

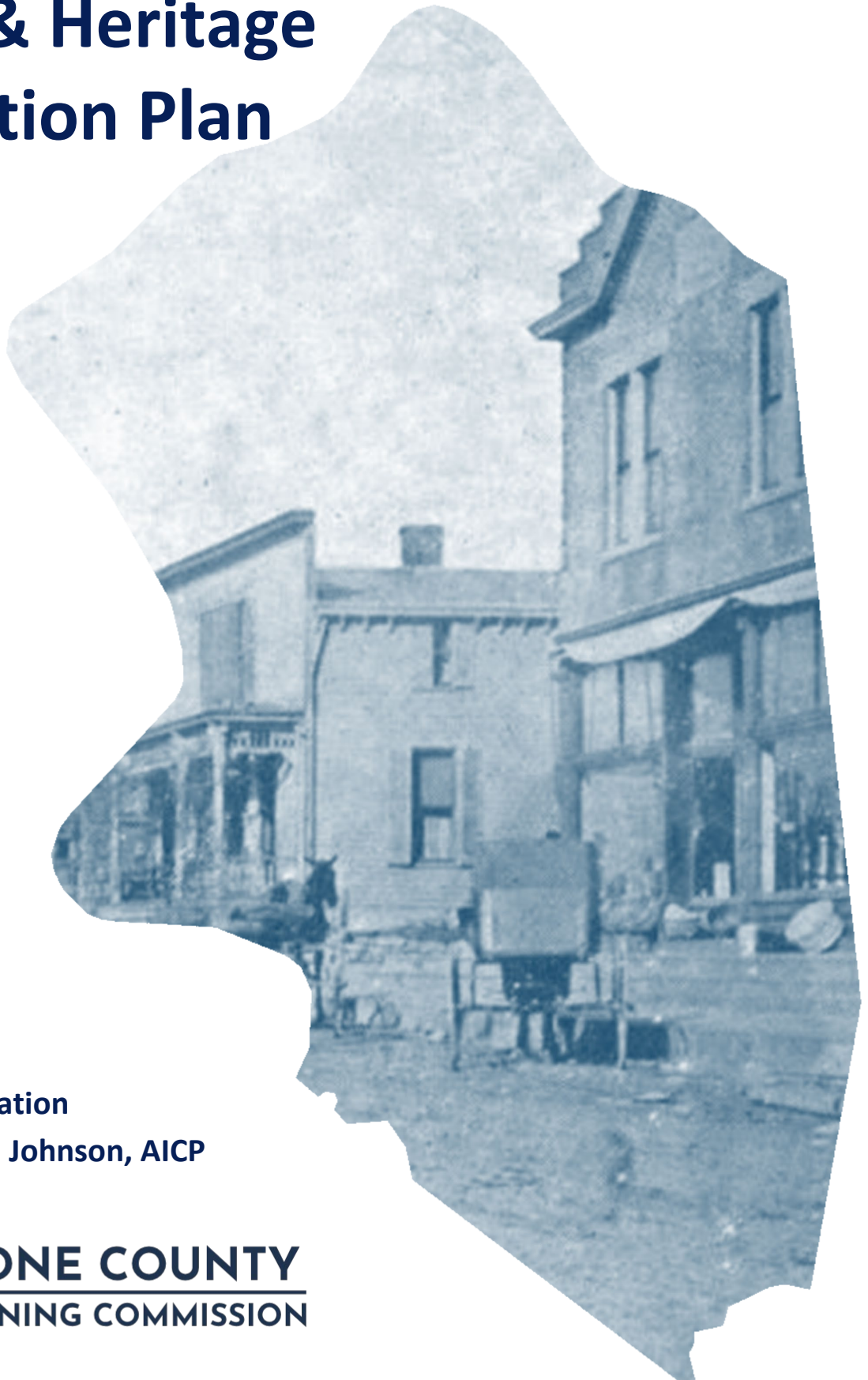
Boone County Historic & Heritage Preservation Plan

Adopted on
June 1, 2026

Prepared by
Cincinnati Preservation
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BOONE COUNTY
PLANNING COMMISSION



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Acknowledgements

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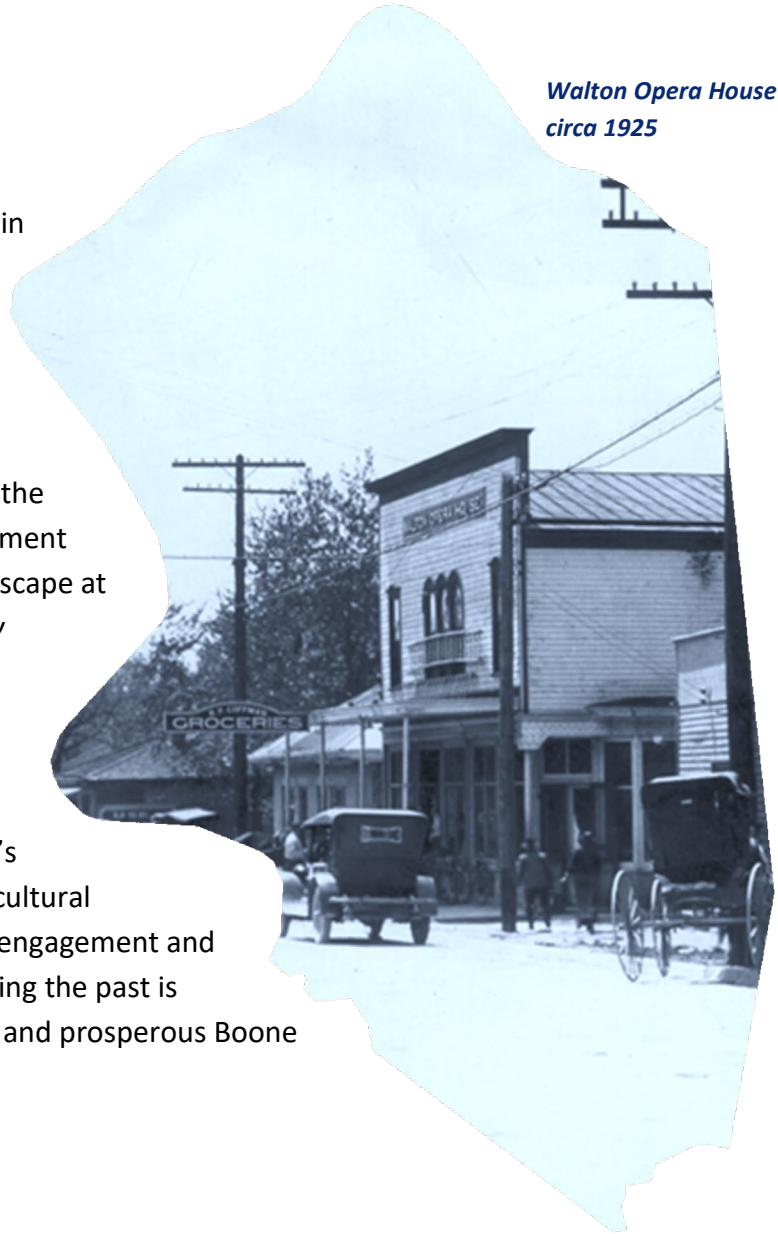
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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

Boone County stands at a pivotal moment in its history. With more than twelve thousand years of human activity embedded in its landscapes, river corridors, towns, farms, and neighborhoods, the county possesses a heritage that is both deep and diverse. At the same time, continued growth and development are reshaping its physical and cultural landscape at an unprecedented pace. *The Boone County Historic Preservation and Heritage Plan* provides a clear and forward-looking framework to ensure that Boone County's historic and prehistoric resources remain integral to its future. Rooted in the county's longstanding commitment to historic and cultural preservation and informed by community engagement and best practices, this Plan affirms that honoring the past is essential to shaping a resilient, distinctive, and prosperous Boone County for generations to come.

*Walton Opera House
circa 1925*



A. The Purpose of the Plan

Boone County's historic and prehistoric resources, including its river towns, crossroads communities, farms, cemeteries, landscapes, archaeological sites, and architectural landmarks, tell the story of more than 12,000 years of human presence. From the internationally significant resources at Big Bone Lick to the agricultural landscapes and transportation corridors that shaped the county's growth, heritage is foundational to Boone County's identity.

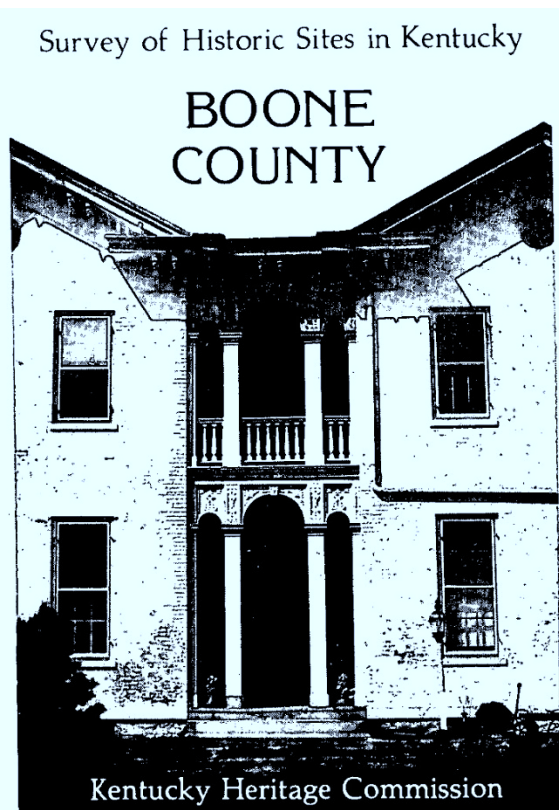
The purpose of the Boone County Historic Preservation and Heritage Plan is to promote, identify, protect, and preserve these resources in a manner that enhances quality of life and supports economic vitality for current and future generations. The Plan clarifies the role of preservation within

county planning, provides guidance to local decision makers, and establishes strategies that balance continued growth with stewardship of historic character.

As one of Kentucky’s fastest growing counties, Boone County faces both opportunity and risk. This Plan recognizes that preservation and economic development are not opposing forces but complementary tools that, when thoughtfully aligned, strengthen community identity, tourism, sustainability, and long-term prosperity.

B. Plan Development

This Plan builds upon decades of historic preservation leadership in Boone County. Since 2003, Boone County has secured nearly \$102,000 in Federal Survey and Planning grants ranging from \$5,000 to \$20,000. These grants have supported architectural surveys, archaeological investigations, National Register nominations, cemetery documentation, and heritage education programs. These projects have created the foundation for Boone County’s preservation program by identifying, documenting, and interpreting historic and prehistoric resources throughout the county.



The Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky: Boone County can be found at the [Kentucky Libraries Unbound](#).

The 1999 Boone County Preservation Plan was grounded in a comprehensive countywide survey that documented nearly 1,300 historic resources and established goals centered on education, documentation, and partnership. The updated Plan reflects a review of past preservation initiatives and accomplishments, analysis of current development patterns and demographic trends, and input from local officials, property owners, preservation advocates, and community stakeholders. It also incorporates best historic preservation and planning practices.

This Plan emphasizes public engagement and transparency, clear implementation tools with action steps, and coordination between preservation, zoning, economic development, and infrastructure planning.

The Plan is informed by survey data, historic context studies, archaeological documentation, regulatory frameworks, and public workshops. It is designed to be forward looking while rooted in Boone County’s established preservation foundation.

C. A Vision for Heritage and Preservation in Boone County

Boone County envisions a future in which growth and historic preservation work together to sustain the county's distinctive character. Historic river communities, rural crossroads, agricultural landscapes, cemeteries, archaeological sites, and twentieth century neighborhoods are valued as assets rather than obstacles to progress.

In this vision:

1 Historic buildings are reused and reinvested in as catalysts for economic vitality.

Historic buildings are actively reused and reinvested in, supporting local businesses, housing, and community development. Preservation helps strengthen Boone County's economy by turning historic assets into vibrant, productive places.

2 The Historic Preservation Program provides guidance for the treatment and protection of historic resources.

Boone County's Historic Preservation Program offers guidance, tools, and best practices to help property owners, communities, and decision-makers protect and steward historic resources. The program supports responsible rehabilitation and long-term preservation.

3 Historic preservation is integrated into countywide planning efforts.

Boone County's Historic Preservation Program offers guidance, tools, and best practices to help property owners, communities, and decision-makers protect and steward historic resources. The program supports responsible rehabilitation and long-term preservation.

4 Archaeological and prehistoric resources are documented, respected, and protected.

Archaeological and prehistoric resources, including burial sites and historic cemeteries, are recognized as important parts of Boone County's history and are documented, studied, and protected. These efforts help preserve evidence of the region's earliest communities and ensure that places of cultural and ancestral significance are treated with respect for future generations.

5 Preservation supports tourism, education, and heritage-based economic development.

Historic sites and cultural landscapes contribute to heritage tourism and provide opportunities for education and community storytelling. Preservation strengthens the local economy while helping residents and visitors connect with Boone County's past.

6 Rural landscapes and scenic vistas are integrated into planning decisions.

Boone County values its rural landscapes and scenic views as important cultural and environmental resources. Planning decisions consider these features to maintain the county's unique character and sense of place.

7 New development is thoughtfully designed to complement existing historic character.

New development is encouraged to respect and complement the scale, materials, and character of surrounding historic areas. Thoughtful design helps ensure growth enhances rather than diminishes Boone County's historic identity.

8 Individuals, organizations, and communities across Boone County support heritage and preservation efforts.

Preservation in Boone County is strengthened through collaboration among residents, nonprofits, businesses, and local governments. These partnerships help protect historic resources and celebrate the county's shared heritage.

9 Residents understand and take pride in their shared heritage.

Through education, storytelling, and community engagement, residents develop a deeper understanding of Boone County's history. This shared awareness fosters pride and encourages stewardship of historic places and traditions.

Boone County’s heritage is both tangible and intangible. It includes early settlement patterns along the Ohio River, agricultural traditions, faith communities, transportation corridors, civic institutions, and twentieth century suburban growth shaped by the airport and interstate system. This Plan envisions historic preservation as an essential component of sustainable community development that leaves a legacy of identity, stewardship, and prosperity.

D. How to Use This Plan

This Plan serves multiple audiences and functions. Following is an overview of how the plan can be used for various stakeholders.

| Local Officials and Staff | Property Owners and Developers | Community Members | Preservation Partners |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>The Plan provides a policy framework for integrating preservation into zoning, comprehensive planning, infrastructure projects, and development review. It offers guidance for evaluating impacts to historic and prehistoric resources and outlines opportunities to leverage state and federal preservation programs, including Certified Local Government grants and Section 106 review processes.</p> | <p>The Plan provides information about incentives, best practices, and design approaches that support compatible reinvestment, along with clarity regarding review processes and preservation considerations.</p> | <p>The Plan serves as an educational tool that explains the value of historic preservation and identifies opportunities for engagement and stewardship.</p> | <p>The Plan functions as a strategic action document with prioritized goals, timelines, and implementation responsibilities.</p> |

This Plan is intended to be a living document. While this plan is not legally binding, it should be referenced during comprehensive plan updates, zoning amendments, capital improvement planning, and major development proposals. Regular progress reviews and updates will ensure that the Plan remains relevant and actionable as Boone County continues to grow and evolve.

Ultimately, this Plan affirms that Boone County's heritage is a shared community resource. By working collaboratively and proactively, Boone County can continue to grow while preserving the historic character, cultural depth, and landscape beauty that define its sense of place.

Chapter 2

WHY PRESERVE

*Rabbit Hash 1986
from the KY Post*

A. What is Historic and Heritage Preservation

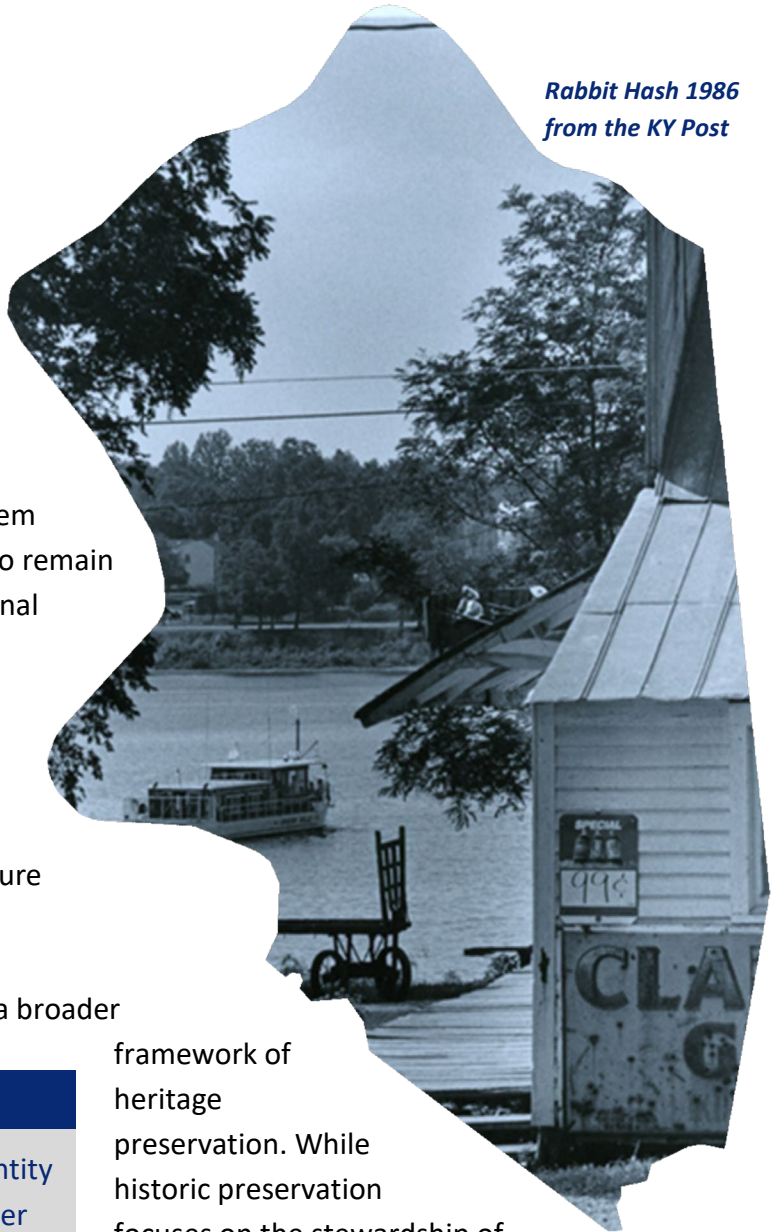
Historic preservation means keeping buildings, landscapes, and places of historic and cultural value in active and meaningful use while protecting the character-defining features that make them significant. It does not require buildings to remain frozen in time or unchanged in their original form. Instead, historic preservation encourages thoughtful rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and appropriate improvements that allow historic resources to remain viable and relevant while ensuring they are preserved for future generations.

In Boone County, this work exists within a broader

Cultural Resource

A cultural resource may be a tangible entity or a cultural practice and typically greater than 50 years of age. Tangible cultural resources are categorized as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects for the national register of historic places, and as archaeological resources, cultural landscapes, structures, museum objects, and ethnographic resources for National Park Service (NPS) management purposes. By their nature, cultural resources are non-renewable. *Source: Secretary of the Interior National Park Service.*

framework of heritage preservation. While historic preservation focuses on the stewardship of physical places, heritage preservation encompasses a wider range of cultural resources, including historic homes and commercial buildings, rural landscapes, farms, cemeteries, archaeological sites, historic districts, and cultural landmarks. Together, these resources reflect the county's development from early settlement and agriculture to the growth of towns, transportation corridors, and modern communities. Preserving them helps maintain

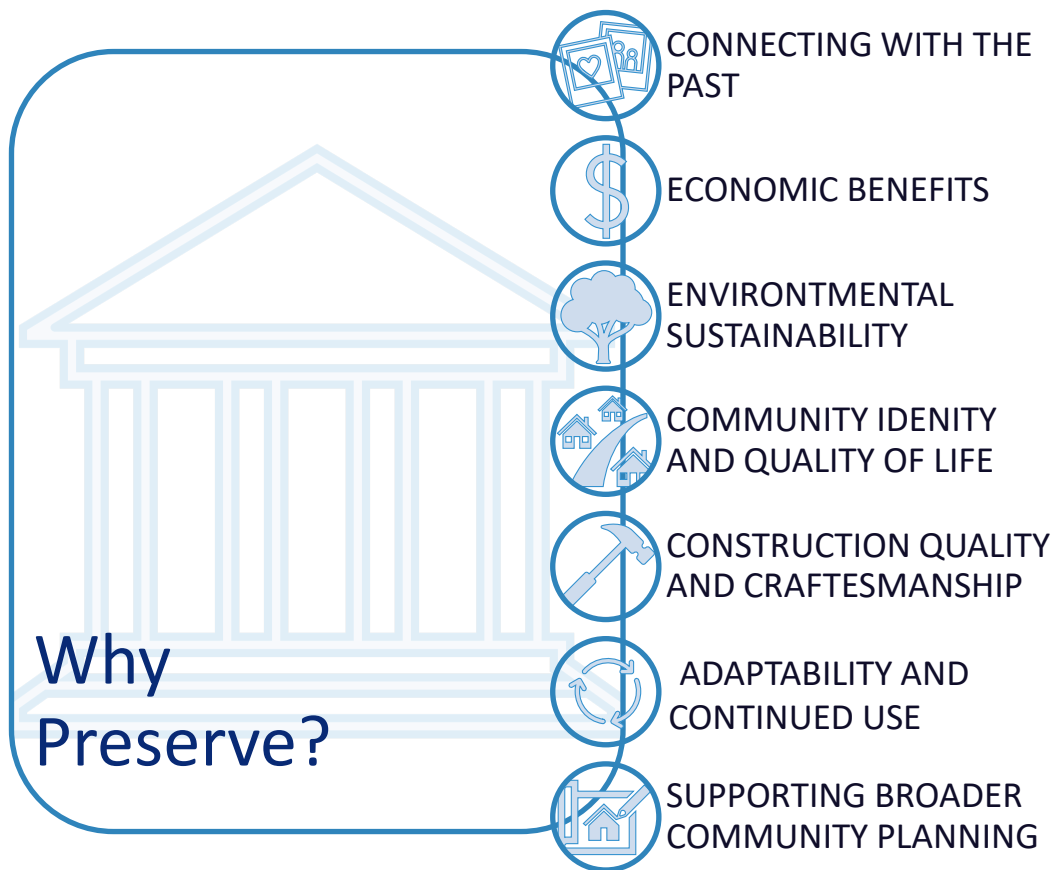


Boone County’s sense of place and provides a visible and meaningful connection to its history. Heritage preservation is closely connected to broader community goals. It supports neighborhood livability, sustainable development, economic vitality, and cultural identity. In Boone County, preservation extends beyond the physical care of historic places to include education, documentation, and community engagement that help residents and visitors understand and value the county’s shared heritage.

