



## News Release

(June 11, 2009) Gallatin has joined a multi-state program designed to provide historical perspective and attract tourism through the Civil War Trails program by placing an historical marker at City Hall. The marker is visible from the front sidewalk of City Hall.

"Gallatin and Sumner County are rich in Civil War history," said Mayor Jo Ann Graves. "Gallatin still has several buildings standing and in use that were significant during the Civil War."

Those buildings include the First Presbyterian Church which served as a hospital, the Williamson Adams Carriage Factory which became a Federal barracks, and Trousdale Place which served various functions during the war. All of these buildings are on Main Street within a few blocks of the historic downtown square. There is also a Civil War Trails marker at Trousdale Place.

The Civil War Trails is a multi-state program that identifies, interprets and creates driving tours of both the great campaigns and the lesser-known Civil War sites. Tennessee joins Virginia, North Carolina, Maryland, and West Virginia in this important initiative, which has been identified by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as one of the most successful and sustainable heritage tourism programs in the nation.

For more information on the program, visit: <http://www.civilwartrails.org/>

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# GALLATIN PUBLIC SQUARE



*Heart of Federal Occupation*



Early in 1861, Gallatin and Sumner County were divided over secession, but after the fall of Fort Sumter, residents voted almost ten to one in favor. Support of the Confederacy never wavered, as Capt. Benjamin S. Nicklin, 13th Battery, Indiana Light Artillery, wrote in 1864, “This County has not even the germ of loyalty in it.”

With the Louisville and Nashville Railroad located just northwest of the public square and the Cumberland River three miles south of here, Gallatin’s logistical importance to the Union was obvious. Federal forces occupied the town in February 1862. Confederate Gen. John Hunt



**First Presbyterian Church**  
*Sumner County Archives*

Morgan raided Gallatin throughout the war to disrupt Union supply routes. In August 1862



**Public Square** – *Courtesy Sumner County Archives*

Morgan’s troops destroyed the train depot, the railroad tunnel leading to Bowling Green, Kentucky, and the railroad bridge leading to Nashville. After Morgan withdrew, Union Gen. Eleazar Paine reoccupied Gallatin in November 1862 and constructed Fort Thomas, a star-shaped work about 900 yards northwest of here, to protect this transportation hub.

The square served many purposes, including that of an enlistment center. In July 1863, two hundred local African Americans enlisted in the U.S. Army. They formed part of the 13th U.S. Colored Troops (USCT), formed at Nashville in November 1863, the same month that the 14th USCT was formed at Gallatin.



**Fort Thomas and Louisville & Nashville RR**  
– *Courtesy Sumner County Archives*

Today, several significant Civil War-era buildings remain in Gallatin. Trousdale Place (1815), two blocks west of here, served various functions for the U.S. Army. Next to Trousdale Place, First Presbyterian Church (1836), was used as a hospital. The Williamson Adams Carriage Factory (1839), three blocks east of here, became a Federal barracks.