAL EVENTS

Old Washington Historic State Park sponsors several special events each year. The **Jonquil Festival** celebrates spring each March with special tours, programs, arts and crafts and music.

The **Civil War Experience** commemorates Washington's role as Confederate Capital and includes living history battles, special tours and demonstrations. **Frontier Days** celebrates the founding of Washington and Arkansas's pioneer heritage. Activities include historic demonstrations, music and crafts. Each December, nineteenth century decorations transform the town for **Christmas and Candlelight**. Activities include strolling carolers, twilight tours, music and a special Christmas dinner served at Williams' Tavern Restaurant.

Exhibits and activities celebrating Arkansas's heritage and culture occur monthly. Detailed calendars of events are available at the park.

Programs, speakers, and slide presentations about the park are available for civic clubs, schools, and other organizations with advance notice. School tours relating to Arkansas history, culture and architecture are also available upon advance request. Call 870-983-2684 for more information.

## FEES AND HOURS

Visitors may select from walking tours and self-guided driving tours. **Homes and museums available for tour change on a regular basis. Tickets may be purchased at the Visitor Center (1874 Courthouse).** Organized groups of 20 or more with advance notice will receive a discount. OPEN YEAR ROUND: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

CLOSED: Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day