Successful preservation programs do not operate in isolation. Boone County’s heritage and historic preservation efforts are strengthened through partnerships with local communities, preservation organizations, and state and federal programs, as well as engaged residents. Together, these partnerships provide advocacy, financial support, technical expertise, and educational opportunities that help sustain and advance preservation efforts across the county.

B. Why is Historic and Heritage Preservation Important

Historic and heritage preservation contributes to the cultural, economic, environmental, and social well-being of Boone County. Preserving historic places helps maintain the county’s identity while supporting sustainable growth and community vitality.



Economic Benefit of Historic Preservation

Information on the economic benefits and impacts of historic preservation can be viewed by using these links.

Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation:

<https://www.placeeconomics.com>

Economic Impact of Historic Preservation in KY:

<https://preservationkentucky.org>

The Contributions of Historic Sites to Local Economies

<https://rooseveltvanerbilt.org>

Measuring Economic Impacts of Historic Preservation: A Report to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation by Place Economics:

<https://www.achp.gov>

Connecting with the Past

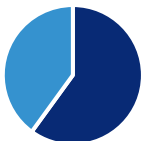
Historic buildings, landscapes, cemeteries, and archaeological sites provide tangible connections to Boone County's past. Longtime residents may recognize former uses of buildings or remember community events tied to these places, while newer residents gain opportunities to learn about the county's history through the places they live, work, and visit. Preserving these resources ensures that the stories of Boone County remain visible and accessible for future generations.

Economic Benefits

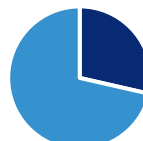
Historic and heritage preservation is a proven economic development strategy that supports job creation, strengthens local businesses, stabilizes property values, and generates long-term public revenue. Research at both the national and state levels consistently shows that investing in existing buildings delivers strong economic returns.

Historic buildings provide unique and flexible spaces for businesses, housing, and community uses, particularly in traditional downtowns and small-town centers. Their character and scale make them especially attractive for small businesses, helping to create vibrant, walkable places that draw residents and visitors alike.

Rehabilitation and adaptive reuse projects generate significant economic activity that supports the community at large. Studies by PlaceEconomics and the Kentucky Heritage Council show in Kentucky that for each million dollars spent in the rehabilitation of a historic building adds 23 jobs to the local economy. Because this work relies more heavily on local labor and skilled trades, more of the investment stays within the local economy.



60% Spent of
Labor in Rehabilitation



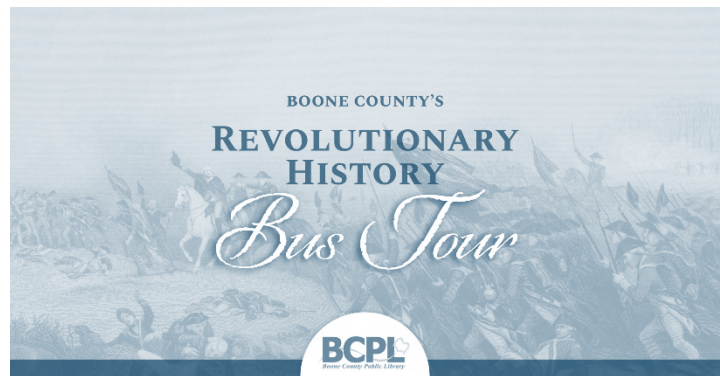
30% Spent of Labor
in New Construction

*Spending more on skilled labor keeps money in the local economy, supporting local jobs and businesses, whereas money spent on materials often leaves the community to pay for products manufactured elsewhere. Statistics from *The Economics of Historic Preservation: A Community Leader's Guide*.*

In Kentucky, historic preservation incentives have leveraged hundreds of millions of dollars in private investment, supporting building rehabilitation, job creation, and increased property values. These investments return underutilized buildings to productive use while expanding the tax base without requiring new infrastructure.

Preservation also supports property value stability and growth. Studies show that properties in National Register historic districts and especially those in local historic districts often perform as well as or better than comparable properties that are not within historic districts, with added protection against market volatility. This is especially important in growing areas like Boone County, where development pressure can impact existing and historic communities, or during economic downturns where designated properties retain their value more consistently.

In 2024, according to the Kentucky Department of Tourism, tourism created a \$2.3 billion impact in Northern Kentucky. Cultural and heritage tourism is a key part of the tourism attractions in Northern Kentucky, and especially in Boone County. Places such as Visitors are drawn to authentic places, and research shows they tend to stay longer and spend more, benefiting local businesses. Boone County's river towns, rural landscapes, and historic resources are well positioned to support this type of tourism.



An advertisement for a heritage tourism bus tour in Boone County for the American 250 Celebration.

Preservation further supports small business development by providing affordable, adaptable spaces in older buildings. It also maximizes existing infrastructure by encouraging reinvestment in established areas, reducing vacancy, and limiting the need for costly expansion.

In Boone County, these combined benefits position historic and heritage preservation as an important tool for managing growth in a way that builds on existing assets while supporting long-term economic vitality.

Research shows that building reuse avoids 50-75% of the embodied carbon emissions that an identical new building would generate because renovations typically reuse most of the carbon-intensive parts of the building — the foundation, structure, and building envelope- National Trust for Historic Preservation- Preservation Green Lab

Environmental Sustainability

Preserving and reusing historic buildings is an environmentally responsible approach to development. Rehabilitating an existing building conserves the energy, materials, and craftsmanship already invested in its construction while reducing demolition waste and the need for new building materials. This practice supports broader sustainability goals and encourages responsible stewardship of existing resources.

Community Identity and Quality of Life

Historic places help define the character of Boone County’s communities. Historic neighborhoods, rural landscapes, and downtown districts create distinctive environments that foster a strong sense of place. Walkable streets, historic architecture, and recognizable landmarks encourage community interaction and contribute to a high quality of life for residents.

Construction Quality and Craftsmanship

Many historic buildings were constructed using high-quality materials and craftsmanship that can be difficult to replicate today. Mature timber, durable masonry, and detailed architectural features often give historic structures longevity and character. These qualities make historic buildings valuable assets that continue to serve communities for generations.

Adaptability and Continued Use

Historic buildings can be highly adaptable to changing needs. Large rooms, flexible floor plans, and durable construction allow historic structures to accommodate new uses while retaining their historic character. Adaptive reuse allows communities to meet modern needs while preserving the physical fabric of their history.



The Tousey House Tavern in downtown Burlington, shows how adaptive reuse brings new life to historic spaces. Once a 19th-century home, it now thrives as a tavern—preserving history while serving the community today.

Supporting Broader Community Planning

Historic preservation works best when it is integrated into broader planning efforts.

Preservation supports community goals related to housing, tourism, economic development, sustainability, arts and culture, and infrastructure. By incorporating historic and heritage preservation into countywide planning

and policy decisions, Boone County can ensure that growth occurs in a way that respects and builds upon its historic character.

Comprehensive Plan

An overview of the comprehensive plan's policies and actions related to historic preservation can be found here:

https://bcpcy.org/community_development/comprehensive_plan.php

C. Who Engages in Historic and Heritage Preservation

Historic and heritage preservation in Boone County involves collaboration among a wide range of individuals, organizations, and public agencies. Successful preservation efforts rely on partnerships that support the protection, stewardship, and celebration of the county's historic and cultural resources.



Local governments play an important role through planning, zoning, and preservation programs that guide development and protect historic resources. The Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board and planning staff provide guidance to property owners, review proposed changes to historic properties, and support preservation initiatives throughout the county. The Boone County Public Library also plays an important role by collecting and preserving historical records, photographs, and local stories, and by providing educational programs and research resources that help residents and visitors better understand the county's history.

Community organizations, historical societies, museums, and preservation advocates also contribute by researching local history, maintaining historic sites and cemeteries, providing educational programs, and promoting heritage tourism. These organizations help document Boone County's history and share it with residents and visitors.

Property owners and business owners are essential partners in preservation as well. Many historic buildings, farms, and commercial properties remain in private ownership, and their continued care, rehabilitation, and adaptive reuse play a critical role in preserving Boone County's heritage while supporting vibrant local businesses and economic activity.

Residents, educators, students, and volunteers also support preservation through community engagement, storytelling, and stewardship. By sharing knowledge, supporting preservation initiatives, and taking pride in local history, the people of Boone County help ensure that the county's heritage remains a valued and visible part of community life.

Chapter 3

HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF BOONE COUNTY

*Burlington Courthouse
in 1900*



A. Geography and Natural Setting

Boone County is located in the northernmost part of Kentucky within the largest bend of the Ohio River, just downstream from Cincinnati, Ohio. The Ohio River forms the county's northern and western boundaries for approximately forty-two miles, shaping both its geography and early development. The landscape is characteristic of the outer Bluegrass region of Kentucky, consisting of gently rolling hills, steep wooded slopes, and fertile bottomlands along the river and its tributaries.

The county is drained by numerous creeks and small streams that flow westward toward the Ohio River. Many of these waterways originate along the Great Ridge, also known as the Dry Ridge Divide, a prominent north-south ridge along the county's eastern boundary. For centuries, this natural corridor has served as a major transportation route through the region. In the nineteenth century it carried travelers and stagecoaches between Cincinnati and Lexington, and today it continues to function as an important corridor through U.S. 25, historically known as the Dixie Highway.

The natural landscape of Boone County played a significant role in shaping its early settlement patterns, agricultural economy, and transportation routes. Fertile soils, access to river transportation, and abundant natural resources encouraged early settlement and agricultural development that defined much of the county's historic character.

B. Prehistoric and Early Exploration (Pre-1770s)

Human activity in Boone County dates back thousands of years. Archaeological evidence indicates that Paleo-Indian, Archaic, Woodland, and Fort Ancient cultures inhabited the region long before European exploration. The county's waterways, fertile soils, and natural resources supported early hunting, fishing, and agricultural communities. Archaeological sites throughout the county continue to provide important insights into the lives of these early inhabitants.

One of the most significant natural and historic landmarks in the county is Big Bone Lick, where natural salt springs attracted animals and humans for thousands of years. Prehistoric mammals such as mastodons and mammoths were drawn to the salt deposits, leaving behind fossilized remains that later attracted scientific attention.

European exploration of the area began in the early eighteenth century. In 1729 a French explorer traveling down the Ohio River recorded the discovery of large prehistoric bones at Big Bone Lick, marking the site on his map with a notation referring to the discovery of the bones of an "elephant." In the decades that followed, the site became widely known among explorers, scientists, and early settlers as one of the most remarkable natural curiosities in North America.



Workers expose the remains of burned house walls and roof encountered in the midden ring at the Cleek-McCabe Archeological Site, a circular Fort Ancient village situated in the floodplain of Mud Lick Creek. Image from Kentucky Archaeological Survey.

C. Early Settlement and Frontier Communities (1770s–1820s)

Following the end of the French and Indian War, the Ohio Valley became increasingly accessible to British and American settlers. Surveyors began mapping land in the region in the 1770s when the area was part of Fincastle County, Virginia.

Permanent European American settlement began toward the end of the eighteenth century. In 1789 Baptist minister John Tanner established Tanner's Station along the Ohio River, which became the

The John Tanner House stands as a rare surviving link to Boone County's early settlement period, reflecting the craftsmanship, materials, and rural lifeways of the early 19th century. Image from Kentucky Historic Resource Inventory.



first permanent settlement in what would later become Boone County. The community was later renamed Petersburg in 1818 and developed into an important river town and commercial center.

Boone County was officially created by the Kentucky Legislature in 1798 and formally organized in 1799. At the time of its establishment, the county had a population of roughly 1,500 residents. The county seat

was established in Burlington, originally named Wilmington, on land donated by Robert Johnson and John Hawkins Craig. Early government meetings were initially held in private homes until a log courthouse was constructed, followed by a brick courthouse completed in 1817.

During this early settlement period, Boone County attracted migrants from Virginia, North Carolina, and other parts of Kentucky. Many settlers were of German ancestry who migrated from communities in Virginia and established Lutheran congregations in eastern Boone County. Irish immigrants later settled in the southern part of the county, particularly around Verona, where they established St. Patrick's Catholic Church. These diverse settlement patterns contributed to the county's cultural and religious heritage.

D. Agricultural Development and River Commerce (1820s–1860)

Throughout the nineteenth century, Boone County developed primarily as an agricultural community. Fertile soils supported the cultivation of corn, wheat, tobacco, and other crops, while livestock farming also became common. Agriculture remained the dominant economic activity for much of the county's history.



Built in 1842, the Dinsmore Homestead tells the story of Boone County's agricultural heritage through a preserved working farmstead. Image from Boone County Public Library

The Ohio River served as a vital transportation route and commercial artery. Several river towns developed along the Boone County shoreline, including Petersburg, Belleview, Taylorsport, Constance, and Rabbit Hash. These communities functioned as shipping points, ferry crossings, and service centers for surrounding farms. At various times, at least six ferry crossings connected Boone County with communities across the river in Ohio and Indiana.

The Petersburg Distillery reflects Boone County's agricultural economy, where locally grown grain was transformed into whiskey, linking farming to early industry and regional trade along the Ohio River. Image from NKY Views.



Petersburg emerged as one of the county's most important river communities, serving as both a commercial hub and an industrial center tied to agricultural production. The establishment of distilling operations, including what is now known as the Petersburg Distillery, reflects the region's strong connection between agriculture and early industry. Corn and other locally

grown crops were processed into distilled spirits, which were then transported along the Ohio River to regional and national markets. This relationship between farming, manufacturing, and river commerce illustrates how Boone County's agricultural economy supported broader trade networks during the nineteenth century.

Inland communities also developed around crossroads, churches, and mills that served the surrounding agricultural population. Communities such as Burlington, Florence, Walton, Union, and smaller rural settlements like Bullittsville and Beaverlick illustrate this pattern. Blacksmith shops, sawmills, gristmills, and general stores formed the centers of small rural communities throughout the county.

During this period, Boone County also had a significant enslaved population. Enslaved individuals contributed extensively to the agricultural economy and to the construction of homes, barns, and other buildings that remain part of the county's historic landscape today. Their labor also supported industries connected to agriculture, including milling and distilling, further tying their contributions to the county's economic development during this era.

E. Railroads, Small Town Growth, and Community Development (1860–1920)

Following the Civil War, Boone County entered a period of gradual economic and community development. Railroads reached the county in 1869, connecting communities such as Walton, Richwood, and Verona to regional markets and transportation networks. Walton emerged as an important railroad town and commercial center in the late nineteenth century. During this period, many Boone County communities developed around churches, schools, and local businesses. Rural crossroads communities served the needs of nearby farms and often included post offices, general stores, and social gathering places.

Architectural styles from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, including Italianate, Queen Anne, and early twentieth-century commercial buildings remain visible in towns such as Walton and Florence. These historic buildings provide an important record of the county's development during this era.



The 1883 Boone County Atlas documents a landscape defined by agriculture, illustrating farm boundaries, land ownership, and rural communities that shaped the county's economy and settlement patterns.

F. Transportation, Suburbanization, and Growth (1920–1999)

The early twentieth century brought significant changes to Boone County. Improvements in transportation, including railroads and later automobile highways, strengthened connections between Boone County and Cincinnati.



The construction of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport in 1947 marked a major turning point in the county's development. Located in northeastern Boone County, the airport became a major regional economic engine and attracted commercial and industrial development to the area.

Built in 1947, the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport marked a major shift in Boone County's landscape, transforming farmland into a regional transportation hub, as seen in this 1954 aerial view. Image from NKY Views.

The construction of Interstates 71 and 75 in the late 1960s further accelerated growth by improving regional accessibility. Suburban residential development expanded rapidly along the highway corridor, particularly in communities such as Florence and Union.

By the late twentieth century, Boone County had become one of the fastest growing counties in Kentucky. Recognizing the need to guide growth, the Boone County Planning Commission was established in 1966, and the county adopted its first comprehensive plan in 1980. These planning efforts sought to balance economic development with the preservation of rural landscapes, historic resources, and community character.

G. Boone County in the Twenty-First Century (1999–Present)

Since the adoption of the *Boone County Preservation Plan* in 1999, the county has continued to experience substantial growth and transformation. Boone County's population history reflects long periods of stability followed by rapid modern growth. The population reached approximately 10,000 residents by 1840 and remained near that level for more than a century. Significant population growth began in the 1950s and accelerated after the construction of Interstates 71 and 75 in the 1960s. Since 1960, Boone County's population has roughly doubled every twenty years, making it one of the fastest growing counties in Kentucky. Population increases, new residential development, and

expanding commercial and industrial activity have reshaped portions of the county while also placing new pressures on historic resources and rural landscapes.

At the same time, Boone County has increasingly recognized the value of its historic and cultural resources. Efforts to document historic buildings, cemeteries, and archaeological sites have expanded, and preservation planning has become more integrated with broader county planning initiatives.

Designated a Preserve America Community in 2013, Rabbit Hash reflects a strong commitment to preserving its historic character while celebrating its rural heritage and Ohio River roots. Image from Northern Kentucky Tribune.

Historic river communities such as Rabbit Hash have gained regional and national recognition for their historic character and preservation efforts. Traditional downtown areas in communities like Walton and Florence continue to serve as local centers of community life. Rural landscapes, historic farmsteads, and scenic corridors remain defining features of the county's identity.

Today, Boone County continues to balance rapid growth with the preservation of the historic landscapes, buildings, and cultural traditions that define its heritage. The county's historic resources provide an important foundation for community identity, heritage tourism, and sustainable development as Boone County moves forward into the future.



Chapter 4

HISTORIC & HERITAGE PRESERVATION IN BOONE COUNTY

Ryle-Neal Cemetery in Union



Boone County’s historic preservation program grew out of a long local tradition of valuing historic places, landscapes, cemeteries, and archaeological resources, and it has evolved into one of Kentucky’s more established countywide preservation programs. What began as individual stewardship and scattered advocacy has become a coordinated effort involving local government, state and federal partners, nonprofit organizations, property owners, and residents. Today, historic preservation in Boone County includes not only historic buildings and districts, but also cemeteries, prehistoric and archaeological resources, rural landscapes, and heritage tourism.

Historic and heritage preservation in Boone County also recognize the importance of documenting and interpreting the histories of all communities That have shaped the county. Efforts such as the study *African Americans in Boone County, Kentucky, 1799–1965* have helped broaden the understanding of Boone County’s past by documenting the experiences, contributions, and cultural landscapes associated with African American residents. This work has contributed to a more inclusive understanding of local history and has helped identify historic sites, institutions, and stories that are important to preserving Boone County’s diverse heritage

Boone County History by the Numbers

+1600 Historic Buildings

+220 Historic Cemeteries

+590 Archaeological Sites

109 NRHP-listed Buildings

5 NRHP Districts

2 Locally Designated Properties

These resources (other than archeological sites) can be mapped using [Boone County GIS Services](#)

A. History of the Program

Historic preservation in Boone County predates the formal local program by many years. One of the county's earliest preservation-related moments came in 1807, when President Thomas Jefferson commissioned William Clark to investigate and collect fossil remains from Big Bone Lick, placing Boone County at the center of early scientific study of natural and prehistoric resources in North America. For much of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, historic preservation occurred informally through continued use, repair, and adaptation of homes, barns, churches, schools, cemeteries, and farmsteads. The county's surviving historic fabric owes much to these practical decisions to maintain and reuse buildings rather than replace them.



