

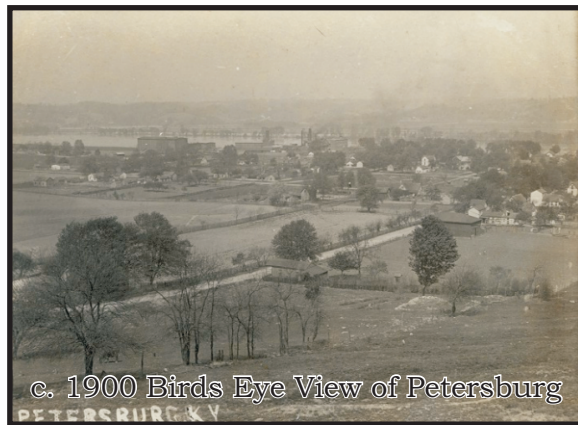
OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST

A. **Petersburg Cemetery** - Route 20 South. Town cemetery, situated on land originally donated by John Flournoy, with tombstones dating from 1820.

B. **John Tanner House** - Route 20 East. Stone house built c. 1810, possibly by Petersburg's founder, Reverend John Tanner. Building may be the oldest existing stone house in Boone County.

C. **Prospect Farm (J. C. Jenkins House)** - Route 20 East. This eclectic Italianate Villa was completed in 1861, just prior to the outbreak of the Civil War. Sited with a commanding view on the hilltop above Petersburg, the house may be easily viewed from the corner of Mill Street and Third Street in town

D. **George Terrill House** - Route 20 East. This residence was built in a vernacular Italianate design c. 1865, and features a recessed double arcade.



HISTORIC PETERSBURG, KENTUCKY

A Walking Tour



The 1840 Christian Meeting House

Presented by:
**Boone County
Historic Preservation
Review Board**

A History of Petersburg, Kentucky

In 1789 John Tanner, a Baptist preacher, settled in a frontier section of Woodford County, Virginia. The area became Boone County, Kentucky, in 1798. Tanner's Station was established along the Ohio River on the site of a 12th Century prehistoric Native American Village. In 1805, John Grant purchased 750 acres there, established a tavern and a ferry, and planned a town to be called Caledonia. When he ran out of funds, Grant sold the Boone County land to his son-in-law John James Flournoy. In 1818, the town of Petersburg was officially established by the Kentucky State Assembly. Flournoy sold individual lots and advertised donation lots for a limited number of mechanics and tradesmen.

By 1860 Petersburg was the largest town in Boone County, with a population of 583. Native Kentuckians as well as German and Irish immigrants made up the majority of community residents and many were employed by the Boone County Distilling Company. The distillery, located at the south end of Front (then Water) Street, was started as a steam milling concern by Flournoy in 1816 and expanded into a distillery c. 1835. It rapidly became Petersburg's most important industry and went through a string of progressively more successful owners. By 1880, it was producing more whiskey (nearly 1 million gallons) than any other distillery in Kentucky. The distillery had become one of the largest in the nation by 1899 - rivaling the 14 massive distilleries of Peoria, Illinois.

