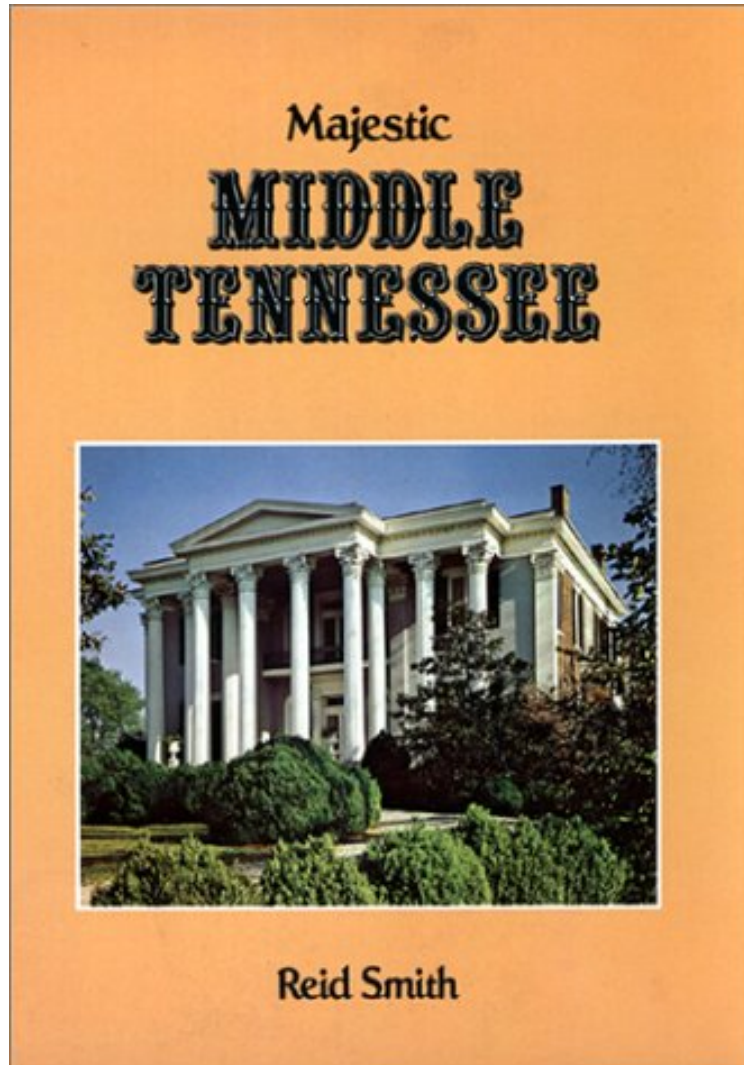


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## Majestic Middle Tennessee (Majesty Series)

*Reid Smith*

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**Reid Smith : Majestic Middle Tennessee (Majesty Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Majestic Middle Tennessee (Majesty Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. All that wealth... !By Jon L Albee When you think of parts of the American South famous for awesome collections of ante-bellum architecture, certain places come to mind. Virginia's James River. The Alabama Back Belt. The Garden District of New Orleans. Louisiana's River Road. Charleston, South Carolina. Once you've browsed this surprisingly comprehensive little book, you'll understand why the plantations of central Tennessee belong in that distinguished list. Here is a directory of 100 plantations so perfectly preserved and architecturally distinguished that it's almost too good to be true. Tennessee achieved astonishing wealth from cotton

and slaves during the period from 1800 to 1860. The period saw a great flowering of residential architecture, most of which remains for us to see today. This book brings those sites to you. The entries are arranged by county, each including a good descriptive essay and a few nice color photographs. This book is not so much a coffee table browse as it is a directory intended for use by historians and serious cultural tourists. Don't let the early publication date put you off. Tennessee has a relatively strong preservation community, known more for good stewardship than failure. The Civil War was relatively kind to the architecture of the region, Sherman's charred swath having decimated parts of Georgia and South Carolina but sparing Tennessee. The vast majority of these sites are still standing today, though most are private residences. Museum houses, such as Belle Meade, are included, but this is not a directory of house tours. If you're an architectural historian looking for a good reference, or a tourist looking for a peek at ante-bellum history, you'll enjoy this book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Historic homes in middle Tennessee. Great book By Reader If you live in middle Tennessee and you love historical homes you must buy this book. I've used it for about 10 years as a guide to our area's old homes. It has color photos of each house and photos of some of the interiors. It gives a good history of the house as well as the current ownership (at the time the book was written). This is a great book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for someone who is interested in antebellum homes. By DB This is a fantastic book. The photographs are great as the write ups are great also. My hobby is visiting and photographing antebellum homes, this book sure is a help. The only improvement that would be beneficial for me is if they had an address for each plantation. I do realize that not all of them are open for visitors, but have found in the past - - some will allow outdoor photos.

"The happy events, the human asides, historic happenings, and family legends . . . make its pages delightful to read. Smith writes warmly and with an easy appreciative wit." -The Tennessean Central Tennessee is a fascinating and historic area. Home to Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk, it was a major battleground during the Civil War. Majestic Middle Tennessee looks at ninety-five glorious antebellum homes in the central Tennessee region. Featured here are the sumptuous Rattle and Snap, the crown prince of them all; Mulberry Hill, where a Yankee stranger was mysteriously shot to death; and Foxview, home to children and cousins by the dozens. Hundreds of photographs and fascinating text detail the exciting and tragic history of each home.

From the Inside Flap "Welcome you are to Majestic Middle Tennessee! Among these hills you can hear the sands of the ages softly covering the tracks of the past." From Andrew Jackson, Tennessee's most famous son, to James K. Polk, one of America's truly great presidents, to Davy Crockett, restless frontiersman and politician, the history of Middle Tennessee abounds with notable names. The rich chronicle of their accomplishments, accomplishments that helped to shape the splendor of the Old South, is reflected in the magnificent structures that dot the hills and hollows of Tennessee. Dedicated to the premise that the lore and legends of the old homes of the Deep South are priceless treasures worth preserving, Majestic Middle Tennessee is a trove of rare gems that recall the glory and distinction of the antebellum days. Written in a warm storytelling tone, Majestic Middle Tennessee strolls the reader through the beautiful and historic midland region of the Volunteer State. Containing more than two hundred exterior and interior full-color photographs of ninety-five of the finest antebellum homes in the region, this wonderful work documents the lives, as well as the lifestyles, of some of the shapers of Southern history. Also included are two vividly dramatic watercolors depicting the traumatically decisive Battles of Franklin and Nashville, where, "too weak to win and too proud to lose," the Confederate Army of Tennessee, led by the foolhardy Gen. John Bell Hood, was almost completely destroyed by the Union army. Each subject is accompanied by descriptive and delightful text that highlights interesting facts about each home and the people who once lived there.