An archeological dig at Big Bone Lick State Park. Image from Behringer-Crawford Museum

Modern historic preservation planning emerged in response to rapid change in the twentieth century. The expansion of transportation infrastructure, the development of the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, and increasing suburban growth placed new pressure on historic landscapes and communities. Recognizing the need to better manage these changes, Boone County Fiscal Court created the Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board in 1986. That same year, Boone County

became a Certified Local Government, formally linking the county to the national historic preservation framework administered through federal and state agencies.



During the late 1980s and 1990s, the program established many of the tools that still shape preservation work in Boone County. These efforts included architectural surveys, archaeological documentation, National Register nominations, and the development

A historic preservation booth at the Boone County 4-H and Utopia Fair in the 1990s highlights early community outreach efforts, where education and public engagement helped build local support for preserving Boone County's historic resources. Image from Boone County Historic Preservation Collection at the Boone County Public Library.

of educational programs. One of the program's most significant accomplishments during this period was the adoption of the *Boone County Cemetery Preservation Plan* in 1989 and updated in 2001. This plan addressed the preservation of family cemeteries, church cemeteries, public burial grounds, prehistoric burial sites, and burial mounds, creating Boone County's framework for protecting these important cultural landscapes.

Boone County envisions a future in which growth and historic preservation work together to sustain the county's distinctive character. Historic river communities, rural crossroads, agricultural landscapes, cemeteries, archaeological sites, and twentieth century neighborhoods are valued as assets rather than obstacles to progress.

Since the adoption of the 1999 *Boone County Preservation Plan*, Boone County has continued to expand and refine its preservation efforts. Additional historic resources have been documented through survey work, new historic districts have been recognized, and heritage tourism initiatives have grown. The listing of the Rabbit Hash Historic District and the Walton South Main Street Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places helped bring regional and national recognition to Boone County's historic resources. These milestones reflect the continued evolution of Boone County's historic preservation program from its early focus on documentation toward a broader effort that includes community identity, education, and economic development.



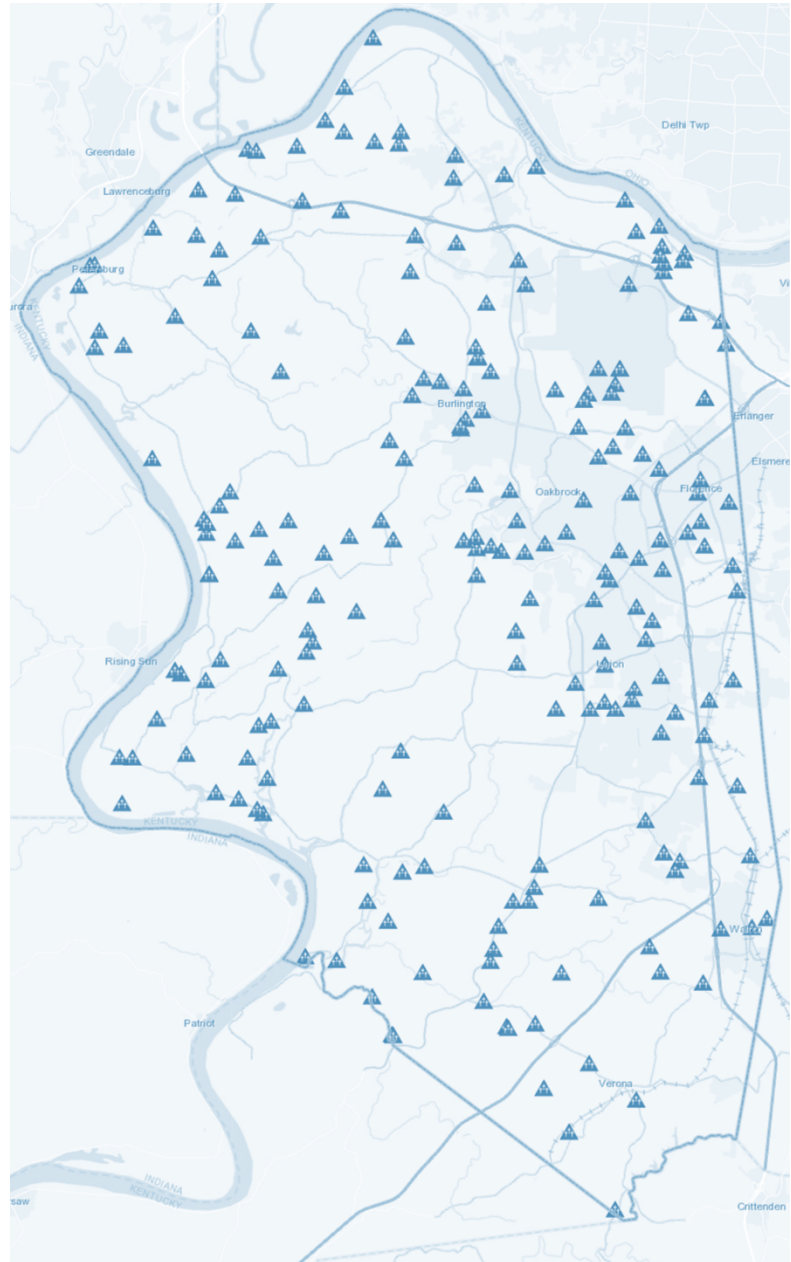
Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2011, the Walton South Main Street Historic District reflects Boone County's commitment to recognizing and protecting its historic commercial corridors. Image from Warren LeMay.

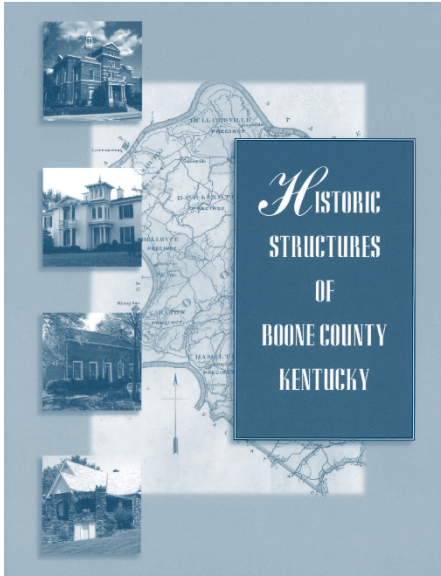
B. Preservation Program Accomplishments

Since the establishment of the Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board and the county's designation as a Certified Local Government in 1986, Boone County has undertaken numerous preservation initiatives that have strengthened the documentation and protection of historic resources. These accomplishments include:

- Completion of a comprehensive countywide architectural survey documenting more than 1,600 historic properties.

- Archaeological surveys of major watersheds including Gunpowder Creek, Mud Lick, and Woolper Creek.
- Adoption of the Boone County Cemetery Preservation Plan in 1990.
- Development of a GIS-based inventory of family cemeteries throughout Boone County.
- Publication of *Historic Structures of Boone County, Kentucky*, which highlights many of the county's most significant historic buildings.
- National Register nominations for districts and properties including Big Bone Lick, Rabbit Hash, Walton, Florence and Burlington.
- Development of heritage education programs including the elementary-level curriculum *River Born, Kentucky Bred*.
- Public workshops and educational programs focused on cemetery preservation and historic building stewardship.
- Implementation of the Boone County Historic Cemetery Restoration Project in collaboration with the Boone County Jail's Community Service Program.





C. Implementation of the 1999 *Boone County Historic Preservation Plan*

The *Boone County Historic Preservation Plan*, adopted in

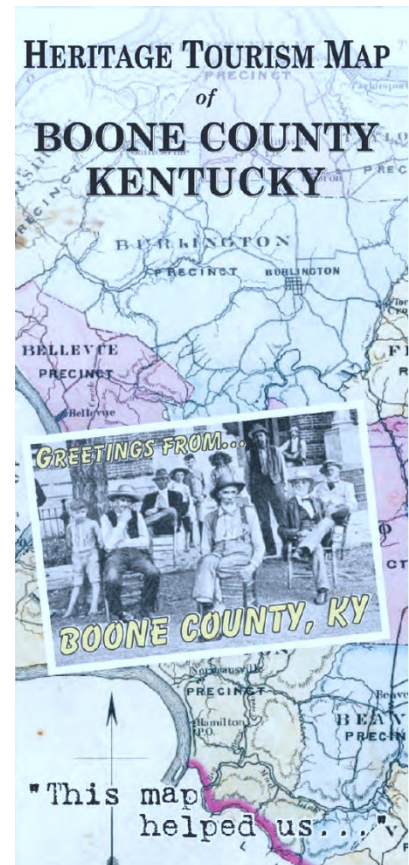
^ This GIS-based map identifies over 200 cemeteries across Boone County, providing a critical tool for documenting, protecting, and planning for these important cultural and historic landscapes.

*< Published in 2002, *Historic Structures of Boone County, Kentucky* documents the county's historic buildings and landscapes, serving as an important tool for identifying, recording, and supporting local*

1999, marked an important milestone in the formalization of historic preservation efforts within the county. It established a clear set of goals and objectives focused on promoting, identifying, protecting, and preserving Boone County's historic and prehistoric resources. As part of the broader history of the Boone County Historic Preservation Program, the following summary reflects on how these goals have been advanced over time. Over the past two decades, the program has evolved alongside the county's growth, expanding its role in education, planning, and community development while continuing to build a stronger foundation for preservation. This reflection highlights both the progress made and the ways in which these early priorities continue to shape preservation efforts today.

Goal I: Promote historic and prehistoric resources as a vital part of Boone County's past and future

- Since the adoption of the 1999 *Boone County Preservation Plan*, Boone County has made meaningful progress in elevating awareness and understanding of its historic and prehistoric resources. The use of Facebook to promote local history, the publication of the book *Historic Structures of Boone County*, and the publication of the *Architectural Survey* on the Boone County Planning Commission website has made information accessible to wide variety of audiences.
- Partnerships with organizations such as the Boone County Public Library, local historical groups, and regional institutions have expanded access to historical records, story maps, and public programming.
- Educational efforts have grown through , exhibits, community events, bus tours, participation in NKY Restoration Weekend and NKY History Day, and interpretive initiatives that connect residents and visitors to the county’s heritage and preservation tools.
- Tourism promotion has also evolved, with increased emphasis on heritage tourism, storytelling, and digital access to information. The creation of the Boone County Heritage Tourism Map is a tangible example of this promotion.



The heritage tourism map, developed through a partnership between the Boone County Planning Commission, the Boone County Public Library, and regional tourism partners, reflects a successful implementation of the 1999 Boone County Historic Preservation Plan, connecting visitors to Boone County’s historic places.

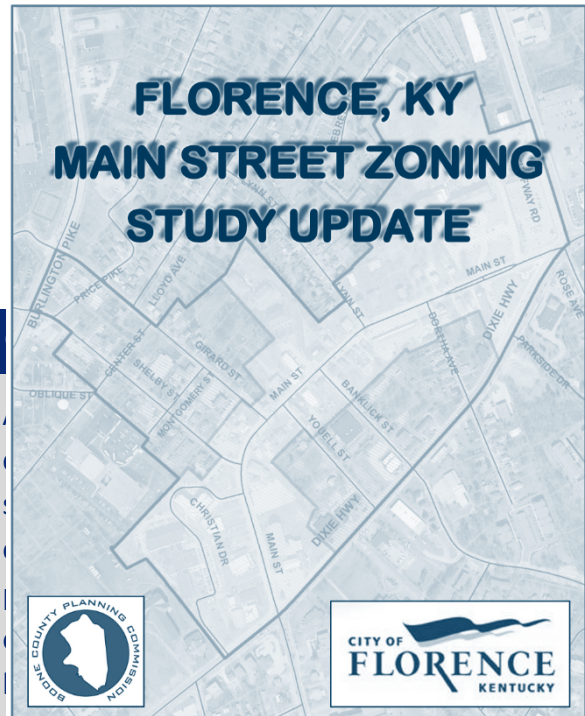
Goal II: Identify historic and prehistoric resources as valuable community assets

- Boone County has strengthened its identification and documentation of historic resources through continued survey efforts, National Register nominations, and expanded access to cultural resource information. Since 1999- 5 districts, 5 sites, and 27 buildings have been added to the National Register of Historic Places.
- The publication of *The Prehistoric Farmers of Boone County, Kentucky* in 2006 as part of the Archeological Survey education series honored the stewardship of this history throughout Boone County.
- The integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into planning processes has improved the ability to record and utilize data related to historic, archaeological, and cemetery resources. There are individual layers for historic sites, national register districts, local districts and cemeteries.

- There is growing recognition of natural and cultural landscapes, such as the Ohio River corridor, as important heritage assets.

Goal III: Protect historic and prehistoric resources from threats

- Two local historic designations, Rabbit Hash and an 1865 Farm outside of Petersburg, have been established in Boone County.
- Special Districts and Small Study Overlay zones have been created to establish design guidelines and planning policies to support the retention of historic community centers and rural landscapes. These include Florence, Petersburg, Bellevue, Rabbit Hash, Walton and Demolition review of all properties deemed historic has increased the discussion of adaptive reuse and inclusion of historic properties into redevelopment efforts.
- Historic Preservation has been included in Boone County Comprehensive Plans since 2000.



Prepared by the Boone County Planning Commission for the City of Florence, Kentucky March 2022

dedicated grant funding. Boone county’s CLG status strengthens its ability to support

The Florence Main Street Zoning Study update demonstrates how planning tools can support historic preservation by encouraging compatible development, reinforcing traditional development patterns, and maintaining the character of the corridor.

Goal IV: Preserve resources through economic and programmatic strategies

- Boone County has maintained its Certified Local Government (CLG) status, ensuring continued access to funding, technical assistance, and alignment with state and federal preservation programs.
- While local financial incentives are still evolving, property owners have benefited from state and federal historic tax credit programs, supporting the rehabilitation and reuse of historic buildings.
- There has been increased emphasis on the economic value of preservation, particularly as it relates to heritage tourism, community revitalization, and sustainable development.

C. Current State of the Program

Today, the Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) remains the center of the county's preservation program. The board consists of seven volunteer members appointed by Boone County Fiscal Court and is supported by staff within the Boone County Planning Commission. The program continues to operate through Boone County's Certified Local Government status, which provides access to technical assistance, training, and grant opportunities through state and federal preservation programs.

The HPRB serves primarily as an advisory body that supports Boone County Fiscal Court, the Planning Commission, and local governments on matters related to historic preservation. In carrying out the purposes of the county's historic preservation ordinance, the HPRB undertakes a range of responsibilities including acting as a liaison between local government and individuals or organizations interested in historic preservation; conducting surveys of historic buildings, sites, and areas and preparing plans for their preservation; and recommending the designation of local historic districts and individual landmarks. The HPRB also regulates changes to designated landmarks and districts, including proposed alterations and new construction, and adopts guidelines to guide appropriate treatment of historic properties

While designation remains one of the most visible preservation tools, Boone County's historic preservation program today extends beyond traditional landmarking to include a broader set of planning and regulatory strategies. Tools such as demolition review processes and zoning overlays play an increasingly important role in identifying, evaluating, and protecting historic resources, particularly in areas that may not yet be formally designated.

The county's demolition review process serves as a critical first line of defense for historic resources. All demolition requests are evaluated to determine whether a property possesses historic or architectural significance. This review process allows the Historic Preservation Office to identify previously undocumented or unprotected resources and, when appropriate, pause or influence decision making before irreversible loss occurs. When significant resources are identified, the process may require documentation, including interior and exterior photographs or more detailed architectural survey reports, ensuring that important information is recorded. In some cases, demolition review also creates an opportunity to explore alternatives such as adaptive reuse, relocation, or incorporation of historic materials into new development. As such, demolition review

Demolition Review Process

A **Development Project** that includes a historic property that is to be demolished is submitted to the **Boone County Planning Commission Staff**.

Historic Preservation Office reviews all applications for historic resources on the property.

If a historic resource is identified, the Boone County Planning Commission may be notified in writing of resource with recommended, but non-binding, action regarding the resource. For a historic structures, either:

- The structure/site is recommended for preservation/protection via adaptive reuse
- An architectural survey through a Department of the Interior-approved consult is recommended as a condition of approval.

A **Demolition Permit** is submitted to the **Boone County Building Department**.

Historic Preservation Office reviews all applications for historic resources on the property.

If a historic resource is identified, the Boone Building Department may be notified in writing of resource with recommended, but non-binding, actions regarding the resource. For a historic structure:

- Both interior and exterior photographs of the structure/site are typically requested from the property owner to be either sent to the Building Department or the County Historic Preservation Officer (CHPO)/ Preservation Planner directly.
- Once photograph documentation is received, the County Historic Preservation Officer (CHPO)/ Preservation Planner notifies the Building Department that the demolition permit may be issued.

functions not only as a documentation tool but as an intervention point within the development process.

Similarly, the Small Community Overlay provides a planning framework that supports preservation outcomes at the community scale. By establishing design expectations, development patterns, and context-sensitive standards, the overlay helps maintain the historic character of smaller rural and river communities without requiring full historic district designation. This approach allows Boone County to guide compatible infill, protect traditional settlement patterns, and reinforce the visual and cultural identity of these places. In this way, the overlay acts as a proactive preservation tool that integrates historic character into everyday land use decisions.

In addition, the HPRB works with and advises federal, state, county, and municipal agencies on preservation issues, including participation in federally funded project reviews under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The HPRB provides technical assistance to property owners, neighborhood organizations, and community groups interested in preservation, and may initiate plans for the preservation and rehabilitation of significant historic resources. Educational activities such as publications, historic markers, and public outreach are also part of the HPRB's work. Current responsibilities further include implementation of the *Boone County Cemetery Preservation Plan*, ongoing survey and documentation of historic and prehistoric resources, and the development of strategies that strengthen preservation efforts throughout the county.

The historic preservation program has also expanded its role in public education and community engagement. Educational programs, publications, walking tours, and heritage resources made available through the Planning Commission and local partners help residents and visitors better understand Boone County's history. The annual Preservation Awards program recognizes individuals and organizations that have demonstrated outstanding stewardship of historic properties.

Boone County's preservation program today operates within a broader planning context than it did when the original preservation plan was adopted. Preservation considerations are increasingly integrated into land use planning, zoning tools, tourism initiatives, and community development

Section 106

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 establishes a review process for projects that involve federal funding, permits, or approvals. The process requires federal agencies to identify historic properties, evaluate how a project may affect them, and explore ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate harm. Consultation is a key component and often includes the State Historic Preservation Office, local governments, and interested stakeholders. In Boone County, Section 106 reviews play an important role in ensuring that federally funded or permitted projects consider potential impacts to historic buildings, archaeological sites, and cultural landscapes.

efforts. This expanded toolkit reflects a shift from historic preservation as a standalone activity to preservation as an integral part of how the county plans for growth and change. However, the central challenge identified in the original plan remains: balancing continued population growth and development with the protection of historic landscapes, archaeological sites, cemeteries, and historic buildings.

Local Legislation related to Historic Preservation

- [Historic Landmarks and District Overlays \(H\)- Boone County Zoning Ordinance, Article 21](#)
- [Historic Preservation Review Board- Boone County Zoning Ordinance, Article 21, Section 2102](#)
- [Florence Main Street Regulations- Boone County Zoning Ordinance Article 23](#)
- [Walton Downtown District- Boone County Zoning Ordinance Article 24](#)
- [Small Community Overlay District \(SC\)- Boone County Zoning Ordinance, Article 20](#)
- [Cemetery Regulations- Boone County Zoning Ordinance Article 31, Section 3166 and Boone County Subdivision Regulations](#)

D. Designations

Boone County utilizes several types of historic preservation designation, each serving a different purpose in recognizing and protecting historic resources. The most widely recognized designation is listing in the National Register of Historic Places. National Register listing acknowledges the historical, architectural, or cultural significance of a property or district and can make historically and architecturally significant properties eligible for certain incentives, such as Historic Preservation Tax Credits and grants, at both the Federal and State level. However, National Register listing alone does not regulate private property unless federal funding or permitting is involved.

Several properties and districts in Boone County have been listed in the National Register, including the Burlington Historic District, the Rabbit Hash Historic District, Florence Main Street Historic District and the Walton South Main Street Historic District. These designations recognize the architectural and historical significance of these communities and contribute to their identity as historic places. Boone County has 8 districts, 92 individual buildings, 8 sites, and 1 structure listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This includes the National Historic Landmark District of Big Bone Lick Archaeological District.



Boone County's two locally designated historic resources, the Rabbit Hash Historic District and a circa 1865 farm complex near Petersburg.

In addition to National Register listings, Boone County has established a local designation framework through its zoning regulations. The Historic Landmark and Historic District Overlay District provides a mechanism for local designation and design review. Local designation allows the county to guide changes to historic buildings and ensure that alterations or new development are compatible with the historic character of designated areas. The Rabbit Hash Historic District is an example of a community that combines National Register recognition with local historic district protections.

