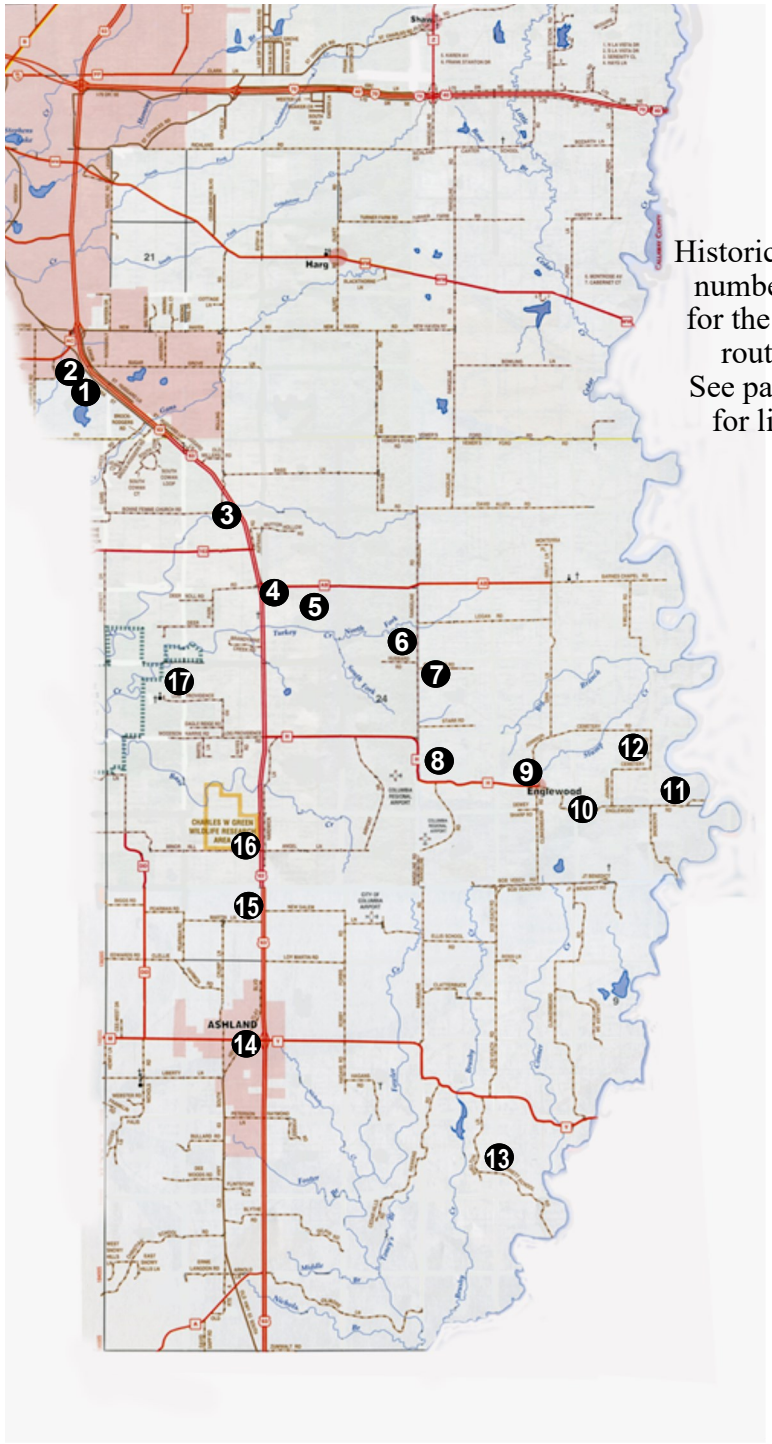
Tour #4 Map SE Boone County



Historic sites numbered for the tour route. See page 3 for list.

A Driving Tour of Southeast Boone County

TOUR #4
See back cover for detailed map of this tour

BOONE COUNTY History & Culture CENTER

Boone County Historical Society
Historic Sites Committee

The Historic Sites Program of the Boone County Historical Society

Society's Historic Sites program identifies and recognizes historic sites in Boone County. The program also attempts to compile information on all historic sites in Boone County.

