

D Walk south down Murphey Street and make a left on Donnelly Street. At the end of Donnelly Street, look left (126 South Church Street) and you will see “The “Clarence Tom Ashley: Our Original Mountain Minstrel” mural. The mural depicting Ashley singing to his pony was the first to be completed and installed by Artist Cristy Dunn in 2013. Tom Ashely actually performed his medicine show on this corner in the first quarter of the 20th Century. The painting was inspired by a black and white picture of Ashley singing to his pony.

E From Donnelly Street, cross Church Street and proceed north toward the red light at the interesection of Main Street and Church Street. Cross East Main Street and turn around to see “Birth of a Ballad: The Capture of Tom Dooley.” It was installed during the inaugural Long Journey Home event in 2015, on the side of the Mountain City Antiques and Collectibles building (at 101 South Church Street). Artist Cristy Dunn illustrated the capture of the infamous Tom Dula (pronounced Dooley), who was accused of murdering Laura Foster in 1866. With the help of Johnson County’s Colonel James Grayson, Dula was captured in Doe Valley. The mural illustrates the story of Grayson holding Tom under arrest with a rock and holding a gun on the North Carolina posse to keep them from hanging Tom on the spot. He was insistent that Dula receive a fair trial and even escorted the group back to their home county to make sure he wasn’t harmed on the journey. The song, Tom Dooley, which was first recorded by G.B. Grayson, Col. Grayson’s nephew, in 1929 is one of the most popular of Grayson’s songs and has been recorded by many artists since. Painted at the bottom right corner of the mural panels is Frank Grayson, who was one of the last of our Old Time Mountain Fiddlers. He is also a direct descendant of Col. Grayson and carried on the music of G.B. Grayson in its truest form. Although he wasn’t alive when Tom Dula was captured, G.B. Grayson is featured on the mural playing his fiddle.

F Turn to your right to see the seven murals on the side of the Farmers State Bank Building at 100 West Main Street. Each of the seven Legacies Murals on the Church Street side of Farmers’ State Bank features an influential album from a Johnson County Musician. From left to right: Our own Clarence “Tom” Ashley was the first to record *House of the Rising Sun*. *Handsome Molly* was one of G.B. Grayson’s most popular records and has been re-recorded the world over. Clarence “Tom” Ashley helped to popularize the version of *Amazing Grace* that is now a standard in churches all over the country. *Train 45* and *Tom Dooley* are two famous G.B. Grayson standards from the 1920s. *The Ballad of Finley Preston* tells the story of the last legal hanging in Tennessee. The Library of Congress added *Old Time Music at Clarence Ashley’s* to the National Recording Registry in 2013. There is a plaque on each mural that gives the names of the artists. These murals were painted during a community workshop at the Center for the Arts.