Boone County's designation framework also recognizes resources beyond buildings and districts. The county's preservation program addresses cemeteries, burial places, archaeological sites, and prehistoric resources as important cultural assets. This broader approach reflects the county's rich prehistoric heritage and the

importance of burial grounds and archaeological landscapes to Boone County's history.

Together, these designation tools create a layered preservation framework that recognizes historic significance, encourages stewardship, and provides mechanisms for protecting important resources.

Historic Tax Credit Programs

Historic Tax Credits are powerful tools that support the rehabilitation of historic buildings. The federal program, administered through the National Park Service, provides a 20 percent income tax credit for the certified rehabilitation of income-producing historic properties listed in or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. <https://www.nps.gov>

In Kentucky, the state Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program offers additional incentives of up to 30 percent for qualifying rehabilitation projects, including both residential and commercial properties. Together, these programs help make preservation projects more financially feasible while encouraging investment in historic communities. <https://heritage.ky.gov>

E. Incentives and Benefits

Historic preservation in Boone County is supported by a range of incentives and benefits that encourage the rehabilitation and continued use of historic properties. One of the most significant financial incentives available to property owners is the historic rehabilitation tax credit. Both federal and state programs provide tax incentives for the rehabilitation of historic buildings that meet established preservation standards. These incentives can help offset the cost of rehabilitation and encourage the adaptive reuse of historic structures.

Boone County's participation in the Certified Local Government program also provides important benefits. Through this program, the county is eligible to apply for grants that support preservation planning, architectural surveys, National Register nominations, public education programs, and technical assistance. These grants have historically supported much of the survey and documentation work that forms the foundation of the county's preservation program.

Preservation also provides broader community benefits. Historic buildings and landscapes contribute to community identity, reinforce a sense of place, and provide opportunities for heritage and cultural tourism. Historic districts and preserved landmarks often become focal points for community pride and economic activity, attracting visitors and supporting local businesses.

Educational benefits are also significant. Preservation programs help residents learn about the county's history through walking tours, publications, school programs, and interpretive



materials. By increasing awareness of Boone County’s heritage, these efforts encourage stewardship and appreciation of historic resources.

F. Preservation Partners

Historic preservation in Boone County relies on collaboration among a wide range of partners. At the local government level, Boone County Fiscal Court, the Boone County Planning Commission, and the Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board work together to guide preservation policy and integrate preservation considerations into planning and development decisions.

State and federal agencies also play an important role in supporting preservation efforts. Through the Certified Local Government program, Boone County works with preservation professionals at the state and national levels who provide guidance, technical expertise, and grant funding to support preservation initiatives.

Community organizations and nonprofit groups are essential partners as well. Organizations such as the Boone County Historical Society, the Dinsmore Homestead Foundation, Friends of Big Bone, the Rabbit Hash Historical Society, and Friends of Gaines Tavern contribute to preservation through advocacy, interpretation, stewardship of historic sites, and public programming.



The Dinsmore Homestead shared its agricultural and preservation story with the community through a display at the 2024 NKY Restoration Weekend, highlighting the importance of ongoing stewardship and public engagement.

The Boone County Public Library also plays an important role by collecting and preserving historical records, photographs, and local stories while providing research resources and educational programming related to Boone County history.

Finally, property owners, business owners, churches, cemetery caretakers, educators, students, and volunteers remain vital preservation partners. Many of Boone County’s historic buildings, landscapes, and cemeteries have survived because individuals chose to maintain them, restore them, or advocate for their protection. The long-term success of Boone County’s preservation efforts depends on the

continued partnership between public institutions and the residents who value and care for the county's historic resources.

BCPL African Americans of Boone County, Kentucky

Freedom Seeking Activities & the Underground Railroad

For decades, there was speculation as to Boone County, Kentucky's role in regional Underground Railroad (UGRR) activities, but little to no evidence. Resources such as the Wilber H. Siebert Collection at the Ohio Historical Society, provided clues as to the crossing points, possible routes and the key players in Boone County's most controversial story.

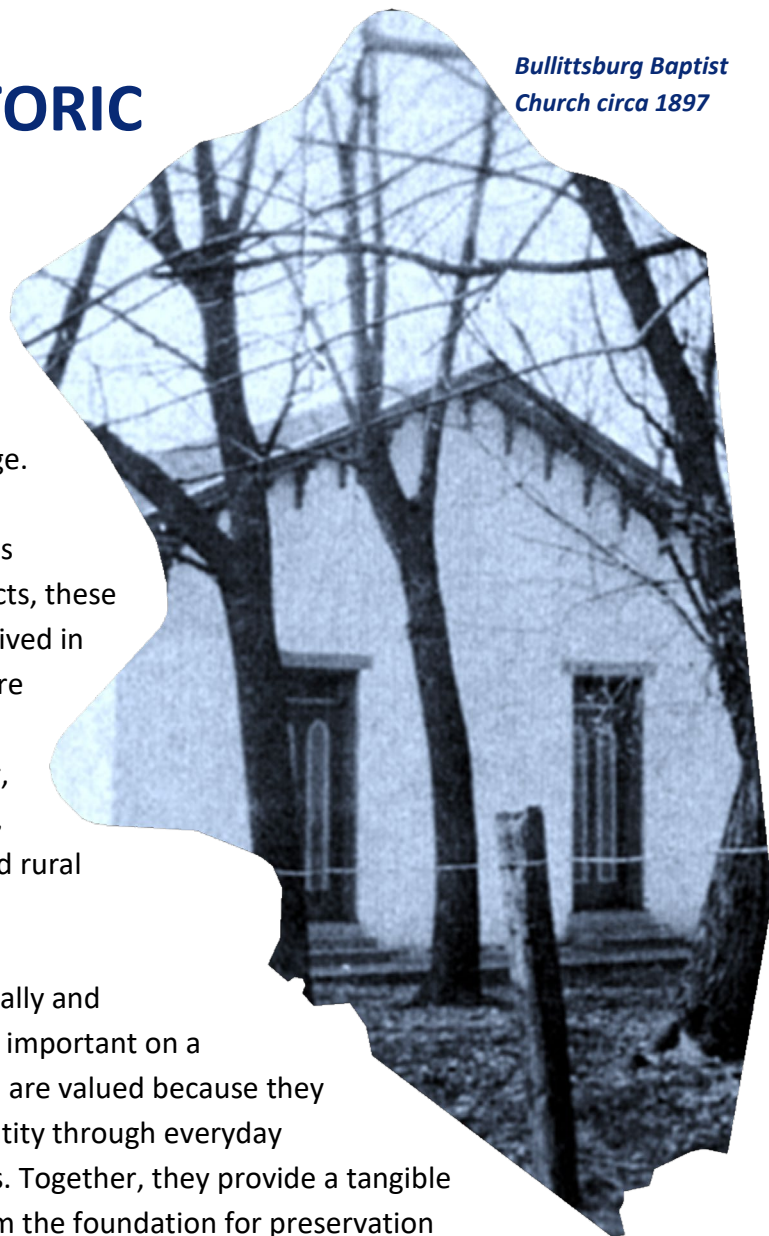
The research is an ongoing process. Although there is evidence of over 100 UGRR incidents between 1837 and 1863 in Boone County alone, much of the evidence is circumstantial and further research is necessary to confirm the content. Boone County Public Library will continue to make additional information available online and in future tours.

The African Americans of Boone County Story Map, created by the Boone County Public Library, demonstrates how digital tools can expand preservation efforts by documenting and sharing the histories of underrepresented communities.

CHAPTER 5

HERITAGE AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Bullittsburg Baptist Church circa 1897



Boone County’s historic and heritage resources reflect thousands of years of human occupation, settlement, land use, community development, and cultural change. From prehistoric camps and village sites to farmsteads, cemeteries, churches, crossroads communities, river towns, and historic districts, these resources tell the story of how people have lived in and shaped this landscape over time. They are found throughout the county, but they are especially concentrated along the Ohio River, its tributaries, early transportation corridors, and within the county’s traditional towns and rural settlement areas.

These resources are significant both individually and collectively. Some, such as Big Bone Lick, are important on a national and even international level. Others are valued because they reflect Boone County’s local history and identity through everyday buildings, landscapes, and community places. Together, they provide a tangible record of the county’s development and form the foundation for preservation planning, education, heritage tourism, and stewardship.

A. Prehistoric Resources

Prehistoric resources are among Boone County’s oldest and most significant heritage assets. Archaeological evidence shows that humans have lived in what is now Boone County for approximately 12,000 years. These resources represent a long continuum of occupation beginning with Paleoindian peoples and continuing through the Archaic, Woodland, and Fort Ancient periods. Archaeological sites in Boone County include camps, village sites, burial mounds, roasting pits, lithic

scatters, agricultural sites, and burial locations. Taken together, they document a rich and complex human history that long predates written records and European settlement.

Archaeological documentation demonstrates the depth of Boone County's prehistoric heritage. The Kentucky Archaeological Survey currently lists more than 590 archaeological sites within Boone County. These sites include prehistoric villages, camps, burial mounds, historic community remains, mills, industrial sites, and other archaeological features that contribute to understanding the county's history. Many of these sites have been identified through archaeological surveys conducted in association with infrastructure projects and preservation planning efforts, helping to expand the understanding of Boone County's archaeological landscape.



Big Bone Lick is the county's most prominent prehistoric resource and one of its most important heritage sites overall. The mineral springs and marshes at Big Bone Lick attracted animals and humans for thousands of years, making the site significant not only for paleontology but also for prehistoric archaeology. The area is associated with early Native American use of the landscape, animal migration routes, and long-term human activity connected to hunting, travel, and settlement. Big Bone Lick remains central to understanding Boone County's earliest history and its place within broader regional and national narratives.

Prehistoric resources are found throughout Boone County's river valleys, terraces, uplands, and stream corridors. Archaeological work has identified Adena mounds, Woodland sites, and Fort Ancient villages in several parts of the county, including the Petersburg area and the Big Bone valley. These resources are especially associated with areas near water, elevated land above floodplains, natural travel routes, and locations suitable for farming, hunting, and settlement. Because they are finite

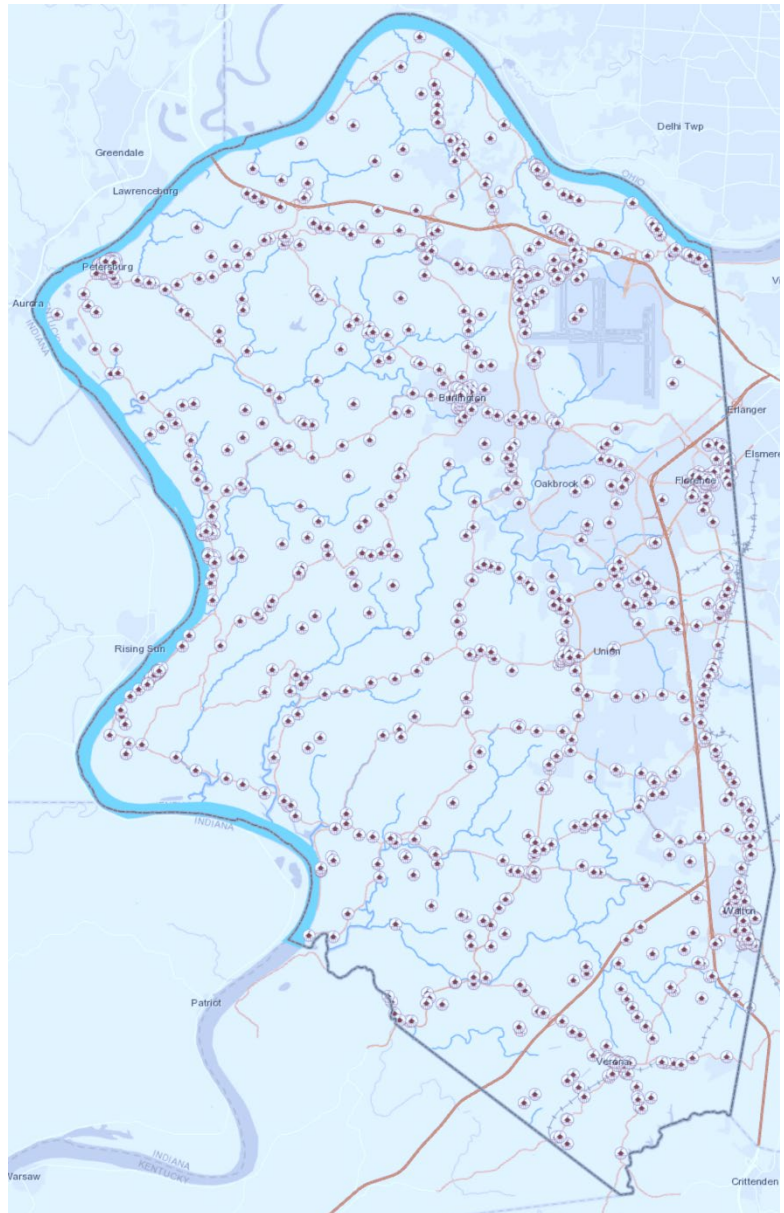
A visitor collects water at the salt springs at Big Bone Lick State Historic Site, where mineral-rich deposits once attracted animals and led to the concentration of fossils found today. Image from Boone County Historic Preservation Collection.

and irreplaceable, prehistoric resources are important not only for the individual sites that survive, but also for the larger patterns of human occupation and land use they help reveal across the Boone County landscape.

B. Individual Properties

Boone County contains a broad range of individually significant historic properties that reflect its settlement history, architectural traditions, agricultural heritage, religious life, civic development, and transportation history. These resources include houses, barns, farm complexes, churches, schools, commercial buildings, bridges, and public buildings. Together, they illustrate how Boone County developed from an early frontier landscape into a network of farms, towns, and communities connected by rivers, turnpikes, railroads, and later highways.

Architectural survey work has been an essential component of preservation planning in Boone County. The first comprehensive architectural survey was conducted in 1976–1977 and documented 353 historic resources. In the late 1980s and 1990s, additional surveys expanded this documentation and led to multiple National Register nominations. Today, more than 1,600 historic properties have been recorded in the Kentucky Historic Resources Inventory for Boone County. While approximately 250 of these resources have been lost over time, the remaining historic buildings represent a substantial architectural legacy that continues to shape the county's identity.



Mapping historic sites across Boone County reveals patterns of settlement, agriculture, and community development, helping guide preservation planning and future stewardship.

Many of the county's most important individual properties are associated with early settlement and community development. These include sites such as the Abner Gaines House and Tavern in Walton, the Dinsmore Homestead near Belleview, the Boone County Historic Courthouse in Burlington, the



Rabbit Hash General Store, historic churches such as Bullittsburg Baptist Church and Hopeful Lutheran Church, and former schools such as the Verona School. These places reflect key aspects of Boone County's history, including early settlement along the Ohio River, the growth of inland communities, agricultural prosperity, civic life, and the evolution of local institutions.

Built in 1814, Gaines Tavern is a rare example of Federal-style architecture in Boone County, representing early construction techniques and the role of taverns as important centers of travel and community life. Image from Warren LeMay.

The county's individual properties are also significant for their architectural character. Boone County developed a strong vernacular building tradition in which local builders used familiar and practical forms such as hall-parlor houses, I-houses, double-cell houses, side-passage houses, foursquares, and bungalows, often enhanced with modest Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, or Craftsman details. While Boone County contains some high-style architecture, its greatest architectural significance lies in the large number of workmanlike, locally built structures that reflect everyday life, local materials, regional traditions, and the skill of local craftsmen.

Individual properties therefore matter not only because they are old or architecturally distinctive, but because they collectively tell the story of how Boone County residents lived, worked, farmed, worshiped, and built over time.

C. Cemeteries

Cemeteries are one of Boone County's most distinctive and widely distributed historic and heritage resource types. They are found throughout the county in rural landscapes, churchyards, historic communities, family farms, and, in some cases, within areas that have since been developed for suburban or commercial use. Boone County's cemeteries include family cemeteries, church cemeteries, public cemeteries, African American burial grounds, and prehistoric burial sites and

mounds. Their broad distribution across the county reflects the deep history of settlement and community development in Boone County.

Boone County has one of the most comprehensive cemetery preservation programs in Kentucky. As of recent surveys, more than 225 family cemeteries have been documented throughout the county, with the locations of over 211 sites mapped in the county's Geographic Information System. Additional undocumented cemeteries are believed to exist throughout rural areas. *The Boone County Cemetery Preservation Plan* established requirements for protecting cemeteries during development and created procedures for their maintenance and preservation. Through these regulations, more than twenty cemeteries have been preserved within modern developments.

Cemeteries are significant for far more than genealogy and burial practices. They provide important evidence of settlement patterns, religious history, kinship networks, migration, military service, funerary art, craftsmanship, and landscape traditions. In many cases, they are among the last visible reminders of early farms, churches, and communities that have otherwise disappeared. Small family cemeteries, in particular, help preserve the memory of Boone County's agricultural past and reveal patterns of landownership and family life that were central to the county's development.



Established circa 1819, Old Burlington Cemetery is more than a burial place. It reflects Boone County's early settlement through the graves of its first families, marking patterns of migration, kinship, and community development. Image from Historical Marker Database.

Boone County has long recognized cemeteries as important cultural landscapes worthy of preservation and protection. The county's cemetery preservation efforts are one of the defining strengths of its preservation program and reflect a broad understanding of heritage that extends beyond buildings to include burial places, memory, and cultural identity. Because cemeteries are found throughout the county rather than concentrated only in towns, they also help illustrate Boone County as a countywide cultural landscape shaped by generations of residents whose stories remain embedded in the land.

D. Districts

Historic districts are among Boone County's most visible and comprehensive heritage resources because they preserve not just individual buildings, but also the larger physical contexts in which history took place. Districts include groups of buildings, streetscapes, lot patterns, landscapes, and community relationships that together convey the historic character of an area. In Boone County, districts help illustrate the development of river towns, courthouse-centered communities, railroad-era commercial areas, and prehistoric landscapes.

Burlington, Rabbit Hash, Walton, Florence and Big Bone Lick are among the county's best-known district-scale resources. Burlington reflects Boone County's governmental and civic history as the county seat and contains an important collection of historic buildings centered around the courthouse square. Rabbit Hash is notable for its remarkably intact river-town character and its strong association with the Ohio River, commerce, and vernacular architecture.

Walton South Main Street reflects the county's late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century town development, while Big Bone Lick represents a district-scale resource of exceptional prehistoric, natural, and scientific importance.



The listing of the Burlington Historic District in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 marked an early recognition of Boone County's historic resources, helping to preserve the architectural and cultural significance of its civic and commercial center. Image from National Register of Historic Places.

Other communities in Boone County also contain concentrations of historic buildings and development patterns that contribute to their historic character. Places such as Petersburg, Belleview, and Verona retain significant collections of historic resources and community form that help tell the story of Boone County's development. These districts and district-like landscapes are especially concentrated along historic transportation corridors, riverfront areas, rail-served communities, and early settlement centers. Their significance lies not only in the age or architectural quality of the buildings they contain, but in their ability to convey the broader patterns of settlement, commerce, community identity, and landscape evolution that define Boone County's heritage.

E. Cultural Landscapes, Scenic Resources, and Agricultural Heritage

Boone County's heritage resources include not only buildings and archaeological sites but also cultural landscapes and scenic views that contribute to the county's identity. The county's rolling hills, river valleys, agricultural fields, and rural roadways form landscapes that reflect centuries of farming, settlement, and interaction with the natural environment. Prominent natural features such as the limestone cliffs along Middle Creek, the confluence of Woolper Creek with the Ohio River, and the mineral springs associated with Big Bone Lick represent important geological and cultural landmarks. Scenic views along rural highways and stream valleys have long been recognized as important components of the county's historic character and should be considered in future planning and development decisions.



Looking toward Kentucky, the Ohio River at Anderson Ferry represents a cultural landscape shaped by transportation, trade, and daily life, where the river has long connected communities across its banks. Image from Boone County Historic Preservation Collection.

Agriculture continues to play an important role in Boone County's heritage and economy. Historic farms, orchards, and agricultural landscapes remain defining features of the county and are central to its rural identity. Many farms now participate in agritourism activities that connect residents and visitors to Boone County's agricultural traditions. Local farms such as Scott Farms and McGlasson Farms produce apples, peaches, and vegetables and sell products through farm markets and local retailers. Annual Events such as the Boone County Farm Tour and the Boone County Farmers Market provide opportunities for residents and visitors to experience the county's agricultural heritage while supporting local farmers.

Together, Boone County's scenic landscapes and working agricultural lands form an important part of the county's cultural heritage. Protecting these landscapes helps preserve the visual character, historic land use patterns, and rural traditions that continue to shape Boone County's identity today.

F. Conclusion

Boone County's historic and heritage resources are diverse in type, scale, age, and significance, but together they form a cohesive record of the county's long history. Prehistoric sites reveal thousands of years of Native American occupation and adaptation. Individual properties reflect settlement, agriculture, architecture, religion, education, and commerce. Cemeteries preserve memory, family history, and community identity across the landscape. Districts provide the larger settings in which Boone County's historic development can still be understood and experienced.