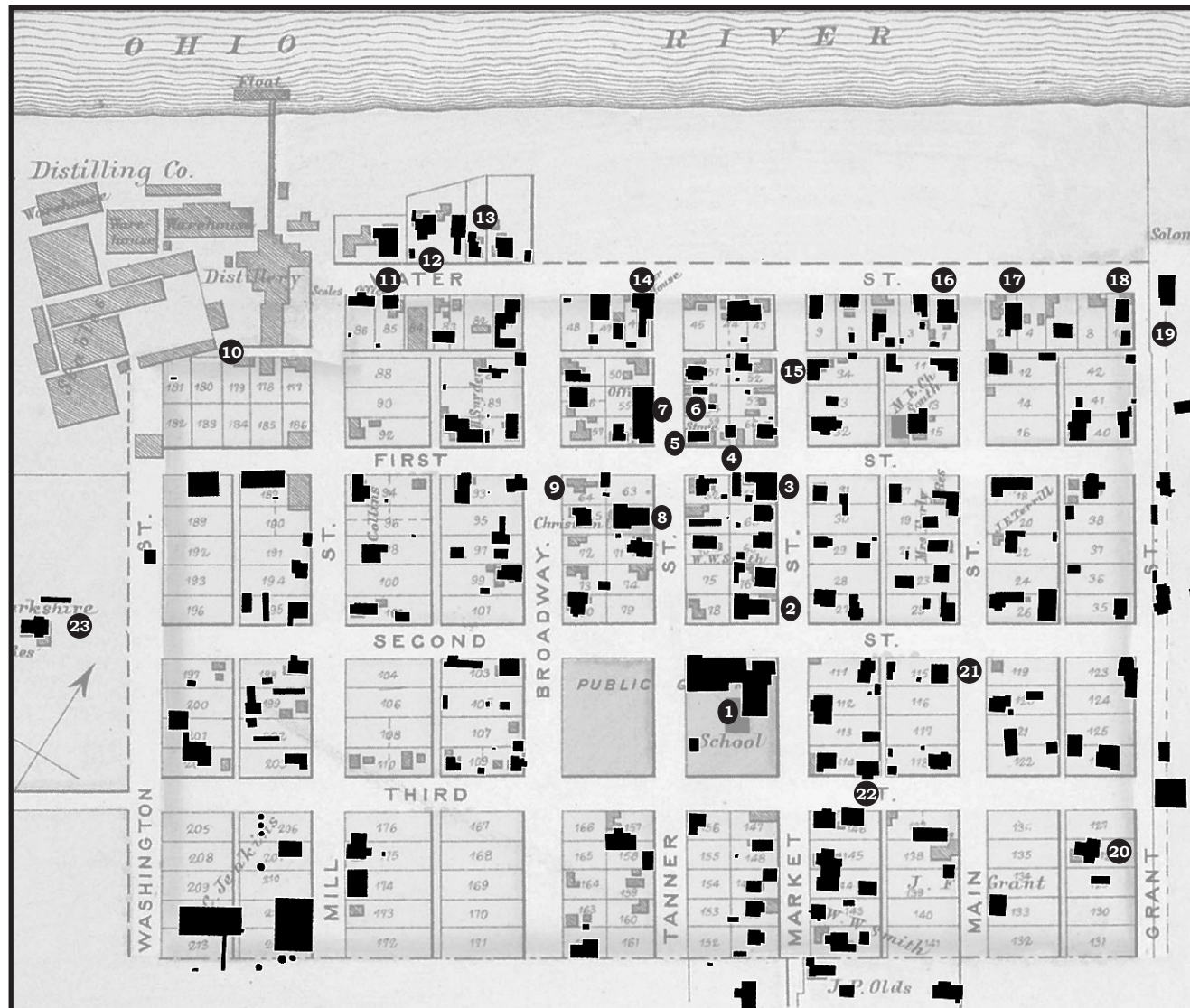
Ohio River steamboat traffic provided an essential link for goods and services in and out of Petersburg. The late 19th Century decline in river transportation, due in large part to the growth of railroads, contributed to the eventual demise of the distillery, which was acquired by an Illinois-based group that owned 58 other distilleries. The new owners almost immediately began the process of shutting down the distillery, which was gone by 1916. The distillery's demise left seven brick warehouses filled with aging whiskey. Bottling continued until the inventory was depleted. As it emptied, each warehouse was dismantled and the bricks were reused in Petersburg and other towns on both sides of the river.

By the early 20th Century, Petersburg had lost most of its industry. Commercial activity, as well as population, decreased and surrounding agricultural interests became the primary focus.

The architectural development of Petersburg reflects periods of early settlement, commercial and industrial growth, and gradual decline. A variety of architectural designs, many with an emphasis on local construction techniques and materials, can be found here. Buildings constructed as early as c. 1810 fit in well with architectural styles from the prosperous second half of the 19th Century. As the economy of Petersburg declined, residents altered existing older homes to present a more modern appearance and to meet changing family needs. Bungalows and simple post-World War II housing, along with more modern ranch homes, complete the evolving picture of change over time. Many current Petersburg residents are descendants of the town's founders and early citizens. Although small in population, Petersburg takes pride in its history and cordially invites the visitor to experience this heritage.

