

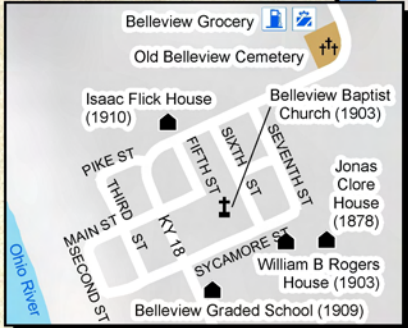
# Boone County Heritage Tourism Map



**PETERSBURG (1789)**

*Petersburg (see inset)*

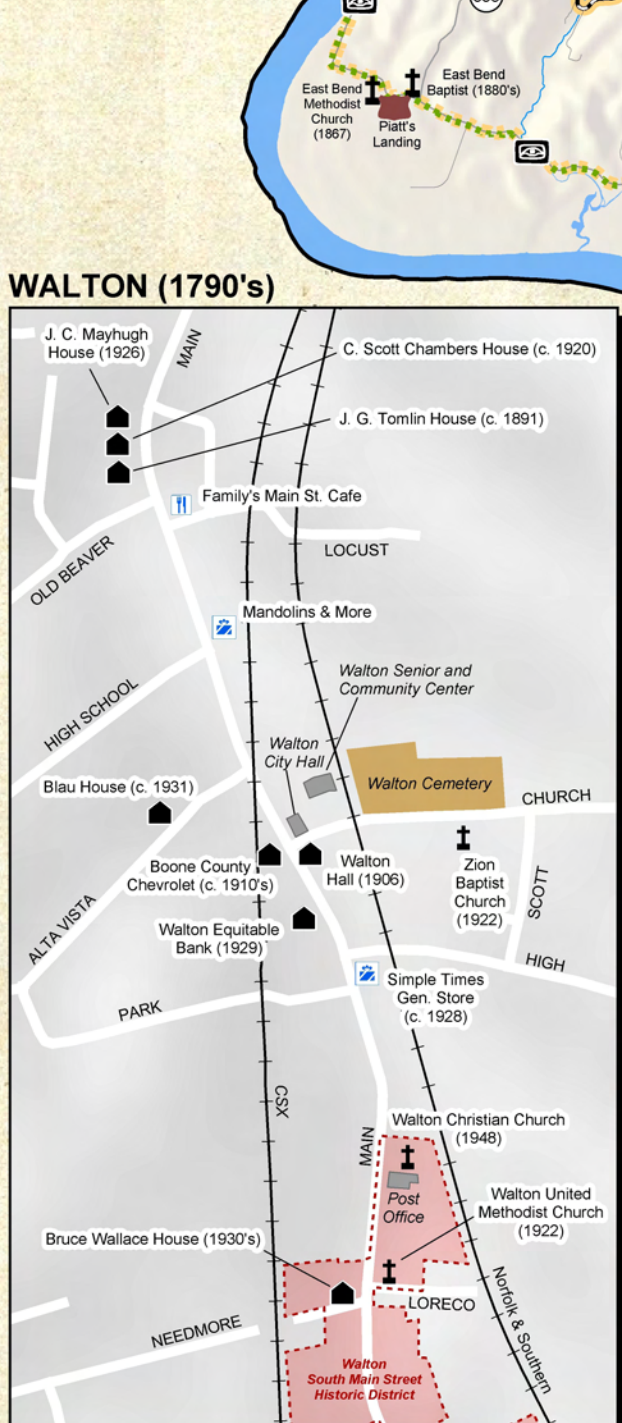
**BELLEVIEW (1815)**



**RABBIT HASH (c. 1831)**



**WALTON (1790's)**



**BURLINGTON (1799)**

- Suggested 1/2 Day Trips:**
- Northern Boone
  - Central Boone
  - Southern Boone

- - - Mary Ingles Route
- - - John Hunt Morgan Escape Route



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# WELCOME TO HISTORIC BOONE COUNTY, KENTUCKY

**Burlington Historic District.** Boone County's government center since 1799, Burlington is a National Register District with buildings from as early as the 1820s, including the 1889 Boone County Courthouse and 1853 County Clerk's Building. Burlington is the County's hub for antiques and crafts, thanks to **Burlington Antiques** (859-586-6166), **Cabin Arts** (859-586-8021), **Look What I Found** (859-586-1970), and the monthly **Burlington Antique Show**. Authentic Mexican food is found at **Chips n Salsa** (859-689-2767), which is housed in an 1820s brick structure. Other dining options include **Gracie's Grille** and **The Little Place Restaurant**. Travelers relish the rooms at the c. 1830 **Burlington's Willis Graves B&B** (859-689-5096) or the c. 1831 **Lady Burlington B&B** (859-596-1111).