These resources are important not only as remnants of the past, but as active parts of Boone County's present and future. They contribute to the county's identity, sense of place, educational opportunities, and heritage tourism potential. More importantly, they help residents and visitors understand that Boone County's story is layered, complex, and deeply rooted in the land. Preserving these resources will help ensure that the county's history remains visible, meaningful, and accessible for future generations.

Chapter 6:

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

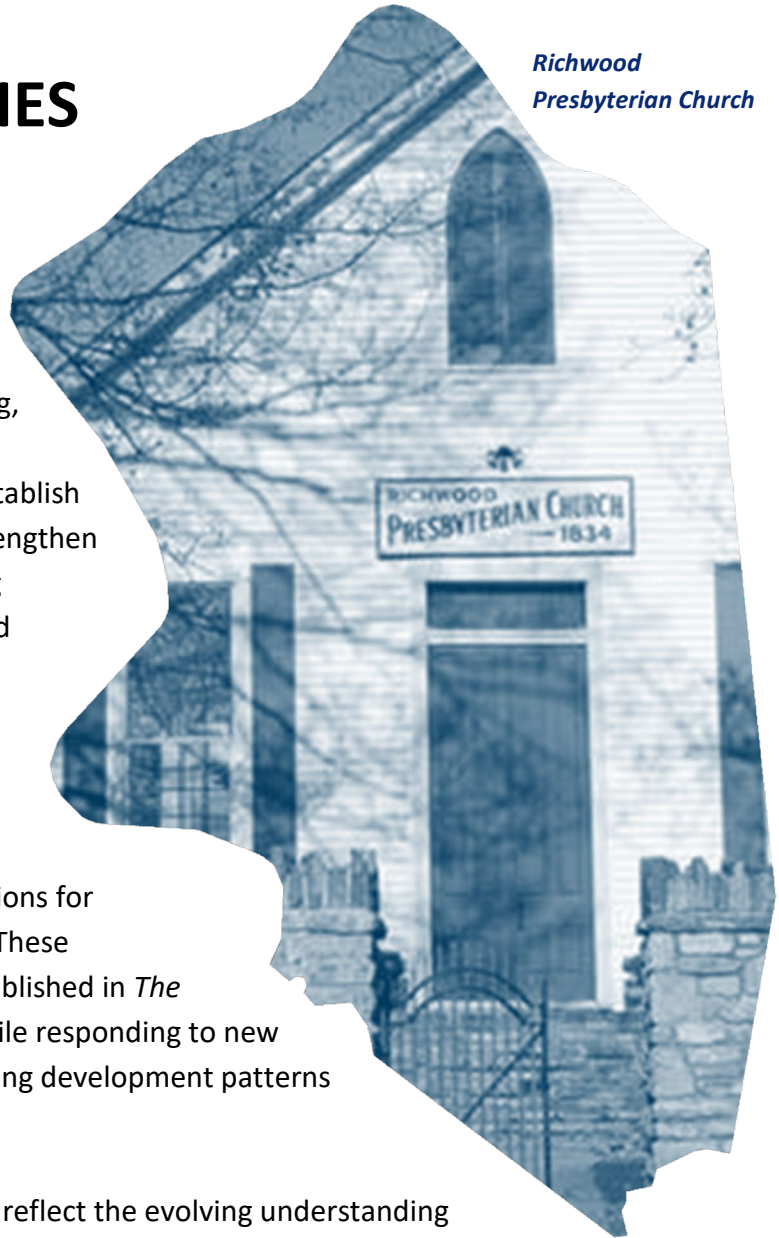
*Richwood
Presbyterian Church*

This chapter outlines the strategic priorities that guide Boone County's Heritage and Preservation Program. These priorities represent the core components of the County's approach to protecting, celebrating, and leveraging its historic, cultural, and archaeological resources. Together, they establish a framework for how Boone County can strengthen stewardship of its heritage while supporting education, community identity, tourism, and economic development.

Each priority area described in this chapter highlights the importance of the program component, identifies challenges or gaps in current efforts, and presents recommendations for improving or expanding existing programs. These recommendations build upon the goals established in *The Boone County Preservation Plan* of 1999 while responding to new opportunities, community input, and changing development patterns across the county.

The priorities presented in this chapter also reflect the evolving understanding that historic preservation is not limited to protecting historic buildings. It includes stewardship of landscapes, cemeteries, archaeological resources, cultural traditions, and stories that collectively shape Boone County's identity and sense of place.

For each priority area, the chapter includes recommended priorities, action steps, and key implementation components designed to address existing issues and capitalize on opportunities for strengthening Boone County's heritage and historic preservation program. These recommendations are intended to guide implementation over the next five to ten years and support collaboration among local government, community organizations, educational institutions, and residents. The key implementation components highlight the major elements needed to support each action step, while



recognizing that additional strategies and efforts may be required as conditions evolve and opportunities emerge.

Many of the strategies outlined in this plan are designed to be implemented incrementally and in partnership with existing organizations. Boone County will prioritize pilot programs, partnerships, and scalable initiatives to ensure that recommendations are achievable within available staff capacity and resources. Partnerships and capacity building are integrated throughout all priority areas, recognizing that successful implementation depends on collaboration among local government, educational institutions, community organizations, and private stakeholders.

The strategic priorities discussed in this chapter include:

- Education & Public Awareness
- Heritage Tourism & Economic Development
- Resource Identification & Documentation
- Protection & Policy Enhancement

Together, these priorities establish a coordinated strategy for preserving Boone County’s historic and cultural resources while ensuring they remain meaningful and beneficial to current and future generations.

A. How the Priorities Were Developed

The priorities outlined in this chapter were developed through a combination of public engagement, stakeholder discussions, and a review of Boone County’s existing preservation framework. Community input played an important role in shaping the direction of the plan and identifying both opportunities and challenges facing Boone County’s historic and cultural resources.

Public meetings and stakeholder conversations provided valuable insights into the places residents value most, the types of heritage experiences they would like to see expanded, and the concerns surrounding development pressures, public awareness, and long-term stewardship of historic resources. Participants highlighted the importance of preserving not only historic buildings, but also landscapes, archaeological sites, cemeteries, and community traditions that contribute to Boone County’s unique identity.x

Participants engage in a mapping exercise during a community session to help inform preservation priorities.



This evaluation helped identify areas where the current preservation program is working well, as well as areas where new tools, partnerships, or educational initiatives may be needed.

The resulting priorities reflect both community values and practical implementation strategies, ensuring that Boone County’s heritage resources remain an integral part of the county’s future.

B. Relationship and Alignment to the 1999 Preservation Plan

This plan builds upon the foundation established by the 1999 *Boone County Preservation Plan*, which first articulated a comprehensive strategy for identifying, protecting, and promoting the county’s historic and prehistoric resources. Many of the goals outlined in that plan, such as maintaining historic surveys, supporting education programs, promoting heritage tourism, and strengthening preservation incentives, remain highly relevant today.

Over the past two decades, Boone County has made significant progress in several areas, including maintaining Certified Local Government (CLG) status, expanding survey data, integrating preservation information into the county’s GIS system, and implementing demolition review procedures. However, some of the recommendations from the 1999 plan remain only partially implemented, particularly those related to public education, economic incentives, and coordinated heritage promotion.

The strategic priorities outlined in this chapter directly build upon and expand the goals established in the 1999 Boone County Preservation Plan. While the scope of preservation has evolved to include broader considerations such as cultural landscapes, heritage tourism, and economic development, the core objectives of the 1999 plan remain central to Boone County’s preservation program today. The updated priorities align with the original goals as follows:

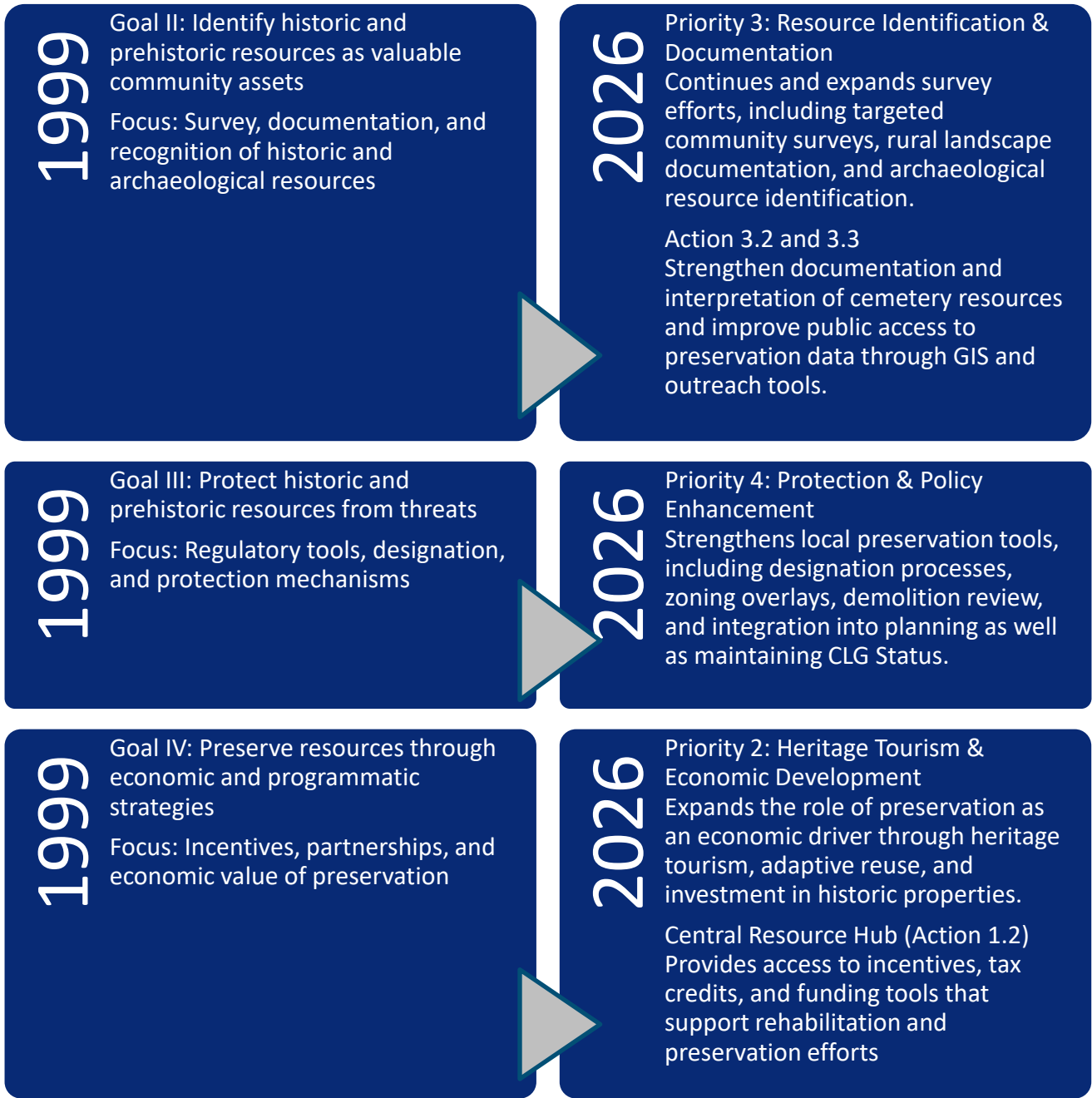
1999

Goal I: Promote historic and prehistoric resources as a vital part of Boone County’s past and future
Focus: Education, public awareness, and heritage promotion

2026

Priority 1: Education & Public Awareness
Expands educational programming, public engagement, and access to information through curriculum development, workshops, and digital resources.

Priority 2: Heritage Tourism & Economic Development
Builds upon earlier tourism efforts by developing heritage trails, interpretive experiences, and visitor engagement tools such as the Heritage Experience Network and Preservation Passport Program.



Overall, the 2026 Strategic Priorities do not replace the 1999 Preservation Plan but rather expand and modernize its framework. The updated plan reflects a broader understanding of historic preservation as an integrated approach that includes education, planning, tourism, economic development, and community engagement. By aligning new strategies with established goals, Boone County continues to build upon its strong preservation foundation while responding to current needs and future opportunities.

C. Guiding Principles for Boone County Historic Preservation & Heritage Program

The following guiding principles provide the foundation for Boone County's Heritage and Preservation Program. These principles reflect the values expressed by community members, stakeholders, and preservation professionals during the planning process and help guide future decisions related to historic and cultural resources.



1. Stewardship of Historic and Cultural Resources

Boone County's historic buildings, landscapes, cemeteries, archaeological sites, and cultural traditions are valuable community assets. Protecting and maintaining these resources ensures that future generations can continue to learn from and experience the county's rich heritage.



2. Heritage as a Community Asset

Historic and cultural resources contribute to Boone County's identity, sense of place, and quality of life. Preserving these resources helps strengthen community pride, reinforce local character, and maintain connections between the past and present.



3. Heritage as Economic Benefit

Preservation and heritage tourism can serve as important economic drivers. Historic resources, cultural landscapes, and heritage experiences attract visitors, support local businesses, and contribute to sustainable economic development throughout the county.



4. Education and Public Engagement

Education is essential to successful preservation. By increasing public awareness of Boone County's history and cultural heritage, residents, students, and visitors can better understand the value of preservation and become active participants in stewardship efforts.



5. Respect for Archaeological and Indigenous Resources

Boone County contains significant prehistoric and archaeological resources that represent thousands of years of human history. These resources must be documented, protected, and interpreted with respect and care, recognizing their cultural importance and the need for responsible stewardship.



6. Balanced Growth and Preservation

As Boone County continues to grow, where appropriate ensure that development respects historic character and cultural landscapes. Thoughtful planning and compatible design can allow communities to evolve while preserving the historic features that make them unique.



7. Partnerships and Collaboration

Successful preservation depends on collaboration among local government, property owners, community organizations, educational institutions, and regional partners. By working together, these groups can expand the resources, expertise, and support available to protect Boone County's heritage.

D. Priorities



PRIORITY 1 : EDUCATION & PUBLIC AWARENESS

Promote education and public awareness of Boone County's historic, cultural, and archaeological resources as essential to the county's identity, stewardship, and future.

Education and public awareness form the foundation of a successful historic preservation and heritage program. Increasing understanding of Boone County's historic places, cultural landscapes, and archaeological resources helps build community support for historic preservation and encourages residents to become active stewards of the county's heritage. Expanding educational programs, developing accessible information resources, and creating opportunities for youth engagement will strengthen public appreciation for Boone County's history and ensure that preservation values are passed on to future generations.

Action 1.1 Countywide Heritage Education & Engagement Program

Create a comprehensive, coordinated program that connects students, residents, and visitors to Boone County's heritage through curriculum, hands-on learning, and community participation.

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Develop K–12 and Lifelong Learning Programs with Boone County Public and Private Schools.
 - a) Create curriculum modules in partnership with Boone County schools aligned with Kentucky Academic Standards.
 - b) Develop homeschool and after-school materials, including downloadable lesson plans and activity kits.
 - c) Provide teacher training workshops and a digital resource library with lesson plans, maps, and primary sources.

Local History in Kentucky Schools

Grade 3: focuses on local communities and provides the strongest opportunity for Boone County specific content.

Grade 4: covers Kentucky history and connects local history to broader state themes.

Grade 5: introduces early U.S. history where local examples can support lessons.

Grade 8: includes U.S. history with opportunities to connect to settlement, agriculture, and river commerce.

High school: incorporates local history through research, projects, and service learning.

- 2) Establish youth pathways into historic and heritage preservation.
 - a) Establish a Boone County History Certification Program for High School Students by defining the certification requirements that also incorporate existing classes and extracurricular programs.
 - b) Integrate service-learning opportunities such as cemetery documentation, oral histories, and historic resource surveys.
 - c) Partner with schools and organizations to align projects with curriculum and service requirements.

- 3) Establish tangible ways for community engagement for the public to learn about Boone County’s Heritage.
 - a) Organize hands-on workshops on building maintenance, documentation techniques, cemetery care, and historic materials
 - b) Host public programs, lectures, and demonstrations in partnership with libraries, historical organizations, and community groups
 - c) Support interactive experiences such as tours, storytelling programs, and community-led events



Hands on windows demonstrations at events like NKY Restoration give historic homeowners knowledge to take care of their properties.

- 4) Create a Community Leadership and Ambassador Program
 - a) Establish an ambassador program where residents from high school students to adults help lead tours, support events, or assist with outreach efforts.
 - b) Provide training in public speaking, storytelling, and local history to build leadership skills.
 - c) Engage volunteers in content creation, such as social media storytelling, photography, or short videos about historic places.

| <i>Timeline</i> | <i>Potential Funding Sources</i> | <i>Staff and Partnerships</i> |
|---|---|--|
| Short-Term (1–3 years) to launch Ongoing expansion | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kentucky Heritage Council CLG grants • National Endowment for the Humanities education grants • Boone County Schools partnerships • Local foundation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation Planner • Education consultant or curriculum specialist as Project Manager • Boone County Schools, libraries, and universities • Local historians and preservation professionals • Community organizations and volunteers • Boone County Parks |

Action 1.2 Central Heritage Information & Resource Hub

Develop a unified digital and physical platform that provides accessible, user-friendly information on preservation programs, resources, and opportunities.

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Expand on existing online Boone County Historic Preservation and GIS Digital Resources
 - a) Audit existing Boone County Historic Preservation-related content identify gaps of information that would aid the public.
 - b) Continue to provide public access to GIS-based heritage data, including historic sites, districts, cemeteries, and cultural landscapes, through an interactive online platform.
 - c) Explore opportunities to expand the types of information included, such as photographs, historical narratives, survey data, designation status, and links to additional resources.
- 2) Provide Practical Preservation Guidance that can be easily accessible.
 - a) Develop practical resource guides including “Start Here” guides, FAQs, permit and review process overviews, and downloadable forms and checklists.
 - b) Expand content to include core topics such as local historic districts and landmarks, design guidelines, preservation processes, archaeology and cemetery resources, and step-by-step “how-to” guides for property owners.
 - c) Provide downloadable forms, checklists, and technical guidance materials
- 3) Create a Preservation Incentives and Tax Credit Resource Guide
 - a) Develop a comprehensive guide outlining available local, state, and federal incentives, including historic tax credits, grants, and other financial tools.
 - b) Create simplified “how-to” materials that explain eligibility, application processes, and timelines in clear, user-friendly language.

GIS Heritage Layers

- ✓ Historic Features Group
 - ✓ Historical Society Markers Layer
 - ✓ Underground Railroad Sites Layer
 - ✓ Historic Sites Layer
 - ✓ Cemetery Points Layer
- ✓ Cemetery Details Group
 - ✓ Cemetery Plot Markers Layer
 - ✓ Cemetery Head or Foot Stones Layer
 - ✓ Cemetery Graves Layer
 - ✓ Cemetery Plots Layer
 - ✓ Cemetery Boundaries Layer
- ✓ Local Historic Districts Layer
- ✓ National Registry Districts Layer

-
- 4) Create a centralized county-wide calendar of Heritage Events
- a) Develop a shared, publicly accessible calendar that includes events hosted by the County, local organizations, libraries, and community groups.
 - b) Establish a simple submission process for partners to add events, with staff oversight for consistency and accuracy.
 - c) Integrate the calendar into the preservation webpage and promote through newsletters, social media, and partner organizations.

| <i>Timeline</i> | <i>Potential Funding Sources</i> | <i>Staff and Partnerships</i> |
|------------------------|--|---|
| Short-Term (1–2 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLG grants • County IT budget • Tourism and economic development funding | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation Planner • Preservation Planner • GIS Services staff • Communications support • Local organizations and content partners • Tourism and economic development partners |



**PRIORITY 2 :
HERITAGE TOURISM &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Promote Boone County's historic, cultural, and scenic resources as drivers of heritage tourism and economic development, supporting vibrant communities and sustainable investment.

Boone County's historic resources, cultural traditions, and scenic landscapes represent important assets that can support tourism and economic development. By developing heritage trails, expanding interpretive programming, and promoting adaptive reuse of historic buildings, the County can create meaningful experiences for residents and visitors while supporting local businesses and communities. Heritage tourism initiatives can also help strengthen community identity and highlight the unique stories and places that define Boone County.

Action 2.1 Create a Countywide Heritage Experience Network

Create themed heritage tourism experiences that highlight Boone County's historic, cultural, and natural resources.

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Develop a heritage route centered on Boone County's nationally significant prehistoric and early settlement history.
 - a) Identify and compile existing interpretive materials, signage, and educational resources associated with Big Bone Lick State Historic Site and surrounding areas to build a cohesive narrative foundation.
 - b) Define the loop route connecting key archaeological, historic, and cultural landscape sites.
 - c) Develop supplemental interpretive content to fill gaps and unify storytelling across sites.
 - d) Create coordinated wayfinding tools, such as signage, maps, or mobile-friendly guides, aligned with existing materials.
- 2) Highlight Boone County's rural landscapes, agricultural heritage, and historic river communities through a connected trail experience.
 - a) Inventory existing interpretive signage, local histories, tourism materials, and community storytelling efforts across western Boone County.