Sites are nominated by the general public and by members of the Boone County Historical Society's Historic Sites Committee. The Committee then selects, from these nominations, sites to be included on the *Register of Boone County Historic Sites.* Sites are selected for one, several or all of the following reasons:

Associative significance: The site is associated with events or with the lives of persons significant to the history of Boone County.

Intrinsic significance: The site embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; or represents the work of a master; or possesses high aesthetic value.

Informational significance: The site yields or may likely yield information important of the history or prehistory of Boone County.

BOONE COUNTY History & Culture CENTER

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For current hours: check website or call

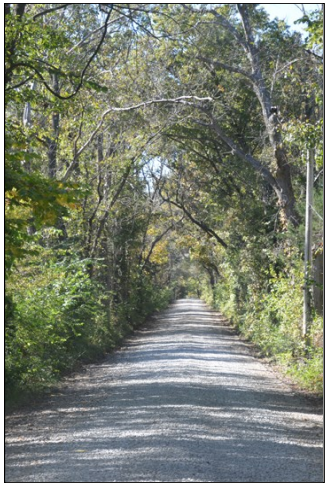
17 Log Providence Missionary Baptist Church

38.840718, -92.273756

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2016

Back on Highway 63, drive 1.5 miles north and exit at the Rt. H/Log Providence Road exit. Cross over the highway to the west onto Log Providence Road. Follow Log Providence Rd. about 2 miles to the end. (It turns sharply to the right after ½ mile and then to the left after another ½ mile.)

Log Providence Missionary Baptist Church. In 1866, shortly after the Civil War ended, a group of newly freed African Americans, who had previously worshiped at the white Little Bonne Femme and New Salem Baptist churches, met to organize a church of their own. A four-acre plot of land was purchased from Eli Bass for $20.00, and a log church was built on the property by the men of the congregation. A frame building replaced the log one in 1879, and the current structure was erected in 1925. The first building is still memorialized in the name "Log Providence," and this is still an active congregation.



In top photo is the front entry to the church; above is another entry recalling the historically significant dates and pastor's name. At left is a view of the beautiful Log Providence Road as it approaches the church.

17 Forest Hill Plantation
Peter and Eli Bass

GPS 38.811733, -92.256151

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 1995

Return to Highway 63 North and proceed about 3/4 of a mile to the Angel Ln./Minor Hill Rd. intersection with Hwy. 63. Cross Hwy. 63 on Minor Hill Rd and turn into the Charles W. Green Wildlife Research Area to visit the Bass Plantation site, on your right behind the row of boulders as you approach the gate.

Forest Hill Plantation of Peter & Eli Bass. The chimney that you see here marks the center of the largest landholding in Boone County's history, the Bass plantation called Forest Hill. Peter Bass, of Dutch descent, was born in Baltimore in 1769. Ever westward looking, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee, and on to St. Louis well before Missouri statehood.

A good friend of Thomas Jefferson, Bass joined the Smithton Company consortium that founded Columbia and already owned over 4,000 acres by the time Boone became a county in 1820. Even before this time, he sent his son Eli to this site to build a six-room log cabin.

As their fortunes increased, the log cabin and its chimney were incorporated into what became a 36-room, plantation-style home at the center of a 10,000 acre estate. Eli continued to expand the operation after the death of his father in 1829. Eli helped form the new Democrat party in Missouri, advocated for higher education, and served on the first Board of Curators of the University of Missouri.

The plantation was a model with mostly imported stock, forty shops and outbuildings. Peter Bass donated the land for New Salem Baptist Church and his son Eli is buried there.

Sites on the Tour
See map on back cover

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Welcome to your Tour

Welcome to Your Tour

We live in a beautiful and historic part of a wonderful country. What better way to explore both than a historic driving tour? The Historic Sites Committee of the Boone County Historical Society urges all—the native, the newly-arrived, and the visitor—to take time to enjoy the legacy left by so many who have preceded us. Feel free to pick and choose segments of the tour and start anywhere that fits your fancy. Use the accompanying map to plan your trip.