Old Boone County Courthouse (1889)

**Florence Main Street** developed in the early 1800s along the most important road in Northern Kentucky: Lexington Pike (now known as Dixie Highway). Florence's "Stringtown on the Pike" is the only remaining part of the historic Lexington Pike in northern Boone County. Stringtown on the Pike has many older structures, including the c. 1840 Greek Revival Adam Finch House and many fine 1920s Bungalows. A taste of old Boone County can be found at the **Stringtown Restaurant** (859-371-8222), located in the 1869 Odd Fellows Hall. **Yesterday's Café & Tea Room** (859-594-4832) is inside the old Florence Blacksmith Shop on Girard St.

**Walton's Main Street** is the heart of this city in southern Boone County, founded in the 1790s and named Walton in 1840. Walton is a classic small town Main Street with many historic buildings, including the 1920s Chandler House, the 1930s Wallace House, the 1920s Chambers House and the South Main Street Historic District. A great home style meal can be enjoyed at **Family's Main Street Café** (859-485-6520). Other unique shops include **Simple Times General Store** (859-493-0100) and **Mandolins & More** (859-363-1026).

## Big Bone Lick State Park

(859-384-3522) is Boone County's most significant historic site. The park includes a museum and gift shop, Discovery Trail, a herd of Bison, camping, fishing, and hiking. The "Place of the Big Bones" is a Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Site.



Mire Scene Diorama

Nearby **Big Bone Landing Marina** (859-384-1713) offers boat launch on Big Bone Creek, camping, marine supplies, and other amenities. **Jane's Saddlebag** (859-384-6617) features local crafts, snacks and is available for private gatherings.

## Rabbit Hash

is Boone County's most celebrated river town. The famed **Rabbit Hash General Store** (859-586-7744), which recently celebrated its 175th anniversary, was built c. 1831 and is the best known and best preserved country store in Kentucky. A Preserve America Community, the entire town of Rabbit Hash has been designated a National Register District. Visitors can see the **Rabbit Hash Museum** (open by appointment) or shop for antiques at the **Rabbit Hash Crafts Shop** (859-586-6849) and **Rabbit Hash Antiques**. **Rabbit Hash Old Timers Day** (Labor Day weekend) draws up to 2,500 people to enjoy music, food, and contests ranging from frog jumping to the rolling pin fling. **BB Riverboats** offers a day-long "Cruise to Times Past and Future Fortune" from Covington to Rabbit Hash and Rising Sun several times a year.



Rabbit Hash General Store (c 1831)

## HISTORIC CHURCHES

Boone County has many historic churches, ten of which are listed in the National Register. Indicated with a cross (†) on the map, Boone County's historic churches were built in several picturesque architectural styles. Greek Revival examples include the old Burlington Presbyterian (1830s) and East Bend Methodist (1867) churches. There are Early Gothic Revival churches such as Big Bone Methodist (1888) and Late Gothic Revival examples like Belleview Baptist (1903) and Hopeful Lutheran (1917). Bullittsburg Baptist worships in the county's oldest sanctuary (1819).



East Bend Methodist Church (1867)

## OTHER HISTORIC BUILDINGS

Boone County is blessed with a rich architectural legacy of historic houses and other buildings: many are National Register listed. Some of the most prominent are shown on the map. Fine Federal period properties include the c. 1814 Colonel Abner Gaines House, 1817 Benjamin Piatt Fowler House, c. 1822 Erastus Tousey House and c. 1825 Schramm Tavern. The Greek Revival swept Kentucky in the mid-1800s, creating places such as the 1830s Robert Chambers House and c. 1850 Moore-Terrill House. Victorian Era houses were also built in the county in Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles. The grandest Queen Anne mansion is the 1893 Allie Corn House. **With the exception of the Dinsmore Homestead, all historic residences in Boone County are privately owned; please respect their owners' privacy and view from the road.**

**Anderson Ferry** (859-485-9210) at 4030 River Road (KY Route 8) has run continuously since 1817. The National Register-listed ferry is one of only two daily ferries left on the Ohio River. Hours are Mon - Fri 6am-9:30pm, Sat/Holidays 7am-9:30pm, Sun 10am-9:30pm. Cost is \$3.25/car.

