

The many historical stops in Wayne County along the Natchez Trace Parkway.



What is now Collinwood was a cornfield when the Tennessee Western Railroad arrived in 1912. The land was purchased by the Collinwood Land Company which laid out the town, named for company president W. W. Collins, who was also manager of the Tennessee Valley Iron and Railroad Company's lands in Wayne County. By February 1914, the town had a population of two hundred and was growing fast; another one hundred called it home a month later, and in April the population reached 406.

Major employers were the Tennessee Valley Iron and Railroad Company, Superior Tie and Lumber Company and the Bon Air Lumber Company.

There were also five business houses and a livery stable. In 1918, TVI&RC obtained a contract to build a wood alcohol (methanol) distillation plant for use in munitions for World War I; they would also operate an iron furnace in conjunction with the plant.

The population boom continued until Collinwood boasted more than 2,000 residents. Collinwood's early prosperity was fairly short-lived, and the economy collapsed soon after the end of World War I.

Tennessee Valley Iron and Railroad Company bankrupted before completing the alcohol plant and furnace. Its assets were purchased by the Tennessee Charcoal Iron Company which completed the distillation plant and the "Anna" furnace in 1920, but they only operated it a couple of years as the demand for alcohol for munitions had ended and the local iron ore proved too high in phosphorous. With the onset of the Great Depression, Collinwood's population declined rapidly.

COLLINWOOD TENNESSEE



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GATEWAY TO THE NATCHEZ TRACE

The only surviving structure from the Tennessee Western Railroad, the one-story frame Collinwood Depot is an excellent example of the bracketed “railway style” of architecture.

It is laid out on a generally rectangular plan with off-center bays.

Walls are weatherboarded with vertical boards at the base forming a belt course, giving a wainscoted effect. The hipped roof is covered with slate tiles with clay cresting and is perhaps the most distinctive feature of this handsome building. The depot has been appropriately restored to its original 1916 appearance and is now home to the Collinwood Branch of the Wayne County Library System.

A subsidiary of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad, the Tennessee Western was constructed from Iron City to Collinwood to serve the lumber industry at present Collinwood.

The Tennessee Western was incorporated by the Tennessee Valley Iron & Railway Company in July 1912 and construction of the line began the following month; it was completed in 1913.

In October 1938, Louisville & Nashville applied to abandon the main line from Iron City to Collinwood, and was granted permission in January 1939. All operations ceased on February 12.

This was a major blow to the people of Wayne County who had long desired a railroad to enable industrial development; today, only a short half-mile segment of rail line with no road access is located at the extreme southeast corner of the county.

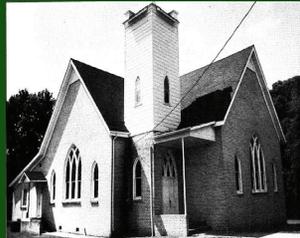
In its day, however, the line was considered so significant to the county that Pulitzer Prize winning author

T. S. Stripling, a Wayne County native, featured it prominently in his 1926 novel Teeftallow.



Historic Collinwood Depot & Library

101 Depot St.



Collinwood United Methodist Church

203 4th Ave North

The church was organized in 1916. It is reported that the Collinwood Land Company donated lot number 4 in block D in the town of Collinwood for the propose of erecting a church building. A committee was organized and authorized the building of the church to cost not less than \$3,000.00.

The committee agreed to purchase all materials from Superior Lumber and Tie Company, an already established business in town.

The church was completed in 1917.

It was beautiful with imported stained glass windows and hand-carved benches of beautiful dark wood.

This church was at that time called the Methodist Episcopal Church. In 1939, the name of the church was changed to the United Methodist Church. This beautiful building, located on Fourth Avenue in Collinwood, has been well maintained over the years and stands tall as the congregation celebrate their 100th anniversary in 2016.



The P.O.W./M.I.A. monument is dedicated to ALL American Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action.

The Wayne County Veterans Park was established in 2015 sponsored by the Collinwood American Legion #254 Ladies Auxiliary to honor and remember our service members.