We hope you will include the Boone County History and Culture Center, 3801 Ponderosa Street, as part of this tour or any other time you choose. To get a personalized tour of the Village and /or Maplewood, advance reservations are required, and during the months April to October. Plan ahead and phone 573-443-8936. The museum and Montminy galleries are open without an appointment.

GPS coordinates — We have included GPS coordinates with these sites. They may not be exactly on the site, but should get you close enough to locate the site. Please let us know of any errors in these coordinates. Thank you.

Historic Sites Committee
Boone County Historical Society

Look for the STAR symbol. It identifies properties recognized by the BCHS Historic Sites Committee, and the year of designation.

BOONE COUNTY History & Culture CENTER
#BooneHistory
@boonehistory

15 New Salem Baptist Church

GPS 38.799653, -92.252345

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2016

Return to Highway 63 and go north for about 1-1/2 miles to the New Salem Church on your left. (GPS 38.799653-92.252345)

New Salem Baptist Church is intimately tied into the early history of Boone County, and with one of the premier early county families. The land on which it stands was once a part of the Eli Bass plantation. The Bass family donated the land for the church, and were some of the founding members of the congregation. Eli's headstone is the tallest monument in the adjoining cemetery!

The congregation was organized in November 1828 by members leaving Little Bonne Femme Baptist Church. Dr. David Doyle was chosen as the first pastor in December 1828 and served for many years. The first building was completed in 1830. This early brick structure served the congregation until 1878, when the present frame building was completed and dedicated. This is still an active, functioning church, with services every Sunday.

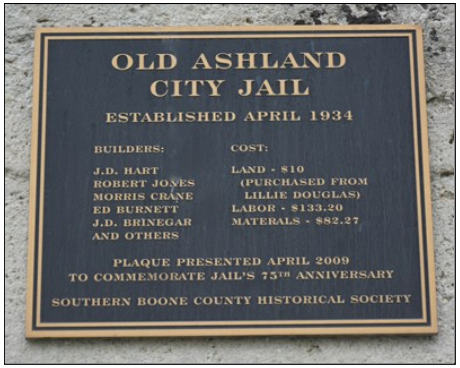
Throughout its history, the church has sent members of its congregation to form other churches, notably the Mount Pleasant Church in 1858 and the Ashland church in 1879.

14 Ashland

GPS 38.774356, -92.252356

Alternatively, at Englewood, turn right (west) on Rt. H. Stay on Rt. H past the Columbia Regional Airport. Turn south on Hardwick Lane just before reaching Highway 63. Drive south to Angel Lane where you can access Highway 63. Turn south to Ashland.

Ashland has long been the center of Cedar township and southern Boone County. Strategically located on the west edge of the Two Mile Prairie, it was important agriculturally to the county and part of the huge Peter Bass holdings. As early as 1824, a post office named Wiseman's was established just north of here, to be replaced by the Ashland post office in 1856. The community continued to grow and the town officially incorporated in 1877.



To see why you would not want to get in trouble with the law, follow Broadway to Main Street, turn north (right) one block to Redbud Lane and turn right again. One block east will bring you to the old Ashland jail.

A plaque commemorates the jail's construction in 1934. Land cost was $10, Labor $133.20, and materials $82,27. Builders were J. D. Hart, Robert Jones, Morris Crane, Ed Burnett, J.D. Brinegar, & others.

1 The Gordon-Collins Cabin

GPS 38.906539, -92.294650

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2016

The Gordon-Collins Cabin. Now part of the Village at Boone Junction at the Boone County History and Culture Center, this story-and-a-half log cabin was built around 1820, along the Boone's Lick Road, on a hill east of a small village that was to become Columbia. We now know that road as East Broadway and the hill as Stephens Park. David Gordon, Sr., a successful farmer from Kentucky, built the structure for his family to live in while their larger, plantation-style home, known as Gordon Manor, was being constructed nearby. The cabin then was used as slave quarters. The property was sold by the Gordon family to Stephens College in 1926.