- b) Identify and map key destinations including farms, historic towns, scenic corridors, and riverfront communities.
- c) Develop interpretive themes that connect these places into a unified visitor experience.
- d) Produce trail guides and digital content that build upon and enhance existing materials rather than duplicating efforts.



The B.M. Allen House is an example of a historic building that could be included on an Agricultural Heritage Trail, representing Boone County’s agricultural past and the rural landscapes that continue to shape its identity.

- 3) Create a series of interpretive experiences that highlight Boone County’s historic cemeteries as important cultural resources.
 - a) Review existing cemetery documentation, research, and interpretive efforts to identify available content and gaps.
 - b) Select priority cemeteries with strong historical narratives and accessibility.
 - c) Develop guided and self-guided tour materials that incorporate existing research and expand interpretation where needed.
 - d) Provide clear visitation guidelines and integrate educational messaging on preservation and respectful use.
- 4) Enhance visitor engagement through various tools that allow for self-guided exploration.
 - a) Create a Preservation Passport Program aligned with heritage trails and destinations where once completed the visitor can receive an incentive or recognition for participation.
 - b) Compile existing written, visual, and interpretive materials that can be adapted into audio and digital formats.
 - c) Incorporate interactive elements such as audio narratives, QR-linked content, and activity-based experiences that expand on existing signage and printed materials.
 - d) Create a unified digital platform that connects multiple trails and sites into a cohesive experience.
 - e) Establish a process for regularly updating content and incorporating new research and community stories.

| <i>Timeline</i> | <i>Potential Funding Sources</i> | <i>Staff and Partnerships</i> |
|----------------------|--|--|
| Mid-Term (3–5 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tourism marketing funds • Kentucky tourism grants • Federal recreation and heritage grants | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet NKY collaboration • Preservation Planner • GIS mapping support • Interpretive planning consultant • Local Communities and Heritage Sites. • Boone County Parks |

Action 2.2 Promote Adaptive Reuse as an Economic Strategy
Encourage the reuse of historic structures as a key economic development tool.

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Create a forum for developers, planners, and preservation professionals to share knowledge and identify opportunities for adaptive reuse.
 - a) Convene periodic roundtables with developers, property owners, planners, and preservation advocates to discuss opportunities, challenges, and successful projects.
 - b) Identify priority redevelopment sites and facilitate conversations around feasibility, incentives, and potential partnerships.
 - c) Invite regional and national experts to share best practices, financing strategies, and case examples.

The School Yard Winery is an example of adaptive reuse, where a historic school building has been thoughtfully repurposed into a winery and gathering space.



- 2) Demonstrate the value and feasibility of adaptive reuse through real-world examples.
 - a) Identify and document successful adaptive reuse projects within Boone County. Use examples from the and the surrounding region when necessary.
 - b) Develop case studies that highlight project costs, funding sources, timelines, and community impact.

- c) Use case studies as tools in outreach to developers, elected officials, and the public to build support for reuse projects.
- 3) Increase understanding and use of financial tools that support preservation and adaptive reuse.
 - a) Develop clear, targeted messaging that explains available incentives such as historic tax credits, grants, and local programs.
 - b) Create tailored materials for different audiences, including developers, property owners, and community leaders.
 - c) Host informational sessions and workshops focused on navigating incentive programs and application processes. If possible, partner with local Economic Development organizations and Chamber of Commerce on these workshops.
 - 4) Strengthen relationships with financial institutions to support investment in historic properties.
 - a) Engage local and regional banks to build awareness of adaptive reuse opportunities and associated financial tools.
 - b) Host meetings or forums that connect lenders with developers and preservation professionals.
 - c) Share information on successful financing models and risk mitigation strategies for historic rehabilitation projects.
 - d) Encourage the development of flexible financing options or pilot programs that support preservation-focused redevelopment.

| <i>Timeline</i> | <i>Potential Funding Sources</i> | <i>Staff and Partnerships</i> |
|----------------------|--|---|
| Mid-Term (3–5 years) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic development funds • Private sponsorships • Preservation advocacy grants • Federal and State Historic Preservation Tax Credits • NKADD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation Planner • Economic Development staff/Partnerships • Chambers of Commerce • Financial partners • State Historic Preservation Office |



**PRIORITY 3 :
RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION &
DOCUMENTATION**

Identify, document, and maintain comprehensive information on Boone County's historic, archaeological, cemetery, and cultural landscape resources as a foundation for informed planning and preservation.

Understanding what historic and cultural resources exist within the county is essential for effective historic preservation planning. Continued documentation of historic buildings, archaeological sites, cemeteries, and cultural landscapes allows Boone County to better evaluate and protect significant resources as the community grows and changes. Expanding survey efforts, improving access to historic preservation data, and strengthening documentation of archaeological and cemetery resources will ensure that important elements of the county's heritage are identified and recorded for future generations.

Action 3.1 Complete Targeted Surveys and Resource Identification

Update and expand surveys to identify significant historic and archaeological resources and encourage National Register listings, both individual properties and historic districts, where appropriate.

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Conduct focused surveys of Verona and Petersburg to document historic buildings, development patterns, and community character. Evaluate other areas as necessary.
 - a) Define survey boundaries and compile existing documentation, including prior surveys, National Register information, and local histories.
 - b) Conduct fieldwork to document buildings, sites, and landscapes, including photographs, architectural descriptions, and condition assessments.
 - c) Evaluate resources for National Register eligibility, including both individual listings and potential historic districts.
 - d) Prepare a final report with recommendations for preservation strategies, designation opportunities, and National Register nominations.

- 2) Document rural landscapes, agricultural resources, and historic settlement patterns in Western Boone County.
 - a) Identify priority rural areas and themes, including farmsteads, agricultural landscapes, river communities, and transportation corridors.
 - b) Compile existing survey data, historic maps, and agricultural records to establish a baseline understanding.
 - c) Conduct field surveys to document buildings, landscapes, and cultural features, focusing on integrity and historic context.
 - d) Evaluate resources for National Register eligibility, including cultural landscapes, rural historic districts, and individual properties.

- 3) Strengthen understanding and protection of archaeological resources through a coordinated review of existing data.
 - a) Compile and review existing archaeological records and site data in coordination with state agencies, tribal preservation offices and professionals.
 - b) Identify gaps in documentation and prioritize areas for additional research or survey.
 - c) Coordinate with qualified archaeologists to evaluate significance and eligibility for listing where appropriate.
 - d) Develop guidance for integrating archaeological information into planning processes while protecting sensitive site locations.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of buildings, sites, structures, districts, and objects recognized for their historical, architectural, or cultural significance in the United States.

Listing in the National Register:

- Recognizes the importance of a property or area in local, state, or national history
- Encourages preservation through planning and awareness
- Makes eligible certain projects for financial incentives, including federal and state historic tax credits

National Register designation does not restrict private property owners from making changes unless federal funding or permits are involved. It is primarily an honorary designation that promotes recognition and preservation.

Properties can be listed individually or as part of a historic district, allowing Boone County to recognize both significant landmarks and areas with a strong sense of historic character.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p><i>Timeline</i> Short to Mid-Term (1–5 years)</p> | <p><i>Funding Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLG survey grants • Kentucky Heritage Council funding • County planning budget | <p><i>Staff and Partnerships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation Planner • Kentucky Heritage Council • Contract survey consultants • Archaeological specialists • Volunteers and Students • Local History Organizations |
|--|--|---|

Action 3.2 Improve Documentation and Interpretation of Cemetery Resources
Improve the identification, documentation, and interpretation of Boone County’s cemetery and burial resources as important cultural landscapes that reflect early settlement patterns, community history, and genealogical connections

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Identify and document unmarked or deteriorated graves to improve understanding of burial sites and support preservation efforts.
 - a) Prioritize cemeteries with known gaps in documentation or deteriorating conditions.
 - b) Conduct field documentation using standardized forms, photography, and GIS mapping.
 - c) Partner with local historians, genealogists, and volunteers to assist with research and identification.
 - d) Integrate findings into county records and GIS systems to support long-term preservation and planning.

- 2) Provide clear, accessible information to help the public locate and visit historic cemeteries.
 - a) Compile existing cemetery location data and verify access conditions, including ownership and physical accessibility.
 - b) Develop a publicly accessible map identifying cemetery locations, access points, and visitation considerations.
 - c) Integrate the map into the county’s GIS platform and preservation webpage.
 - d) Coordinate with property owners and stakeholders to ensure accurate and appropriate public access information.

- 3) Promote respectful use and stewardship of Boone County’s historic cemeteries.
 - a) Develop clear guidelines outlining appropriate behavior, maintenance practices, and preservation considerations.
 - b) Include information on legal protections, property rights, and best practices for visiting and documenting cemeteries.
 - c) Make guidelines available through the preservation webpage, printed materials, and partner organizations.

- 4) Continue and expand the Boone County Historic Cemetery Restoration Project
 - a) Continue collaboration with Boone County Jail’s Community Service Program to support cemetery cleanup and stabilization efforts.
 - b) Identify additional cemeteries in need of restoration and prioritize projects based on condition and significance.
 - c) Provide training and oversight to ensure all work follows appropriate preservation standards and practices.
 - d) Explore partnerships with volunteer groups, historical organizations, and community members to expand program capacity.



The Boone County Jail Community Service Program supports the preservation of historic cemeteries by assisting with cleanup, maintenance, and documentation efforts.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p><i>Timeline</i> Mid-Term (3–5 years)</p> | <p><i>Potential Funding Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heritage grants • Cemetery preservation grants • Boone County Historic Cemetery Restoration Project • Volunteer initiatives | <p><i>Staff and Partnerships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation Planner • Archaeological consultants • Volunteer groups • County Jail Liaison |
|---|--|--|

Action 3.3 Increase awareness of Historic Resources and Preservation Efforts
Increase public awareness and use of preservation data and historic resource information to support education, planning, and long-term stewardship of Boone County’s heritage assets.

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Increase visibility and understanding of designated historic resources across Boone County.
 - a) Develop a coordinated communications strategy to regularly feature National Register and locally designated properties through newsletters, social media, and county platforms.
 - b) Create short-form content such as “site spotlights,” stories, and visual features that highlight the history and significance of listed properties. These can be shared on social media, newsletters, or communication avenues.
 - c) Integrate listings into educational programming, public presentations, and heritage tourism initiatives.
 - d) Encourage property owners and community members to engage with and share stories about designated sites.

- 2) Establish an Annual Report format to track progress, trends, and priorities in Boone County’s preservation efforts.
 - a) Develop a standardized report format that includes updates on surveys, designations, preservation projects, and program initiatives.
 - b) Include key metrics such as number of surveyed properties, National Register nominations, local designations, and completed preservation projects.
 - c) Share the report with elected officials, partners, and the public through digital platforms and presentations.
 - d) Use the report to inform future planning decisions, funding priorities, and program adjustments.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Timeline</i> Short-Term (1–2 years)</p> | <p><i>Potential Funding Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLG grants • County Communications budget | <p><i>Staff and Partnerships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation staff • GIS Services staff • Communications support • Historic Preservation Review Board |
|---|--|---|



**PRIORITY 4:
PROTECTION &
POLICY ENHANCEMENT**

Protect Boone County's historic and cultural resources through effective planning tools, policies, and regulatory mechanisms that guide growth while preserving community character and sense of place.

As Boone County continues to experience growth and development, it is important that planning tools and policies support the protection of historic and cultural resources. Strengthening development review tools, encouraging adaptive reuse, and expanding local designation programs can help ensure that historic properties and cultural landscapes remain integral parts of the county's communities. Thoughtful planning policies can allow Boone County to accommodate growth while preserving the historic character and heritage resources that contribute to the county's sense of place.

**Action 4.1 Expand tools that protect historic resources while guiding growth
Strengthen and refine planning and regulatory tools to better protect historic resources while accommodating appropriate development.**

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Assess and strengthen, if needed, the Historic Overlay District and demolition review tools to better protect historic resources from premature loss.
 - a) Review existing Historic Overlay District Regulations (Article 21) and demolition review procedures and compare them with best practices from peer communities.
 - b) Evaluate effectiveness, including timelines, triggers, and applicability to historic resources.
 - c) Identify opportunities to strengthen the process, such as demolition delay for historically significant properties to provide better evaluation for rehabilitation, adaptive reuse or even moving of the structure.
 - d) Recommend updates of the demolition review process to the appropriate staff or review body to ensure demolition review supports preservation alternatives and informed decision-making.
 - e) Recommend updates of the Historic Overlay District Regulations to the Boone County Planning Commission to make the Historic District Overlays stronger and more effective.

2) Ensure that when impacts to historic resources cannot be avoided, they are properly documented and mitigated.

- a) Develop clear standards for documentation, including photography, written histories, and mapping of affected resources.
- b) Incorporate documentation and mitigation requirements into development review processes.
- c) Coordinate with preservation staff and qualified professionals to ensure standards are consistently applied.

3) Establish clear standards for the salvage of historic materials when demolition cannot be avoided and materials are in a condition where reuse of materials is feasible.

- a) Research best practices for salvage operations, including documentation, material handling, and storage.
- b) Develop guidelines outlining when salvage is appropriate and what materials should be prioritized.
- c) Coordinate with local organizations, contractors, and reuse groups to support implementation.
- d) Provide guidance to property owners and developers on incorporating salvage into project planning.

4) Modernize and clarify historic design guidelines to support property owners, developers, and decision-makers and to ensure that changes to existing buildings and new infill development are compatible with existing character.

- a) Review existing guidelines to identify areas needing clarification, updates, or expansion.
- b) Incorporate best practices related to rehabilitation, materials, sustainability, and adaptive reuse.

Salvage Guidelines for Historic Resources

When demolition of a historic structure cannot be avoided, salvage provides an opportunity to preserve important materials, craftsmanship, and historic character. Salvage guidelines ensure that significant elements are documented, carefully removed, and reused when possible.

Salvage may include architectural features such as woodwork, doors, windows, brick, stone, and decorative details. Documentation prior to removal, including photographs and written descriptions, helps retain a record of the building.

Communities across the country have adopted formal salvage policies that can serve as models, including:

- City of Portland, Oregon Deconstruction Ordinance
- City of San Antonio, Texas Deconstruction and Material Salvage Program
- City of Boulder, Colorado Construction and Demolition Waste Reduction Ordinance
- City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin Deconstruction Program

- c) Engage stakeholders, including property owners and preservation professionals, in the update process.
- d) Publish updated guidelines in accessible formats, including digital versions with visual examples.

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p><i>Timeline</i> Mid-Term (3–5 years)</p> | <p><i>Potential Funding Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County planning budget • CLG technical assistance | <p><i>Staff and Partnerships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Development, Preservation and Zoning Staff • Planning Commission • Historic Preservation Review Board • Preservation and Planning Consultants |
|---|--|---|

Action 4.2 Increase Local Historic Designations
Increase the number of locally designated landmarks and districts to ensure long-term protection.

Key Implementation Components pr

- 1) Build awareness and support for local designation among property owners and communities.
 - a) Create clear, accessible materials explaining the benefits, process, and requirements of local designation.
 - b) Conduct outreach through meetings, workshops, and direct engagement with property owners and neighborhood groups.
 - c) Address common questions and misconceptions about designation, including impacts on property rights and maintenance.
 - d) Collaborate with community leaders and organizations to build local support for designation efforts.

- 2) Advance local designation by preparing and submitting nominations for eligible properties.
 - a) Provide technical assistance to property owners, volunteers, and partners in preparing nomination materials.

- b) Prioritize preparation of nominations for high-priority resources identified through surveys and planning efforts.
 - c) Coordinate with the Historic Preservation Review Board to guide nominations through the review process.
 - d) Maintain templates and guidance documents to streamline future nominations.
- 3) Encourage the creation of local Historic Overlay districts to protect areas with a concentration of historic resources.
- a) Identify areas with strong potential for district designation based on survey data and community character.
 - b) Conduct feasibility assessments and outreach to gauge property owner interest and support.
 - c) Provide guidance on district boundaries, contributing resources, and regulatory implications.
 - d) Support communities through the designation process, including documentation, public meetings, and adoption.

National Alliance for Preservation Commissions (NAPC Messaging Guide)

The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions (NAPC) provides a messaging guide to help communities communicate the value of historic preservation in clear, relevant, and effective ways.

Key principles of the NAPC messaging approach include:

- Focus on benefits, not just history by connecting preservation to economic development, sustainability, and quality of life
- Use clear and accessible language that resonates with a broad audience rather than technical terms
- Tell compelling stories that highlight people, places, and community identity
- Connect preservation to everyday impacts such as jobs, housing, and local businesses

Effective messaging helps build public support, informs decision-makers, and positions preservation as a practical and forward-looking tool for community development.

<https://www.napcommissions.org/messaging-guide>

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>Timeline</i> Mid to Long-Term (3–10 years)</p> | <p><i>Potential Funding Sources</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CLG grants • Planning Budget | <p><i>Staff and Partnerships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preservation Planner • Volunteer historians • Historic Preservation Review Board |
|--|---|---|

Action 4.3 Maintain Certified Local Government (CLG) Status

Boone County will continue to maintain its Certified Local Government (CLG) status in partnership with the Kentucky Heritage Council and the National Park Service. The CLG program provides access to federal preservation funding, technical assistance, and a formal role in the National Register nomination process.

Key Implementation Components

- 1) Maintain an active and qualified Historic Preservation Review Board
 - a) Maintain a board with qualified and diverse members representing preservation-related disciplines.
 - b) Provide regular training and support to ensure informed decision-making and compliance with CLG standards.
 - c) Ensure ongoing survey and inventory of historic resources in coordination with the Kentucky Heritage Council
 - d) Provide opportunities for public input through meetings, hearings, and engagement processes.

- 2) Maximize Use of CLG Funding and Resources
 - a) Pursue CLG grants for surveys, education, and planning initiatives.
 - b) Align priority projects with CLG funding cycles and requirements.
 - c) Use CLG funding to support implementation of this preservation plan.

- 3) Provide Ongoing Training and Capacity Building
 - a) Support training for board members, staff, and elected officials on preservation best practices.
 - b) Participate in local, state and national preservation networks and training opportunities.

| <i>Timeline</i> | <i>Potential Funding Sources</i> | <i>Staff and Partnerships</i> |
|-----------------|---|--|
| Ongoing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Federal Historic Preservation Fund (CLG grants) • Kentucky Heritage Council grants • Boone County planning budget | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Commission • Preservation staff • Historic Preservation Review Board • Coordination with Kentucky Heritage Council staff |

APPENDICES

A-1 Implementation Matrix

Timeline Key

- Short-Term: 1–2 years
- Mid-Term: 3–5 years
- Long-Term: 5+ years
- Ongoing: Continuous

PRIORITY 1: EDUCATION & PUBLIC AWARENESS

| Key Tasks | Timeline | Lead | Partners | Funding Sources |
|---|------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1.1 Countywide heritage education & engagement program | | | | |
| Develop curriculum modules, youth certification program, and service-learning opportunities | Short-term | Preservation planner | Boone county schools, libraries, universities | CLG grants, NEH, local foundations |
| Launch workshops, public programs, and ambassador program | Ongoing | Preservation planner | Historical organizations, community groups | Foundations, program fees |

| | | | | |
|---|------------|----------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1.2 Central heritage information & resource hub | | | | |
| Expand website and develop GIS-based heritage map | Short-term | Preservation planner | Gis staff, it department | CLG grants, county budget |
| Develop “start here” guides, incentives guide, and downloadable resources | Short-term | Preservation planner | Planning staff, partners | CLG, local funding |
| Support and host heritage events calendar | Short-term | Preservation planner | Tourism partners, community organizations | Tourism funding, county budget |

PRIORITY 2: HERITAGE TOURISM & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

| Key Tasks | Timeline | Lead | Partners | Funding Sources |
|--|----------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 2.1 Countywide Heritage Experience Network | | | | |
| Develop heritage trails (Big Bone, Western Boone, thematic routes) | Mid-Term | Preservation Planner | Tourism agencies, local communities | Tourism grants, federal heritage funds |

| | | | | |
|---|----------|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Create interpretive materials, tours, and storytelling content | Mid-Term | Preservation Planner | Historical organizations | Tourism funding, grants |
| Launch Preservation Passport Program and visitor engagement tools | Mid-Term | Preservation Planner | Tourism partners | Sponsorships, tourism funds |
| Develop wayfinding signage and branding | Mid-Term | Planning + Tourism | Local jurisdictions | Transportation, tourism funding |

| 2.2 Adaptive Reuse & Preservation-Based Development | | | | |
|--|------------|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Convene developer roundtables and identify priority sites | Mid-Term | Preservation Planner | Economic Development | Local funding |
| Develop case studies and promote success stories | Short-Term | Preservation Planner | Partners, developers | Foundations |
| Promote incentives and host financing workshops | Ongoing | Preservation Planner | Banks, SHPO | CLG, private partners |

PRIORITY 3: RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION & DOCUMENTATION

| Key Tasks | Timeline | Lead | Partners | Funding Sources |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 3.1 Targeted Surveys & Resource Identification | | | | |
| Conduct surveys in priority areas (Verona, Petersburg, rural areas) | Short–Mid | Preservation Planner | Consultants, SHPO | CLG Survey Grants |
| Expand archaeological and landscape documentation | Mid-Term | Preservation Planner | Archaeological partners | State/Federal grants |
| Support National Register and local designation efforts | Ongoing | Preservation Planner | SHPO | CLG, planning funds |

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 3.2 Cemetery Documentation & Interpretation | | | | |
| Document cemetery locations, boundaries, and conditions | Short–Mid | Preservation Planner | Volunteers, historians | CLG, foundations |
| Integrate cemetery data into GIS and develop interpretation | Mid-Term | GIS + Preservation | Libraries, partners | Grants |

| 3.3 Increase Awareness of Historic Resources | | | | |
|--|------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Integrate data into GIS and website tools | Short-Term | Preservation Planner | GIS Staff | CLG |
| Develop outreach content and annual State of Preservation report | Ongoing | Preservation Planner | Communications | County budget |

PRIORITY 4: PROTECTION & POLICY ENHANCEMENT

| Key Tasks | Timeline | Lead | Partners | Funding Sources |
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|
|------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------------|

| 4.1 Strengthen Local Preservation Tools | | | | |
|---|----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Expand designation tools and identify new districts/landmarks | Mid-Term | Preservation Planner | Planning Commission | CLG, County |
| Update design guidelines and zoning overlays | Mid-Term | Planning Staff | Municipalities | County budget |
| Strengthen demolition review processes | Mid-Term | Planning + Preservation | Legal, municipalities | County |

| 4.2 Integrate Preservation into Planning | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------|----------------------|--------|
| Align preservation with comprehensive plan and development review | Ongoing | Planning Staff | Preservation Planner | County |
| Promote context-sensitive development practices | Ongoing | Planning Staff | Developers | N/A |

| 4.3 Maintain and Strengthen CLG Program | | | | |
|---|---------|----------------------|------------|------------------|
| Maintain qualified Preservation Review Board and compliance | Ongoing | Preservation Planner | SHPO | CLG Funding |
| Pursue CLG grants and align with plan priorities | Ongoing | Preservation Planner | SHPO | CLG |
| Provide training and participate in preservation networks | Ongoing | Preservation Planner | NAPC, NPPN | CLG, local funds |

A-2 Public Engagement Meeting Notes and Maps

Boone County conducted a series of public input sessions in January and February 2026 to gather community feedback for the updated Boone County Heritage and Preservation Plan. In-person sessions were held on January 24, 2026, at the Walton Branch Library and January 28, 2026, at the Old Courthouse in Burlington, followed by an online session on February 2, 2026 to broaden participation.