**Dinsmore Homestead** ([www.dinsmorefarm.org](http://www.dinsmorefarm.org), 859-586-6117) is a uniquely preserved home where the past breathes life into the present. Visitors learn about rural life and the remarkable history of the Dinsmore family. James Dinsmore began the diversified farm in 1839 and his daughter "Miss Julia" operated the farm for decades after his death in 1872. The National Register listed 1842 Greek Revival house is filled with the family's belongings. Dinsmore is open Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays (April to mid-December) with tours offered from 1 to 5pm. Admission is \$2 to \$5.



Dinsmore Homestead (1842)

**Petersburg**, the oldest settlement in Boone County, is built on the ruins of a large prehistoric village. Tanner's Station began here in 1789 and became Petersburg in 1818. Petersburg's greatest enterprise was the Boone County Distilling Company, once the largest in Kentucky. Many buildings in town were built with brick salvaged from the distillery complex, including the tiny 1914 Petersburg Jail. Notable historic structures include the c. 1880 Post Office and Masonic Lodge, 1913 Odd Fellows Hall, and 1892 Opera House, home of **Garden Creations** (859-586-4800). Grand houses include the c. 1860 Gothic Revival Jenkins-Berkshire House, c. 1840 Loder House, and c. 1825 Carlton House (Schramm's Tavern). Just outside town are the 1855 George W. Terrill House and 1860 J. C. Jenkins House. Lodging is found in the nearby **First Farm Inn B&B** (859-586-0199).



Petersburg Opera House (1892)

## OTHER ATTRACTIONS

Boone County's rich heritage and natural beauty are complemented by many other attractions, including thoroughbred horse racing at **Turfway Park** (800-733-0200) and premier Dirt Late Model racing at **Florence Speedway** (859-485-7591). Summer destinations range from **Florence Freedom Baseball** (859-594-4487) to **Barker's Blackberry Hill Winery** (859-428-0377) south of Verona. Tours may be scheduled at the **Answers in Genesis Museum** (859-727-2222) and are also available at the **Perfetti VanMelle Candy Factory** (859-283-1234). **Chap's Lake** (859-371-0880) and **Crouch's Treasure Lake** (859-586-5542) offer pay fishing.

## NATURAL RESOURCES

With over 42 miles of shoreline in Boone County, the **Ohio River** is Boone County's most important natural resource. Scenic views of the river are scattered around the county. Visitors may enjoy the river upclose at the 43-acre **Giles Conrad Riverfront Park**. River access is available at Big Bone Landing Marina, River Ridge Park and the Petersburg Public Landing.



Panorama of the Ohio River on KY 18

**Split Rock Conservation Park** ([www.splitrockpark.org](http://www.splitrockpark.org); 859-689-9999) on Kentucky 20 at Woolper Creek has 165 acres featuring Boone County's native flora, fauna, ecology, and natural and cultural resources. The centerpiece of the park is Split Rock, a glacial deposit that has long been an Ohio River landmark. Walking tours of the park are given by appointment with programs tailored to meet the needs of any group.

**Boone County Arboretum at Central Park** ([www.bcarboretum.org](http://www.bcarboretum.org); 859-384-4999) contains over 2,800 trees and shrubs. Two miles of paved trails weave through the plant