In 1998, Gordon Manor was destroyed by fire and the cabin was moved to its present site in Historic Nifong Park. It has been restored and is now maintained by the Boone County Historical Society as part of Boone Junction Village. It is furnished as it may have been lived in by a successful settler in the early to mid-1800's. It is available for tours by advance appointment.

2 Maplewood *GPS 38.908228, -*

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2016

Maplewood may be the gem of Historic Nifong Park; it certainly was (and is) the nucleus for the park. It was built in 1877 in the midst of a grove of maple trees, on the 420 acre farmstead of Slater Ensor Lenoir and Margaret (Bradford) Lenoir. (Margaret's family farm is now the site of MU's Bradford Research Farm!)

Slater and Margaret's daughter, Lavinia, married Dr. Frank Nifong, and they inherited the house and grounds. After their deaths in the 1950s, it was given to the Christian Benevolent Association, who built Lenoir Manor and Retirement Home on some of the property. In 1970, the 60 acres surrounding the house, barn and outbuildings were purchased by the City of Columbia. The house was restored and furnished to reflect an upper middle-class home of the late 1800s.

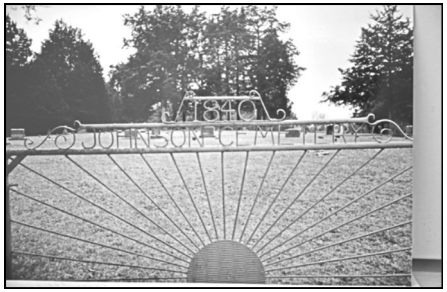
The interior, including furnishings, is maintained by the Boone County Historical Society and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The historical society partners with the Columbia Parks and Rec in preservation and maintenance of the home.

A tour of the home is included in the annual "Heritage Festival", held the third week of September each year. It is available for private tours by advance appointment, and a fee.

12 Johnson Cemetery

GPS 38.827527, -92.156658

Return west on Englewood Rd. Turn right (north) on Johnson Cemetery Road.



Johnson Cemetery is one of the most beautiful and well-preserved family cemeteries in the county. Stop for a stroll and enjoy the serenity of the place. Established in 1840 by the Isaac and Hannah Johnson family, it continues to inspire all who see it to respect those who have gone before. The cemetery contains over 180 burials.

Continue on Johnson Cemetery road and circle around back to Englewood. At this point, you can either take a side trip to a rare one-room country school or proceed on the main route.

To go to the country school, from Englewood, jog right (west) and then left (south) onto Clinkenbeard Road. Follow Clinkenbeard for 1.3 miles to the intersection with Bob Veach Road. Turn right onto Bob Veach Road and follow it. In ½ mile it turns south about 2.7 miles to Route Y. Turn right (west) on Route Y and then nearly immediately left onto Shelton Lane. In 1 mile, bear left onto Burnett School Road and proceed about 1.5 miles to the old school house on your right.

13 Burnett School house

GPS 38.7489256, -92.1946303

The **Burnett School house** served children of the scattered farm families from around 1900 to the 1950s. It is located in the Mark Twain National Forest, and a high-clearance vehicle is advised for ruts in a low-water bridge before reaching the school.

11 Devil's Backbone

Continue east on Englewood Road for about 1.5 miles. Bear left at the fork in the road and follow a short distance to the private Backbone Road overlooking the Cedar Creek bottoms and park. The ridge on your left is Devil's Backbone.

Privately owned, this site is no longer open to public access.

For an aerial view, go to Google Maps, type in the GPS coordinates: GPS 38.800891, -92.150140. Photo below.

Devil's Backbone is a gorgeous geological formation and has fascinating history. The "backbone" is a 170 feet high by 1/2 mile long curtain of rock left by relentless erosion of a hairpin turn in Cedar Creek.

From the high point on the rough road, the rock descends along the backbone and reveals fabulous views. Near the bottom, to the east, lies the steel skeleton of a long-since-abandoned bridge.