These sessions were designed to be interactive and participatory, using a structured format outlined in the session agenda. Each session included a presentation on the “Historic Preservation in Boone County,” followed by group discussions and interactive mapping.

Participants were asked to identify important places, share concerns, and provide input on tools, programs, and priorities that should guide the future of preservation in Boone County.

Engagement Structure and Activities

Public input was gathered through two primary methods:

1. Group Discussions

Participants worked in facilitated groups using a structured worksheet to guide discussion. Topics included:

- Places that represent Boone County’s shared history
- Preservation challenges and concerns
- Tools and programs the County should consider
- Priority preservation activities
- Review of 1999 Preservation Plan Goals

Preservation activities the County should support:

- Historic parades for the 250 and reenactment groups
- June 20th- Boone County Fairgrounds 250th event
- Hands on- help with preservation for new homeowners
- NKY Area Development District- collaborate or support programs
- Compatible infill
- Big Bone historic loop
- Public history reenactment
- Historical experiences
- Food truck rally in Petersburg
- More videos on buildings and people
- Bus tours- heritage tours with library and CMC

-
- Calendar of events with local events
 - Gamify student activities

Tools or programs Boone County should consider:

- Continue with capstone project at Big Bone Lick
- Get NKU involved with interns and capstone projects
- Walking tours both guided and self guided. Use of QR codes to go to recordings, maps, pictures and digital information
- Build on existing events to promote heritage and culture
 - Ohio River Trail
 - Rabbit Hash
 - Salt Fest
 - American 250
- Create and expand on Boone County Heritage Map
 - Create tourism trails
 - Concentrate of Western Boone County and partner with recreation tourism
 - Create audio tour of sites in Boone County
- Take advantage of the extension office to promote educational opportunities
- Education programs
 - Mentorships programs
 - Passport programs
 - Rewards and competitions
- Boone County History certification
 - Present to the school board and tie into college resumes
 - Service oriented learning ie. eagle scouts, national honor society, elective in HS

Preservation challenges that concern you most:

- Lack of Education and awareness
- Rapid Rate of Development and development pressure in the county
- Void of continuity with communities
- People forget that resources are there because they are not clustered together
- Absentee owners not willing to invest or maintain historic buildings- ie demolition by neglect
- Reaching young people and getting them engaged
- Need to create curriculum for the schools
- Lack of money and resources to support historic preservation
- Balance of community needs
- People do not value historic buildings
- Dedication
- Lack of innovation and creativity in development

-
- Awareness of adaptive reuse as an option
 - Decline of civic life and getting the next generation involved
 - Lack of proactive activities

Review of Goals from 1999 plan- What have we done, what is going well and what do we still need to do

Identify and Document Historic & Natural Resources

- Create inventories of natural and cultural resources using GIS
- GIS historical maps are accessible and are usable
- NR nominations are known
- Capstone project at the church at Big Bone Lick Park
- Preservation Program is in the Planning Commission and has been integrated into GIS
- Need to promote these resources more
- Having CLG in the planning commission has been a great advantage
- Included in the Comprehensive Plan
- Take the identified sites and make them trails
- Identify a champion who is an elected official to promote preservation and heritage

Use Economic Tools to Support Preservation

- Maintain Certified Local Government (CLG) status
- Develop local, state, and federal incentives and tax credit advocacy
- Partner with banks and lenders to support preservation projects
- Highlight the economic value of preservation through studies and outreach
- Encourage high standards of stewardship and adaptive reuse
- Have been a CLG for about 40 years- Kevin Costello established the program
- Boone County is a county wide CLG- only county state wide that is only the county
- 1500 historic structures
- 220 cemeteries
- 600 archeological sites
- Need to do a better job at promoting incentives.

Promote History, Heritage, and Public Awareness

- Lack of NKY focused News
- Work with schools to create curriculum, after school programs, worksheets homeschool etc
- Highlight and get press of projects and on stories of cultural resources
- Groups are siloed and are splitting the market
 - Create consistency in promotion and connection
 - There is not one central local for information
- Information in basement of the Clerks office- promote this resource.

-
- Boone County has one of the few intact court house records= Lots of original records
 - There has not been attention to the ancient Native sites
 - Boone County Comprehensive Plan includes discussion on native sites
 - How do we create better discussion and stewardship about these sites
 - Need more educational programs
 - More tours for outreach this can include bus and house tours to promote regional history
 - Help knowing how to start and help figuring out what a good reuse/end use would be
 - More need to make the process accessible
 - Outreach using the County Fair and festivals
 - Create opportunities to talk about preservation with developers to balance out new development with our heritage and culture
 - Build and establish framework for partnership and buy in from leadership
 - Need more buy in from county leadership
 - Desire from public for information but lack of resources to support it
 - Make aware the importance of historic preservation as an investment into the county

Protect Historic and Prehistoric Resources

- Guide growth to respect historic character and rural landscapes
- Promote compatible land use and sensitive development
- Strengthen cemetery protections and cultural resource monitoring
- Explore demolition review, delay processes, and salvage guidelines
- Consider heritage areas to support tourism and conservation
- Structures are not as well protected as cemeteries
- Too much demolition for auto oriented development
- Strongest cemetery protections in KY through zoning
 - Jail crews helping with cemetery maintenance and clean-ups
 - Public has expressed interest in helping or visiting
 - Should inventory if there are not inventories of graves
- Any demolition in Boone County goes through historic review to assess on historic nature
 - basic documentation before demolition
 - sometimes mitigation with measured drawings
- Encouraging adaptive reuse into new development

2. Community Mapping Activity

Places at risk or that need attention and can be opportunities for reuse

- Western hills/portion of Boone County
- Verona Town Hall (small 8x10)
- Verona as a whole- need to do a survey to document the community
- Steve Coffin Barn- triple crown jockey- he is still living- potential historic marker

Places we love and that tell an important story

- Ghost Ship
- Ferry Landing
- Middlecreek Park
- Historic jail in Petersburg
- Schram's Tavern
- Western side, hills, south of Rabbit Hash
- Gaines tavern
- Fairgrounds
- Cemeteries
- Boone Cliffs
- Main Streets
- Rabbit Hash
- Big Bone Lick
- Salt Lick Festival
- Native mounds
- Salt Lick Festival

A-3 SWOT Analysis

This SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis summarizes key findings from stakeholder input, the Certified Local Government (CLG) training (CAMP) help in November 2024, and public engagement sessions. It reflects both the current conditions of Boone County's preservation program and broader community perspectives on heritage, growth, and stewardship. Boone County's location along the Ohio River, its deep archaeological and cultural history, and its continued growth position the County at a critical moment and where proactive preservation planning can shape how change occurs while protecting the places and stories that define its identity.

The SWOT analysis highlights a clear path forward for Boone County. While challenges exist, particularly related to staff capacity, financial resources, coordination, and awareness, the County is well-positioned to strengthen its preservation program through strategic planning, partnerships, and targeted investment.

The priorities and actions outlined in this plan are designed to:

- Build on existing strengths
- Address key weaknesses
- Leverage opportunities for growth and engagement
- Mitigate threats through proactive planning and policy

STRENGTHS

Boone County has a strong foundation for preservation, rooted in its history, existing program structure, and community interest.

- Rich and diverse historic resources: Boone County's history spans prehistoric archaeological sites, early settlement, river communities, agriculture, and transportation networks. This diversity provides a strong base for preservation, education, and tourism.
- Strong sense of place and community identity: Public input consistently highlighted deep connections to rural landscapes, farmland, cemeteries, and historic communities as defining features of the county.
- Established preservation program and CLG status: The Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) has been active since 1986 and benefits from participation in the Certified Local Government program, providing access to funding, technical assistance, and a preservation framework.
- Engaged and knowledgeable board and partners: The HPRB includes members with diverse expertise and maintains relationships with local historical organizations, museums, and community stakeholders.

-
- Support from County leadership and partners: There is demonstrated interest from elected officials and staff in strengthening the preservation program and supporting its growth.
 - Existing preservation successes: Projects such as the preservation of historic sites and local landmarks demonstrate the value and feasibility of preservation efforts.
 - Recognition of preservation in planning efforts: Historic preservation and heritage tourism are already identified as goals within the Comprehensive Plan, providing policy alignment.

WEAKNESSES

While Boone County has a strong foundation, several internal and structural challenges limit the effectiveness of the preservation program.

- Limited staffing and capacity: The program is supported by a single part-time staff person, limiting the ability to implement projects, pursue funding, and sustain initiatives.
- Lack of a coordinated work plan or strategy: Prior to this plan, there has been no clear roadmap guiding preservation activities, resulting in fragmented or reactive efforts.
- Uncertainty regarding roles, authority, and tools: HPRB members have expressed uncertainty about their powers, responsibilities, and available preservation tools, leading to hesitation in decision-making.
- Outdated ordinance and supporting documents: Existing regulations and materials lack clarity and do not fully reflect current best practices in preservation planning and design review.
- Limited public-facing information and resources: The current website and materials do not provide clear guidance on processes such as Certificates of Appropriateness, design guidelines, or available incentives.
- Lack of local financial incentives: While state and federal tools exist, the absence of local incentives limits the ability to encourage rehabilitation and designation.
- Limited local designations and protections: Few locally designated properties reduce the County's ability to protect historic resources from alteration or demolition.
- Uncoordinated preservation and heritage activities: Efforts across organizations and communities are not fully aligned, resulting in missed opportunities for collaboration and impact.

OPPORTUNITIES

Boone County has significant opportunities to expand and strengthen its preservation program by building on existing assets and community interest.

- Development of a countywide heritage tourism program: Boone County's diverse history, including archaeology, early settlement, agriculture, and river communities, provides strong potential for trails, tours, and destination-based experiences.
- Expansion of education and outreach initiatives: Public input demonstrated strong interest in workshops, programs, and accessible information about preservation.

-
- Creation of a centralized information and resource hub: A unified website and GIS-based platform can improve access to data, tools, and educational materials.
 - Expanded survey and documentation efforts: There is an opportunity to identify additional historic resources, including mid-century sites, rural landscapes, and underrepresented histories.
 - Development of local incentives and financial tools: Introducing local funding programs or incentives can encourage rehabilitation, designation, and investment in historic properties.
 - Integration of preservation into planning and development: Preservation can serve as a tool to guide growth, ensuring new development is compatible with existing character.
 - Strengthening partnerships and collaboration: Opportunities exist to better coordinate with municipalities, nonprofits, tourism organizations, and regional partners.
 - Leveraging CLG funding and training opportunities: Boone County is well-positioned to utilize CLG grants for planning, surveys, design guidelines, and outreach initiatives.
 - Growing interest in adaptive reuse and reinvestment: Public input and stakeholder discussions indicate support for revitalizing historic buildings and communities.

THREATS

Boone County faces external pressures and risks that could negatively impact historic resources if not addressed proactively.

- Rapid growth and development pressure: Ongoing development threatens rural landscapes, historic buildings, and community character.
- Demolition and demolition by neglect: Without strong local protections and enforcement tools, historic resources are vulnerable to loss.
- Lack of public understanding of preservation benefits: Misconceptions about preservation can create resistance to designation and regulation.
- Limited political will or competing priorities: Preservation may be viewed as secondary to development without clear communication of its economic and community benefits.
- Reluctance of property owners to pursue designation: Concerns about property rights and regulation may discourage participation in preservation programs.
- Lack of local funding and financial support: Limited funding for staff, programs, and incentives constrains implementation.
- Fragmentation and lack of coordination: Siloed efforts among organizations can reduce overall effectiveness and impact.
- Loss of historic resources before identification: Without proactive survey efforts, significant sites may be altered or demolished before being recognized.

A-4 Table of National Register Properties as of 6/24/2025

| Property Name | City | Street & Number | Area of Significance | Category of Property | Listed Date |
|--|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Allen, B. M., House | Union | 11301 Riddles Run Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Aylor, A. J., House | Hebron | 2162 Petersburg Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Barger, Donald, House | Petersburg | 2972 Front St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Belleview Baptist Church | Belleview | 6658 Fifth St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Belleview Post Office | Belleview | 6256 Main St. | ARCHITECTURE; COMMUNICATIONS | BUILDING | 6/14/1990 |
| Big Bone Methodist Church | Union | 3435 Beaver Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Blankenbecker-Riley Farm | Union | 2788 Hathaway Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 12/3/2002 |
| Blankenbeker, Clinton, House | Florence | 7414 US 42 | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Blau, Nicholas S. and Gertrude E., House | Walton | 15 Alta Vista Ave. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Boone County Distillery Superintendent's House and Guest House | Petersburg | 3073 Front St. | INDUSTRY; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Botts House | Burlington | 4752 Petersburg Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Calvert, B. C., House | Union | 10246 Lower River Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Carlton, Jonathan, House | Petersburg | Market St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/10/1982 |
| Chamber, Robert, House | Walton | 118 Chambers Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Chambers, C. Scott, House and Funeral Parlor | Walton | 111 N. Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Chambers, Robert, House | Burlington | 301 E. Bend Rd. | POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 10/10/1975 |
| Chandler House | Walton | 167 S. Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Christian Meeting House | Petersburg | 6561 Tanner St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Clore House | Belleview | 6001 Burlington Pike | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Clore, Jonas, House | Belleview | 6256 Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |

| | | | | | |
|--|------------|--------------------------------------|---|----------|------------|
| Clore, Jonas, Log House | Burlington | 9293 E. Bend Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Code House | Walton | 965 Beaver Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Corn, Allie, House | Hebron | 2807 Graves Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Crouch, Dr. M. J., House | Union | 2063 Hathaway Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Delehunty, John, House | Florence | 212 Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Delph, Sam, House | Petersburg | 4633 Garrison Creek Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Delph, W. T., House | Burlington | 6180 Rogers Ln. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Dew, Daniel, House | Petersburg | 2950 Third St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Dinsmore House | Burlington | W of Burlington on KY 18 | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 3/28/1979 |
| Dinsmore House | Burlington | W of Burlington on KY 18 | ARCHITECTURE; ETHNIC HERITAGE-BLACK | building | 11/13/2023 |
| Dinsmore, James, House (Boundary Increase) | Burlington | 5655 Burlington Pike | AGRICULTURE; ETHNIC HERITAGE-BLACK | building | 11/25/2005 |
| Early House | Petersburg | 2970 First St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| East Bend Church | Union | 12341 Lower River Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Edwards House | Walton | 143 S. Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/7/1989 |
| Farmers Bank of Petersburg | Petersburg | 3010 First St. | COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Flick House | Belleview | 6282 Burlington Pike | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Florence Fire Station | Florence | Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Florence Hotel | Florence | 262 Main St. | COMMERCE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Fowler, Benjamin Piatt, House | Union | N of Union on US 40 | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 10/29/1982 |
| Gaines, Benjamin R., Farm | Burlington | 3895 Idlewild Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Gaines, Col. Abner, House | Walton | N of Walton at 84 Old Lexington Pike | POLITICS/GOVERNMENT; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 4/10/1980 |
| George-Vest House | Verona | 13815 Walton-Verona Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Glore, William Milburn, House | Union | 11682 Big Bone-Union Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 12/3/2002 |
| Goodridge, Virginia Corey, House | Florence | 259 Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Gordon's Hall | Petersburg | 6561 Market St. | COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Gregory, Peter, House | Union | 5063 Beaver Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Hamilton School | Union | 4837 Beaver Rd. | EDUCATION; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Hebron Deposit Bank | Hebron | 1871 Petersburg Rd. | COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |

| | | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Hicks, Harvey A., House | Walton | 1325 Hicks Pike | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Hind, Samuel, House | Walton | 417 Stephenson Mill Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 6/14/1990 |
| Hopeful Lutheran Church | Florence | 6431 Hopeful Rd. | EUROPEAN; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Horton, Agnes, House | Petersburg | 2901 Second St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Hudson House | Walton | 12328 Gaines Way | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Huey, D. W., House | Burlington | 7812 East Bend Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Huey, Thomas, Farm | Union | 10492 Big Bone Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Hughes House | Walton | 771 Chambers Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Jenkins-Berkshire House | Petersburg | 6529 Mill St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Johnson, Cave, House | Hebron | 8368 River Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Kirtley House | Petersburg | 2451 Second Creek Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/9/1989 |
| Kirtley, Rev. Robert E., House | Hebron | 8545 River Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Kite, James William, Store | Burlington | 8800 E. Bend Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 7/30/2014 |
| Lassing, Morris, House | Union | 10515 US 42 | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 6/14/1990 |
| Loder House | Petersburg | 3028 Front St. | COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Mayhugh, John Clifton and Ann Catherine, House | Walton | 133 N. Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Mayhugh, John Clifton, House | Walton | 113 N. Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| McKim, W.F. and Florence, House | Burlington | 6031 S. Orient St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Milburn, Frank S., Machine Shop | Burlington | 5844 N. Orient St. | INVENTION | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Miller, M., House | Union | 3805 Beaver Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Moore, John, House | Francisville | 6 mi. (9.6 km) NW of Francisville | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 3/29/1978 |
| Norman, L. C., House | Union | 1966 Mt. Zion Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Parker, Richard, House | Petersburg | 4312 Belleview Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Peters House | Petersburg | 2973 Third St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Piatt's Landing | Burlington | S of Burlington of KY 338 | MILITARY; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 7/18/1974 |
| Prospect Farm | Petersburg | 6279 Petersburg Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Rabbit Hash General Store | McVile | 10021 Lower River Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Ransom House | Crittenden | 1842 Messmer Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|---|----------|------------|
| Roberts, Thomas Zane, House and Workshop | Burlington | 5074 Middle Creek Rd. | INVENTION | BUILDING | 2/28/2012 |
| Rogers, Boone Fowler, Barn | Petersburg | 5394 Belleview Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Rogers, James, House | Belleview | 6259 Sycamore St. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Rolsen, Henry and Agnes, House | Constance | 3044 Dry Creek Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Rouse, Dr. Gladys, Office and House | Florence | 221 Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Ryle's Super Market and Oddfellows Building | Petersburg | 6571 Tanner St. | COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Souther, Abe, House | Francisville | Off KY 237 | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 1/8/1987 |
| Stephens, J.Q.A., House | Union | 5572 Rabbit Hash Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Stevenson, Dr. John E., House | Union | 3422 Beaver Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 8/24/2000 |
| Tanner, John, House | Petersburg | KY 20 | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 1/8/1987 |
| Terrill, George W., House | Petersburg | 6002 Petersburg Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Tomlin, John G., House | Walton | 109 N. Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 11/25/2005 |
| Verona High School | Verona | 14923 Walton-Verona Rd. | ARCHITECTURE; EDUCATION | BUILDING | 12/3/2002 |
| Wallace House | Walton | 67 S. Main St. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/6/1989 |
| Walton, John J., House | Belleview | 5408 Belleview Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 2/28/2012 |
| Watts House | Bullittsville | Williams Rd. | ARCHITECTURE | BUILDING | 1/8/1987 |
| Big Bone Lick Archeological District | Union | Along Big Bone Creek | HISTORIC - ABORIGINAL; HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL; PREHISTORIC; EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT; MILITARY; SCIENCE | DISTRICT | 8/22/2002 |
| Big Bone Lick Archeological District | Union | Route 338 | HISTORIC - ABORIGINAL; HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL; PREHISTORIC; EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT; MILITARY; SCIENCE | district | |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------|------------|
| Burlington Historic District | Burlington | KY 18 | COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT; COMMERCE; ARCHITECTURE | DISTRICT | 6/19/1979 |
| Burlington Historic District (Boundary Decrease, Boundary Increase) | Burlington | Portions of Washington, Gallative, F | ARCHITECTURE; POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | DISTRICT | 8/3/2005 |
| Chambers, A. E., Octagonal Barn | Petersburg | 5009 Petersburg Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | DISTRICT | 2/7/1989 |
| Collins, Capt. N., House District | Petersburg | 6255 Aurora Ferry Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | DISTRICT | 2/6/1989 |
| Rabbit Hash Historic District | Rabbit Hash | 10021-10410 Lower River Rd. | COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | DISTRICT | 12/4/2003 |
| South Main Street Historic District | Walton | Roughly along Main St. between Ed | COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT | DISTRICT | 3/17/2005 |
| Uitz, Ephraim, House | Burlington | 5208 Bullitssville Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | DISTRICT | 6/14/1990 |
| Wingate-Gaines Farm District | Petersburg | 5225 Whitton Rd. | AGRICULTURE; ARCHITECTURE | DISTRICT | 2/7/1989 |
| Archaeological Site 15 BE 36 | Union | Address Restricted | PREHISTORIC | SITE | 8/18/1983 |
| Bedinger Site | Walton | Address Restricted | PREHISTORIC | SITE | 3/24/2000 |
| Big Bone Lick State Park | Union | Rte. 1 | PREHISTORIC; SCIENCE; SOCIAL HISTORY | SITE | 6/13/1972 |
| Crisler-Crisler Mounds Site | Hebron | Address Restricted | PREHISTORIC | SITE | 4/11/2002 |
| Gaines, Col. Abner, House (Boundary Increase) | Walton | Address Restricted | HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL; COMMERCE; TRANSPORTATION | SITE | 2/4/2010 |
| Green, M.B., Site | Petersburg | Address Restricted | PREHISTORIC | SITE | 3/26/2008 |
| Maplewood | Walton | Address Restricted | HISTORIC - NON-ABORIGINAL; BLACK | SITE | 3/24/2000 |
| Rogers Site | Petersburg | Address Restricted | PREHISTORIC | SITE | 10/31/1983 |
| Reeves Mound | Stringtown | Address Restricted | PREHISTORIC | STRUCTURE | 8/3/1990 |



Boone County Preservation Plan Public Input Sessions

Share your input and help shape the updated
Boone County Historic Preservation Plan at a
Public Input Session

Saturday January 24 | 10–11:30 AM

Walton Branch Library

13000 Towne Center Dr, Walton, KY 41094

Wednesday January 28 | 6–7:30 PM

Old Courthouse, Burlington

2980 Washington Street

Monday February 2 | 6:30–7:30 PM (Online)

Register here:



WE WANT YOUR VOICE!



Boone County is full of places that mean something.

The buildings we grew up with.

The crossroads that shaped our towns.

The landscapes that hold family memories.

As we develop the Boone County Preservation Plan, we want to know:

What places do you love?

What sites tell an important story?

It could be a church, school, farm, storefront, neighborhood, bridge, or gathering place.

Share it in the comments or send us a message. Your stories matter and will help shape this plan.

[#boonecountyky](#) [#historicpreservation](#) [#historicpreservationmatters](#)





Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board

January 23 · 🌐



Happy Friday! We still plan to hold our first Boone County Preservation Plan public meeting tomorrow morning starting at 10:00 am. However, please check Boone County Public Library's website and social media for closing updates before heading out. <https://www.bcpl.org/>

Please stay safe and warm this weekend!

#boonecountyky #historicpreservationmatters #historicpreservation



BOONE COUNTY
KENTUCKY

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Register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/NBCBxwCDhc>



Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board

January 28 · 🌐



Hi, everyone! Tonight is the next public meeting for the Boone County Preservation Plan update. Huge thank you to everyone who attended Saturday's meeting. It was wonderful to share with you! Also/ don't forget to fill out the historic preservation survey! We are excited to hear from everyone! [#boonecountyky](#) [#historicpreservationmatters](#) [#historicpreservation](#)

Boone County Preservation Plan Public Input Sessions

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HELP PRESERVE BOONE COUNTY'S HERITAGE

Take the Boone County Preservation Plan Survey Today!



Boone County Historic Preservation Review Board

November 21, 2025 · 🌐



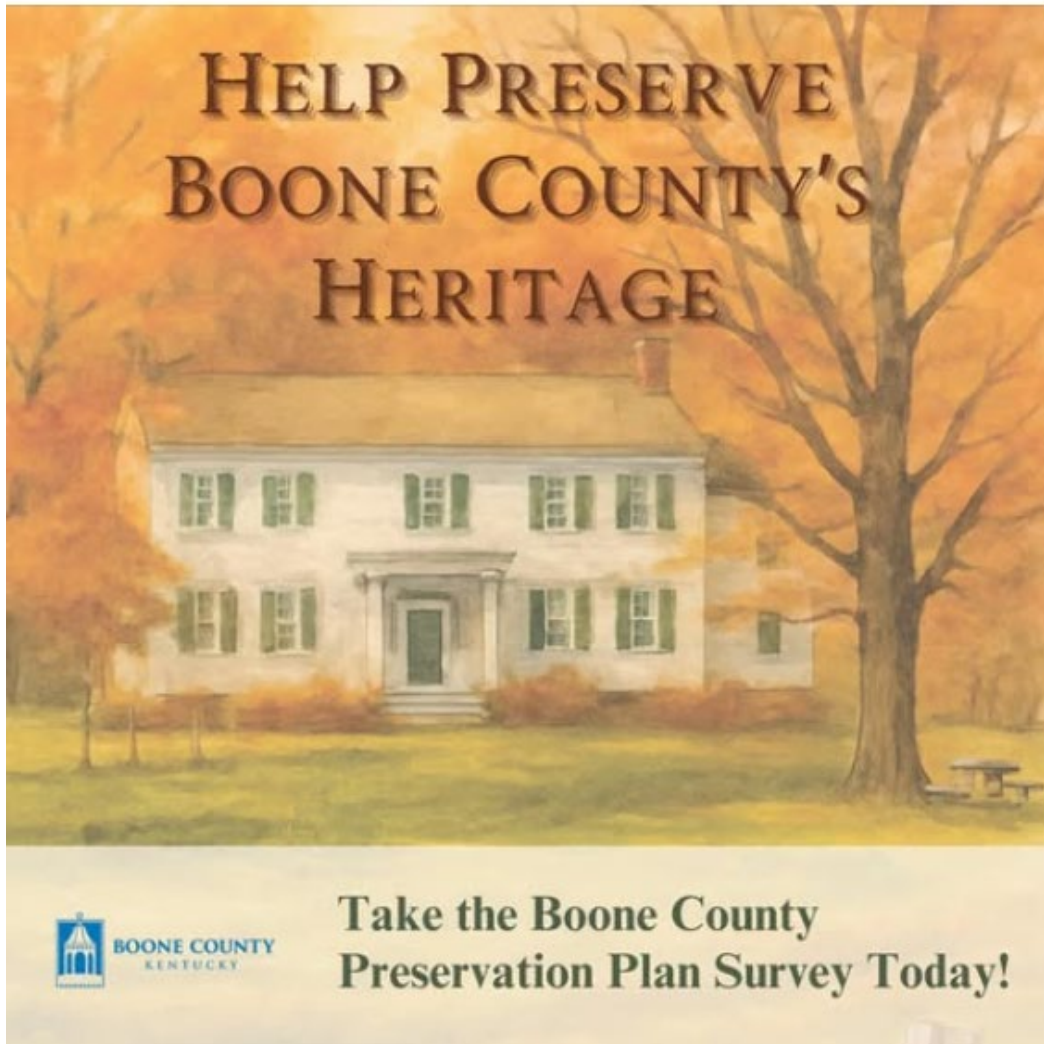
Happy Friday! Today's post is a bit of a change up.

What stories, places, and traditions should Boone County protect for future generations? 🌳 🏠 🏡

Your voice matters in shaping the updated Boone County Historic Preservation Plan.

Fill out the community survey today: Boone County Historic Preservation Plan Survey – Fill out form <https://forms.office.com/r/x46jdrZMrX>

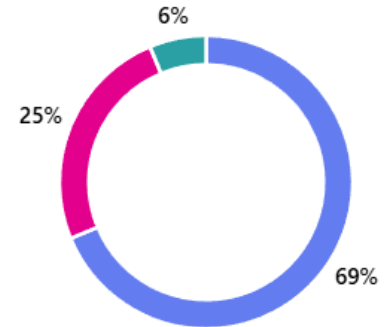
#PreserveOurHeritage #BooneCountyKY #CommunityVoices



A-6 Survey Responses

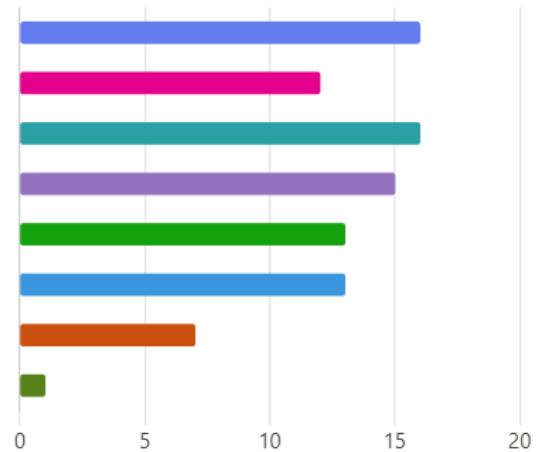
1. Before today, were you aware that Boone County has a Historic Preservation Plan?

| | |
|------------|----|
| ● Yes | 11 |
| ● No | 4 |
| ● Not Sure | 1 |



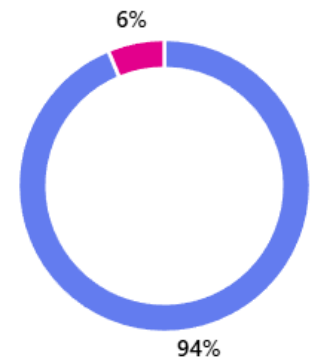
2. What do you think "historic preservation" involves? (Select all that apply)

| | |
|---|----|
| ● Saving historic buildings and neighborhoods | 16 |
| ● Preserving farmland and rural landscapes | 12 |
| ● Restoring or protecting cemeteries | 16 |
| ● Protecting archaeological sites | 15 |
| ● Supporting local culture, traditions, and stories | 13 |
| ● Promoting heritage tourism | 13 |
| ● Providing incentives for property owners | 7 |
| ● Other | 1 |

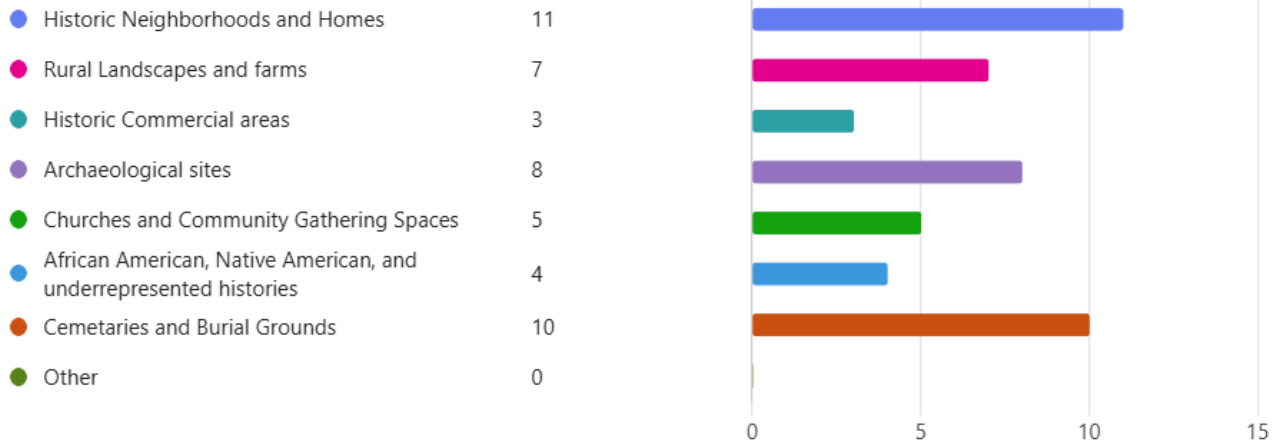


3. How important do you think historic preservation is to Boone County's identity and future?

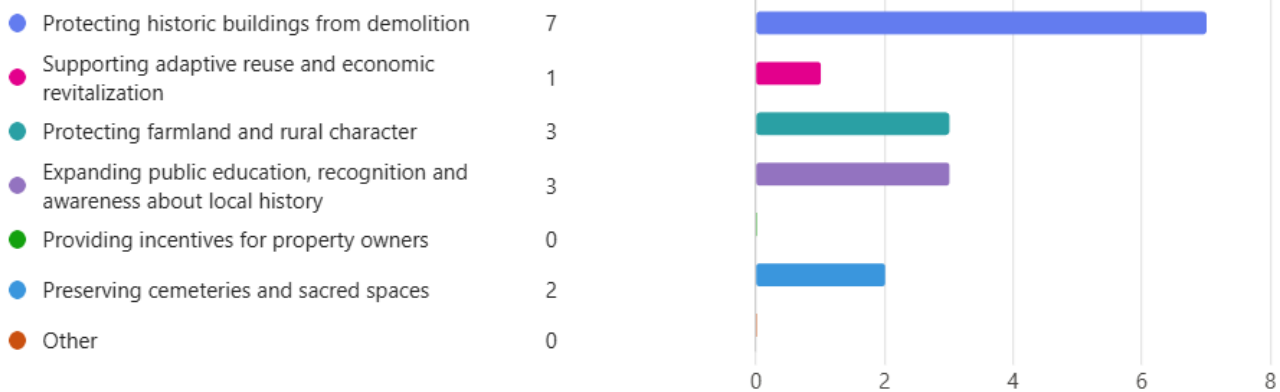
| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| ● Very important | 15 |
| ● Somewhat important | 1 |
| ● Neutral | 0 |
| ● Somewhat not important | 0 |
| ● Not important at all | 0 |



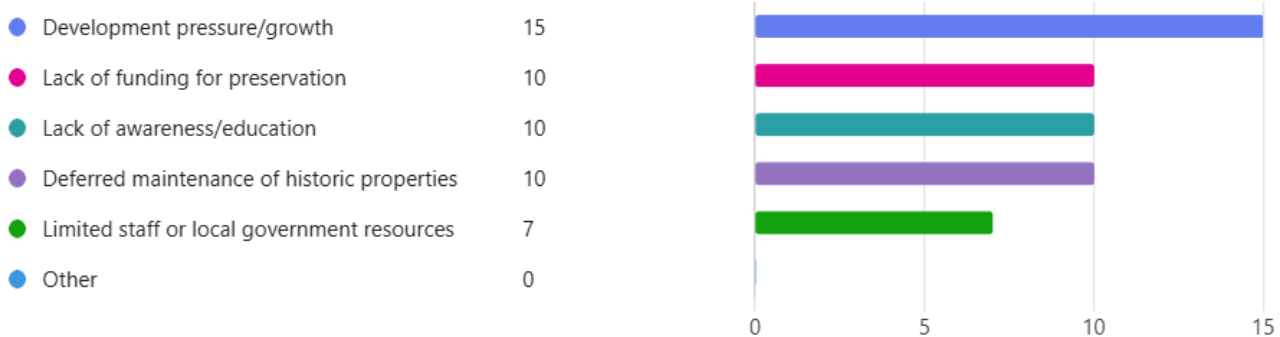
4. What aspects of Boone County's heritage are most important to preserve? (Select up to 3)



5. In your opinion, which of the following should be the top priority for preservation in Boone County?

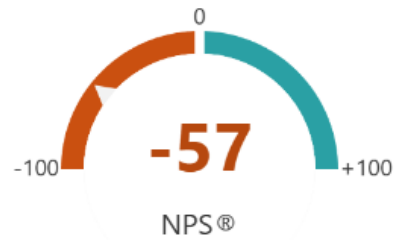


6. What do you see as the biggest threats to Boone County's historic resources? (Check all that apply)



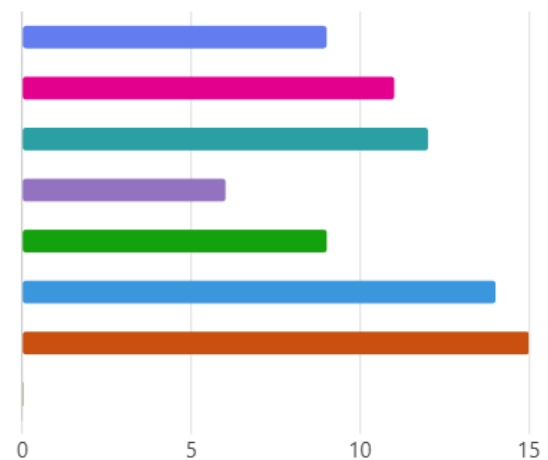
7. On a scale of 1–10, how effective do you think Boone County has been at preserving historic resources?

| | |
|------------|----|
| Promoters | 1 |
| Passives | 5 |
| Detractors | 10 |



8. How would you like to see preservation integrated into community life? (Select all that apply)

| | |
|---|----|
| Walking tours and events | 9 |
| Educational programs in schools | 11 |
| More signage and interpretation at historic sites | 12 |
| Online resources and maps | 6 |
| Partnerships with businesses and tourism | 9 |
| Local historic designations for protection of properties from demolition and... | 14 |
| National Register Historic Designations for recognition and access to Historic Tax... | 15 |
| Other | 0 |



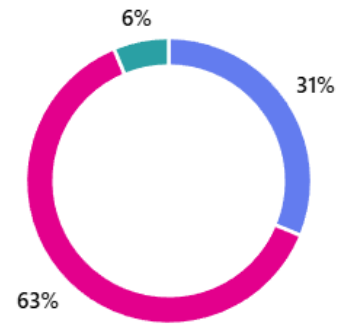
9. What role should Boone County government play in preservation?

| | |
|--|---|
| Strong leadership and enforcement | 8 |
| Supportive role with incentives and guidance | 8 |
| Minimal role – preservation should be community-driven | 0 |
| Other | 0 |



10. Do you own or live in a historic property in Boone County?

| | |
|---|----|
| ● Yes | 5 |
| ● No | 10 |
| ● I don't know if it is considered historic | 1 |



11. What resources or support would help you (or others) better preserve historic properties?



12. What historic places, stories, or traditions in Boone County do you feel are overlooked and should be highlighted?



13. Do you have any additional comments or ideas for the updated Preservation Plan?



A-7 Bibliography and Resources

Boone County Documents and Project Materials

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- National Trust for Historic Preservation, Preservation Green Lab. *The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Environmental Value of Building Reuse*. Washington, DC: National Trust for Historic Preservation, 2011.

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- Kentucky Heritage Council. *Kentucky Historic Preservation Plan*. Frankfort, KY.
- Kentucky Heritage Council. *National Register of Historic Places Program Guidance*. Frankfort, KY.
- Kentucky Department of Education. *Kentucky Academic Standards for Social Studies*. Frankfort, KY.
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- PlaceEconomics. *The Economic Impact of Historic Preservation*. Various reports.
- Rypkema, Donovan D. *The Economics of Historic Preservation: A Community Leader's Guide*. Washington, DC: National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- National Trust for Historic Preservation. *The Greenest Building: Quantifying the Environmental Value of Building Reuse*. Washington, DC.

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- National Trust for Historic Preservation. *Heritage Tourism Program Resources*. Washington, DC.
- National Park Service. *National Register Bulletin: How to Evaluate and Document Historic Properties*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of the Interior.
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Planning, Growth, and Community Development

- American Planning Association. *Planning Advisory Service Reports: Historic Preservation and Planning*. Chicago, IL.
- Urban Land Institute. *Best Practices in Adaptive Reuse and Community Development*. Washington, DC.

Additional References

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- Local historical societies, museums, and archival collections within Boone County, Kentucky.