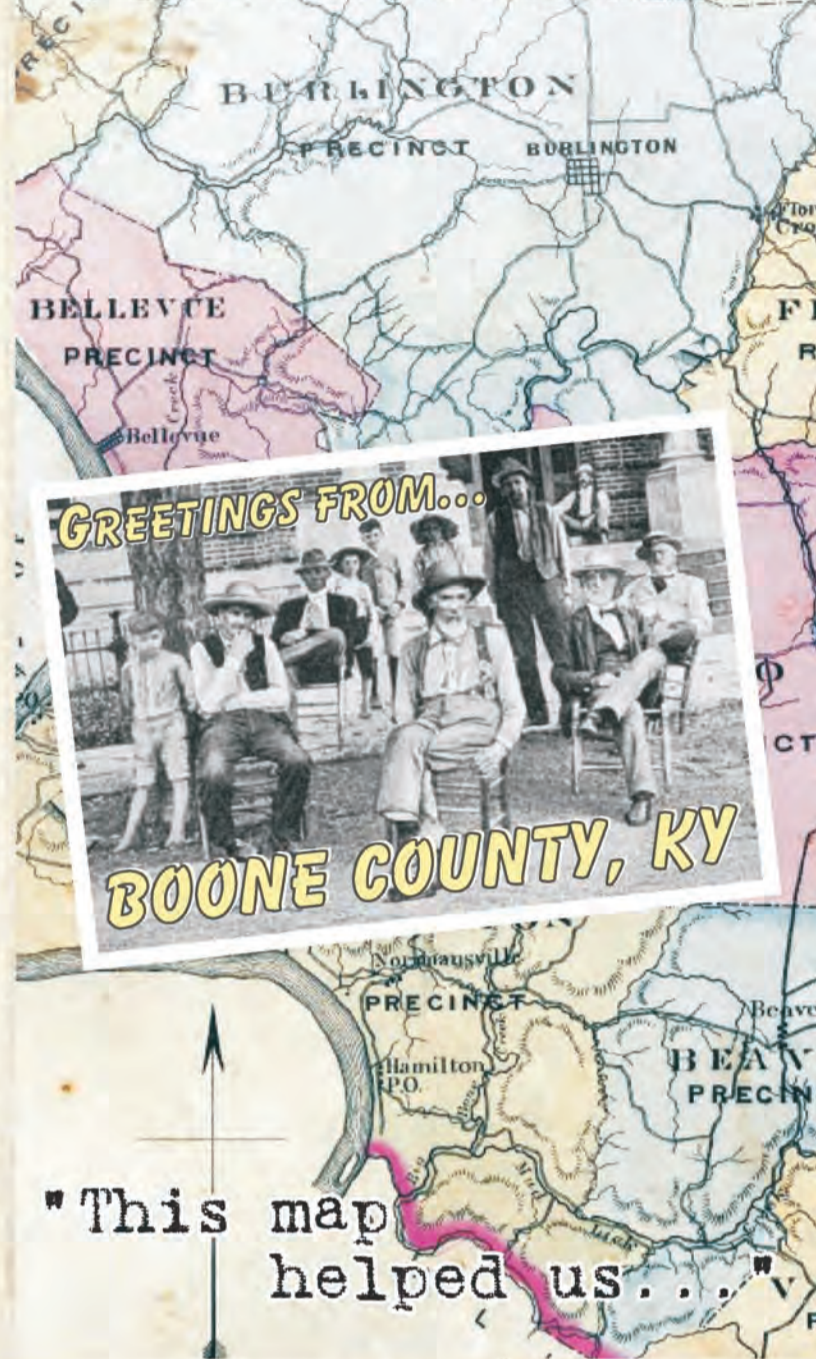


Walkers Enjoy the Arboretum's Trails

collections and 12 athletic fields at Boone County's 121-acre Central Park. Maps and educational information are available at trailhead kiosks. The park and Arboretum are open to the public until dusk year-round. Free guided tours are available.

**Hiking Opportunities** abound in Boone County. **Boone County Cliffs** and **Dinsmore Woods** nature preserves near Belleview comprise nearly 200 acres of mature Northern Kentucky hardwood forest. The preserves have loop trails 1.7 to 2.0 miles long. The nearby 228-acre **Middle Creek Park** offers 6 miles of shared hiking/horse trails. **Gunpowder Creek Nature Park** near Burlington is a 122-acre county park that showcases the rugged beauty of Boone County's largest stream valley. Several miles of hiking trails with spectacular views wind through the park. North of Burlington, hikers may also walk the 12.5 miles of outstanding mountain bike trails at **Englands-Idlewild Park**. The 631-acre **Adair Wildlife Management Area** offers nearly 6 miles of trails in rugged western Boone County; park behind Big Bone Baptist Church on Big Bone Church Road. The sunken roadbed next to the parking lot is on the route of Confederate General John Hunt Morgan's legendary 1863 escape from the Ohio Penitentiary.

# HERITAGE TOURISM MAP of BOONE COUNTY KENTUCKY



"This map helped us..."



Mom & Dad,

On our trip through Boone County, Kentucky, we found a wonderful place to relax and explore. The winding country roads, wooded valleys and rich heritage made it easy to forget that we were only 20 minutes from Cincinnati. One day we drove to Rabbit Hash and then hiked for hours in some of the amazing 2,000 acres of parkland. Another day, we did some shopping and then took in a thoroughbred horse race and minor league baseball game.

You were right - Boone County has it all!

Love,

Your Sons

Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board  
P.O. Box 958, Burlington, KY 41005  
859-334-2111 -- [www.boonecountyky.org/pc](http://www.boonecountyky.org/pc)  
[www.boonecountyheritage.org](http://www.boonecountyheritage.org)

# CELEBRATING HERITAGE SINCE 1789