

HISTORIC HARDEMAN CROSSROADS, TRIUNE

Triune, located within the 18th District, was once the wealthiest area of Williamson County, and with it, education, agriculture, religion, commerce, and architecture were highly prominent. Today, Triune has lost more historic landmarks than many in the county combined. With land grants given to many Revolutionary War veterans who did not all come to this area, families such as Perkins, Ozburn, Claybrooke, Wilson, King, Cannon, Hardeman, and Page to name several, began to settle here as early as c1800.

Prior to being known as Triune, this region was known first as Nelsonville, then Flemingsburg, Hardeman Crossroads, and finally settling on Triune, taking its name from Triune Methodist Church on Nolensville Road. In 1804, Wilson Creek Primitive Baptist Church organized, with its building constructed in c1816, making it the oldest existing church building in Williamson County. The Arrington Church of Christ, located just north of the crossroads (Murfreesboro Road and Horton Highway) is active today, though its c1887 building was fully modified in c1978. Several churches sit north and south of the Crossroads in Triune, including the Triune Baptist Church (south of I-840) and Greens Grove Primitive Baptist Church, an African American congregation. Large farms and plantations dotted the landscape, while significant numbers of enslaved people labored in the fields, maintained roadbeds, and worked in factories or stores. After the war, many newly freed people established their own communities, including churches, schools, and cemeteries with many of their descendants living in the area today. While many homes are no longer standing, there remain multiple homes, buildings, and cemeteries worth considering when examining the importance of Triune.

Triune boasted six educational academies for young men and women, including the Harpeth Union Male Academy on Nelson Creek (1820),

Hardeman Male Academy on Wilson Creek (1828-1903), Arrington Male Academy on Nolensville Pike (1835), Harpeth Female Academy on Nelson Creek (1832) Porter's Female Academy on Arrington Creek (1834) and the Bostick Female Academy on the Horton Highway (1893) which still stands.

During the Civil War, Tennessee's network of rivers, roads, and rails played an exceptional role in moving men and munitions. By the late spring and summer of 1863, Triune faced the reality of being situated at the crossroads, particularly as the US Army occupied, encamped, fortified, foraged, and skirmished with Confederate forces along the Murfreesboro and Nolensville Roads (now known as the Horton Highway), and areas between Franklin and Murfreesboro, Nashville, and Shelbyville. During this time, the US Army constructed significant fortifications – earthworks – considered to be the most preserved example standing in the western theater today and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Though the Battle of Nolensville is considered may not have seen significant loss of life, the right wing of the US Army, advancing from Nashville on December 26, 1862, down the Nolensville Pike, encountered Confederate General John Wharton's Cavalry around the small village. Wharton's Cavalry fought delaying action before they retreated south to Knob Gap, down the Nolensville Road and then onto Murfreesboro. The fighting at Nolensville and through the crossroads at Triune paved the way for considerable bloodshed at the Battle of Stones River December 31, 1862, through January 2, 1863. Considerable occupation by the US Army then occurred in 1863, prior to the Tullahoma, Chattanooga, and Chickamauga Campaigns later that same year.

Over the past few decades, the removal of historic homes, industry, and commerce including stores that once supplied goods and services to the locals living in this rural area, including Walter Beasley's, Ed Brown's, and J.P. Maxwell and Adams' Stores, made way for modern transportation corridors,

residential subdivisions, and commercial expansion. Today, Triune faces another crossroad...at its historic Crossroads.

Two mixed-use developments known as the Villages at Triune East and Villages at Triune West, located east and west along Murfreesboro Road and north and south of Nolensville Road/Horton Highway, have the potential to include nearly hundreds of homes, townhomes, and commercial real estate. In March 2025, the Williamson County Commission approved with conditions, requiring its developers to comply with all wastewater site plan conditions, obtain the required TDOT and county approvals for all off-site work, and the construction of 12-foot paved fully accessible greenway trails (with public access easements) before final plats are fully submitted. At the last Commission meeting held June 11, 2026, the Villages at Triune West and Villages at Triune East concept plan revisions were approved, adding non-residential lots to each development, with all site plans coming back to Planning Commission for another review. With land currently being cleared, many locals are anxious about the speed this portion of the county continues to develop, shaping infrastructure, greenway connectivity, and particularly, Triune and the surrounding area of Eastern Williamson County's historic, cultural, and rural character will either be preserved or altered, potentially forever.

Just north of I-840 along the Horton Highway, across from the Twice Daily gas station, the development entrance/exit points winds up and around, behind the historic Bostick Female Academy, before connecting with Murfreesboro Road nearly connecting with the light at Nolensville Road/Horton Highway. East of Nolensville Road, the land for the Villages at Triune East is being cleared as well. Citizen advocates, preservationists, historians, and concerned locals continue to speak up at Williamson County Commission meetings, voicing their apprehensions detailing environmental

concerns regarding the wetlands, and the significant risk of destroying known or the removal of undocumented historic and cultural resources.