

Small Historic Towns across America

as presented by Mr. Stadt's online FreedomProject Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014.

You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: www.fpeusa.org



Brief History of Paris, Kentucky

Bourbon County was formed as a county within Virginia in 1786. In 1792, it was transferred to the newly formed state of Kentucky. Settlement began near Hopewell Spring with Joseph Houston's Station in 1775. The area was chartered as Hopewell, Virginia, in 1789 and renamed Paris in 1790 to honor French assistance during the Revolutionary War. Paris is located near the center of Bourbon County on Stoner Creek. The post office opened as Bourbonton in 1794 and was renamed Paris by 1815.



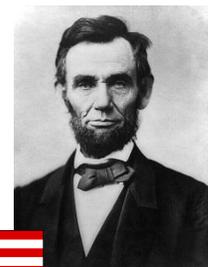
Paris and Bourbon County contain many historical treasures. Duncan Tavern, located at 323 High Street, was built in 1788 and housed such notable guests as Daniel Boone and Simon Kenton. The tavern currently serves as the state headquarters for the Daughters of the American Revolution. The Bourbon County Courthouse, completed in 1905, has been called "the prettiest courthouse in the state of Kentucky." Due to fire, the current building is the fourth one to stand in Courthouse Square. The paintings in the inner dome depict the four seasons of agriculture over a century ago. Tobacco, hemp, livestock and bluegrass seed were important industries in the county.

Location and Driving Directions from Closest Major U.S. Airport

Paris is located in central Kentucky and lies 15 miles northeast of Lexington on the Stoner Fork of the Licking River. From the Louisville International Airport take I-264 East to I-64 East via Exit 19A. After traveling 67 miles, this interstate merges with I-75 South at Lexington. Take Exit 113 (US-27/US-68) and turn left onto North Broadway/US-27 N/US-68 E. Continue to follow US-27 N/US-68 E for 13 miles. Stay straight to arrive on Main Street in Paris.

Who was the President when this town was founded, and what was the political environment in America at that time?

At the time Paris was officially organized as a town, Abraham Lincoln was the President of the United States. Lincoln was a Republican who was born in the state of Kentucky. During this time, the Civil War was still raging on. The Civil War officially ended during Lincoln's presidency, but he was assassinated 6 days later and passed away the next day.



In 1862, there were only 24 states in the United States of America. Here is the official flag of that time.



Oldest Businesses/Largest Businesses Today

There are over 90 horse farms in Bourbon County that breed Thoroughbreds, Hackneys, and American Saddlebreds and contribute to the prestigious reputation for equine excellence for which the area is known. Perhaps the most notable is Claiborne Farm (est. 1915), one of the most successful thoroughbred breeding operations in the United States. Several Kentucky Derby winners, including Secretariat, have stood at this farm.

City Government

The Paris City Commission is composed of four council members elected at-large from the City of Paris. Any number of candidates may file to run for commissioner in the May Primary, and the eight candidates with the most votes then proceed to the General Election in November where the top four vote-getters are elected. Council members serve two-year terms in office and elections are held in even years.

The City Council and the Mayor hear and vote on the major matters of concern to the City. The City of Paris is a City Manager form of government and the day-to-day matters are controlled by the City Manager, who is appointed to run the City on behalf of the citizens of the community.

Historic Attractions in the Area: Festivals and Events



Dedicated to the 1973 Triple Crown Winner, the **Secretariat Festival**, attracts loyal fans who wish to honor the memory of this great athlete. Tours to the farm and gravesite are offered as well as an equine gallery with paintings by talented local artists, a silent auction, an autograph session with racing celebrities, a 5K run, live music, equine-related demonstrations, and the Secretariat Look-Alike Contest. www.secretariatfestival.com

The **Cane Ridge Meeting House** is said to be the largest one-room log building in North America. Built in 1791, it hosted the great revival of 1801 where over 25,000 people gathered to worship. The shrine was built to prevent deterioration to the meeting house exterior. www.caneridge.org

Where can we stay if we visit Paris?



Country Charm Historic Farmhouse Bed & Breakfast - Located on 65 laid-back acres in the heart of Kentucky, Country Charm is your bluegrass home away from home. The bed and breakfast offers the best of both worlds – a quiet country setting, yet within minutes of Paris or Lexington, the Kentucky Horse Park, and a multitude of historic, relaxing, and entertaining attractions.

Website: www.countrycharm.com

Why would I want to visit this historic small town?

My hometown of Paris has been “discovered” by many people who have been impressed with the architecture, scenery, and hospitality of this region. You won’t be disappointed by the shops and restaurants you’ll visit by strolling down Main Street!

Links You May Wish to Visit

www.paris.ky.gov

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SX3f0sMJ11w

www.hopewellmuseum.org