To learn more visit: longjourneyhome.net



LONG JOURNEY HOME

The Music Heritage MURAL MILE

in Downtown Mountain City

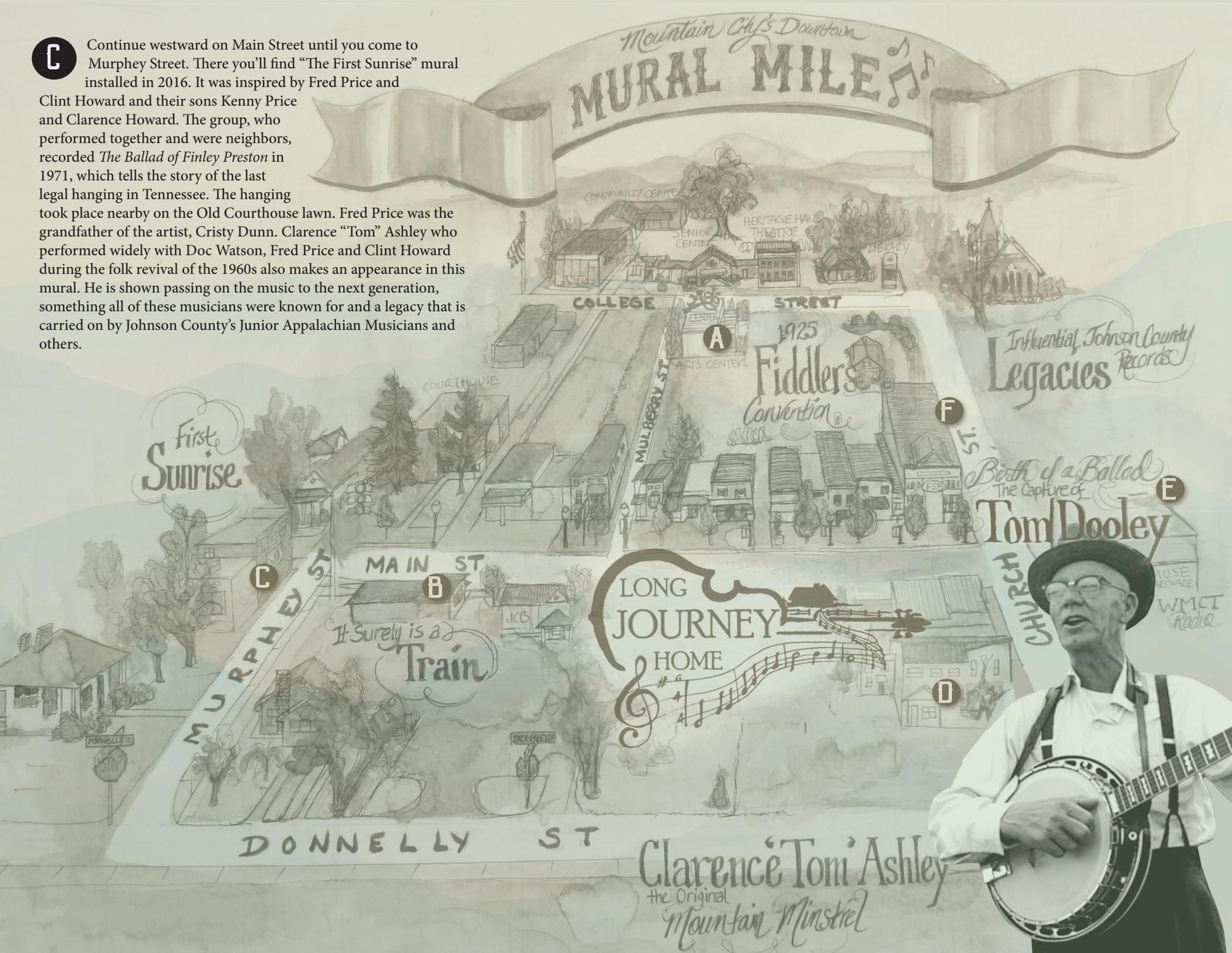
Stroll along this mile-long stretch in Mountain City’s Downtown area while taking in some fresh mountain air & discovering the local music history captured in the murals along the way.

A Begin your walk at the Johnson County Center for the Arts at 127 College Street. The mural on the side of this building facing Church Street, was completed in 2017 by approximately 20 community members under the guidance of local Artist Cristy Dunn. It is a rendering of a photograph of Johnson County’s first **Old Time Fiddler’s Convention** held in 1925 in what was then the auditorium of the high school and what is now Heritage Hall. The event was a watershed in the development of early country music. The Old Time Fiddler’s Convention is still going strong today, nearly 100 years later, and is the oldest of its kind.



B From the Art Center, walk across the front porch and then turn left on Mulberry Street. Turn right on Main Street, and from the parking lot of Johnson County Bank (241 West Main Street) you will see “Black Smoke a Risin’ and It Surely is a Train.” This mural depicts the Lopsided 3 and was painted in 2018 by Temple Reece. This train actually ran from where Lois’ Cafe is now through Cold Springs and on to where Old Mill Music Park is now in Laurel Bloomery in the early 20th Century. Trains and train songs have long been a part of Johnson County’s musical heritage. G.B. Grayson and Henry Whitter are depicted in the mural in honor of Train 45, which became a standard of Old Time and Bluegrass Music.

C Continue westward on Main Street until you come to Murphey Street. There you'll find "The First Sunrise" mural installed in 2016. It was inspired by Fred Price and Clint Howard and their sons Kenny Price and Clarence Howard. The group, who performed together and were neighbors, recorded *The Ballad of Finley Preston* in 1971, which tells the story of the last legal hanging in Tennessee. The hanging took place nearby on the Old Courthouse lawn. Fred Price was the grandfather of the artist, Cristy Dunn. Clarence "Tom" Ashley who performed widely with Doc Watson, Fred Price and Clint Howard during the folk revival of the 1960s also makes an appearance in this mural. He is shown passing on the music to the next generation, something all of these musicians were known for and a legacy that is carried on by Johnson County's Junior Appalachian Musicians and others.



First Sunrise

Mountain City's Downtown
MURAL MILE

Influential Johnson County
Legacies Records

Birth of a Ballad
The Capture of
Tom Dooley

LONG
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HOME

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