



# THE BIRTHPLACE of COUNTRY MUSIC BRISTOL TN & VA MUSEUM

## FACT SHEET

### Location

101 Country Music Way, Bristol, VA 24201

### Hours

Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Closed Mondays

### Holiday Hours

*The Museum is closed on the following days:*

Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and Easter

### Admission

**\$13.65** – Adults

**\$11.55** – Seniors, College Students, Military, Children ages 6–17, and Groups of 20+

**FREE** – Children 5 and under

\*Admission prices include Virginia admission tax. Your ticket gives you admission to the museum for the full day; therefore, you can enter and re-enter the museum with your day ticket.

### How Much Time Should I Allow For My Visit?

The Birthplace of Country Music recommends allowing at least 1½ to 2 hours to visit the core exhibits, and at least half an hour for any special exhibits. Giving yourself this much time means that you will have ample opportunity to participate in the many films, interactives and sound experiences, and also to fully appreciate the text, images and artifacts on display.

### More Information

For more information about the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, visit [BirthplaceofCountryMusic.org](http://BirthplaceofCountryMusic.org).

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, tells the story of the 1927 Bristol Sessions recordings, explores how evolving sound technology shaped their success, and highlights how this rich musical heritage lives on in today's music. Through text and artifacts, multiple theater experiences, and interactive displays – along with a variety of educational programs, music performances, and community events – the exciting story of these recording sessions and their far-reaching influence comes alive. Rotating exhibitions from guest curators and other institutions, including the Smithsonian, are featured throughout the year in the Special Exhibits Gallery. The museum also houses a collection of related objects, photographs and paper ephemera, and digital items.



### History of the Goodpasture Building and How It Became the Birthplace of Country Music Museum

The building that now houses the Birthplace of Country Music Museum was built in the 1920s by Frank Goodpasture Sr. In 1919, Goodpasture Sr. and Samuel Taylor Copenhaver founded the Virginia Tennessee Motor Truck Corporation and dealt in Defiance trucks. Frank Goodpasture III notes that his grandfather “would take mules for trucks...you just find another farmer who needs a mule, walk it over to the stockyard, and auction it off. It wasn't bartering...mules were a way of

moving goods and services at the time,” and so this was similar to how people traded in old vehicles for new ones today.

When Goodpasture Sr. erected the building on the corner of Cumberland and Moore Streets, it was to house a Chrysler distributorship. The company recruited automobile dealers all around this area, and as far south as north Georgia, to sell Chryslers. When the Great

Depression hit in the 1930s, Chrysler eliminated the distributing network and began selling their cars directly to the dealers. The company was later reorganized as Goodpasture Motor Company and began dealing in Federal trucks. They then moved their location to a site on Lee Street. However, Goodpasture Sr. still owned this building, and he started using the second

floor for various events and activities in order to generate extra income. Sporting matches, such as prize fights and wrestling bouts, were held here, along with musical concerts and dances.

Later occupants of the building included a cab company, The Palace Barber Shop, Union Shoe Store, and Tate's News.



Credit: Neil Staples

## Transformation into the Birthplace of Country Music Museum

The Goodpasture building was given to the non-profit Birthplace of Country Music (BCM) in 2003 by Steve Johnson to house the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, one of over 160 Smithsonian Institution affiliates across the United States. After extensive fundraising and through community partnerships, BCM – in collaboration with Peyton Boyd Architects of Abingdon, Virginia; studioMUSarx, a design studio based in Philadelphia with special expertise in museum planning, architecture, and exhibit design; and Hillmann & Carr, full

service media producers from Washington, DC, serving corporations, visitor centers, museums, non-profits, and government – began work in 2012 on restoring and converting the building for its new use and developing the exhibit content and design. This year, the exhibits took physical shape under the expertise of 1220 Exhibits Inc., a Nashville-based, nationally recognized leader in the production and installation of exhibits, and ExPlus Inc., a company based in Dulles, Virginia, that provides comprehensive fabrication services exclusively for museums.



Credit: Sarah Hauser



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## Museum Facts

**The museum opened on August 1, 2014.**

It consists of two floors, totaling 24,000 square feet, and includes:

- 10 permanent exhibit areas
- Interactive displays and media experiences throughout the permanent exhibition
- 80-seat orientation theater
- 100-seat performance theatre
- 2,000 square feet of special exhibition
- Space featuring traveling exhibits from the Smithsonian Institution, other organizations, and guest curators
- A variety of educational programs, and music, community and outreach events
- An extensive digital archive

## More Information

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