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1883 Atlas of Petersburg with existing buildings superimposed in black



9. **Stott House** - Built c. 1889, this T-plan dwelling features vernacular Victorian and Italianate detailing and original outbuildings.

10. **Site of the Boone County Distillery** - Once the largest distillery in Kentucky and one of the largest in the country. All that remains on the site are remnant foundations and the c. 1885 brick building that housed the distillery's barrel making-operation, converted to a livestock barn years ago.

11. **Boone County Distillery Superintendent's & Guest House** * - A double house form, rarely seen in Boone County, and distinctive Queen Anne brick work are featured in this c. 1883 building. It is significant as the best surviving building associated with Petersburg's primary 19th Century industry.

12. **Lyons House** - An interesting combination of Queen Anne and Classical Revival styles is seen on this 1909 residence.

13. **Workers Houses** - These simple structures dating to c. 1890 - 1895, are typical of those built as working class residences.

14. **Loder House** * - Also known as White Hall, this c. 1840 Greek Revival building was a tavern and the home of Louis A. Loder, who kept extensive diaries from 1857 to 1904.

15. **Jonathan Carlton House** * - The c. 1825 Federal style main block of this T-Plan building is an addition to the older rear portion, built c. 1810. It is also known as Shramm's Tavern, which offered food, drink, and lodging to Ohio River traffic.

16. **Donald Barger House** * - A c. 1879 residence featuring a well preserved hall and parlor design, common to Petersburg.

17. **E.P. Berkshire House** - A vernacular craftsman bungalow built c. 1820 from distillery warehouse brick. The cast iron fence is from the former Petersburg Methodist Church.

18. **Weisickle Bungalow** - A more traditional bungalow, this frame house was built c. 1915.

19. **Town Well** - Formerly the site of the Petersburg Mills flour mill and coal yard. The town well, fed by an underground spring, is still an important source of water in Petersburg.

20. **Daniel Dew House** * - A Folk Victorian design with Italianate elements, this c. 1885 residence was home to an Ohio river board captain.

21. **A. B. Parker House** - A simple Victorian-influenced porch add a special touch to this c. 1886 vernacular home.

22. **Peters House** * - Gingerbread detailing embellishes the front and side porches of this c. 1894 vernacular home.

23. **Jenkins-Berkshire House** * - This vernacular Greek Revival "Downing Cottage" was built c. 1860 for the son of J. C. Jenkins. It was sold to George Berkshire in 1880 and remained in the family until the 1950s.

1. The 1910 **Petersburg Graded School** was the last of a series of schools that occupied this prominent site beginning in 1793. The school was demolished in 2003 to make way for the Petersburg Community Center, Fire House, and Chapin Memorial Library.

2. **Petersburg Baptist Church** - Salvaged distillery warehouse bricks were used to build this vernacular (locally or regionally influenced construction or materials) Gothic Revival Church in 1916.

3. **Gordon's Hall** * - This c. 1892 Italianate style commercial building features a cast iron storefront. Also known as the Petersburg Opera House, the second floor features a stage and was used for entertainment and movies.

4. **Farmers Bank** * - Built c. 1888, this tiny bank served Petersburg for 10 years before closing and eventually reopening in 1903. It was recently converted to residential use.

5. **Masonic Building** - The second floor of this c. 1849 vernacular Greek Revival structure has been the meeting place for the Sons of Temperance, Odd Fellows, Knights of Pythias and, since 1924, the Masons. The first floor was a combination of retail and residential space.

6. **Petersburg Jail** - Built in 1916 from salvaged distillery brick, the jail has never been very secure.

7. **The Odd Fellows Building** * - Once the Petersburg General Store, the Odd Fellows met on the second floor. The vernacular commercial building was built in 1913 from salvaged distillery brick.

8. **Christian Meeting House** * - This Greek Revival structure was built in 1840 and has been used continuously since then for church services as well as public meetings. The Chapin Memorial Library, Boone County's first library, began here in 1948 thanks to the generous donation of former resident E. Y. Chapin.

* Listed in the National Register of Historic Places