On the west side of the backbone was Duley's mill. George Washington "Wash" Duley is generally credited with establishing an important water-powered grist mill at this place. They cut a tunnel through over a hundred feet of the backbone so that impounded water from the east side would have enough fall to power a mill wheel on the west side. This was a critical area grist mill for most of the rest of the 1800s. Both ends of Duley's old mill race through the backbone are now closed.

This image, from Google Maps, shows Cedar Creek winding around the Devils Backbone.

3 Little Bonne Femme Church & Academy

GPS 38.877755, -92.257560

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated

When you leave the museum and park grounds, turn right on Ponderosa St. and follow it south 3/4 mile to the Discovery Parkway intersection with Highway 63. Get onto southbound Highway 63 and go 1.7 miles to Tom Bass Road. Turn right and then left, continuing a short distance on Tom Bass Road to the church on your right.

Little Bonne Femme Church & Academy. Sixteen "Regular Baptists" formed a church in December of 1819 in the nearby home of Anderson Woods. Soon after, they erected a simple church on this site. Other church buildings followed with parts of the current sanctuary dating to 1845. It continues strong today, now being the second oldest Baptist church in continuous operation West of the Mississippi.

This site also was the location of the first institution of higher education in Boone County, the Little Bonne Femme Academy. Established in 1829 for males only, it is considered by some to be the forerunner of the University of Missouri, established fully ten years later.

❹ Deer Park *GPS 38.861825, -92.249599*

Leaving the church, continue south on Tom Bass Road (also Hwy 163) for another mile to the Route AB junction with Highway 63. Turn south on Highway 63 and go 1/4 mile to the U-turn on your left. Make a U-turn and turn right (east) on Route AB.

Deer Park. "In the early days Judge Harris owned a farm, a part of which was devoted to a large park in which were kept a great number of deer. When a precinct was established there and a post office built on one corner of the farm, it was only natural that the name chosen for the precinct was Deer Park." *Columbia Evening Missourian*, Feb. 6, 1922, 4-5; M.G. Proctor) Source: Pace, Nadine. "Place Names In The Central Counties Of Missouri." M.A. thesis, University of Missouri-Columbia, 1928.

❺Thaddeus Hickman house

GPS 38.861426, -92.240636

From Deer Park proceed east on Route AB. A private driveway about 0.3 mile east of Highway 63 leads to the Thaddeus Hickman house which is, unfortunately, not visible from the road. ***This home is privately owned.***

Thaddeus Hickman, son of Boone County pioneer David McClanahan Hickman & Cornelia Bryan, married Louisa Hickman, of Rapides Parish, Louisiana, May 1, 1860. They built a new home for themselves near the southeast corner of present Highway 63 and Route AB, just east of Deer Park. The moderate Italianate-style house was a symbol of gracious living through many different owners.

Thaddeus completed studies at Bonne Femme Academy in 1849 and was engaged in raising thoroughbred stock. He was a member of Bonne Femme Baptist Church. He and his wife did not leave any descendants.

❿ William & Hiram Smith House *GPS 38.817755, -92.178456*

★ **BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2002**

Continue east from Englewood to a sharp right turn, then a sharp left turn, at which is the Smith House.

William Smith farm/Hiram Smith home [Privately owned]

The farm at 10651 East Englewood Road dates back nearly 200 years when Kentuckian William Smith homesteaded here. He and his father George traveled up the Missouri River on a keelboat and settled at the south end of Two Mile Prairie. Hiram Smith, the first of William's eleven children, was born here in 1819.

The adult Hiram completed a 4-room log home in December of 1844. Smith descendants owned the home for over a hundred years until the 1960s. The original, hand-hewn logs were long ago covered in siding, but remain partially exposed inside this hidden reminder of our early forebears.

❾ Englewood

GPS 38.8211359, -92.183629

Continue south on Rangeline Road for 1 mile until you join up with Rt. H. Follow Rt. H as it curves eastward for 2 miles to Englewood.

The rural community of **Englewood** now revolves around the Englewood Community Clubhouse, built in 1938 by the local residents.

The Englewood Community Club was originally a women's club organized in 1931. It was they who raised the funds to purchase the half acre of land, and who provided much of the labor to haul stone from nearby Cedar Creek to build the Clubhouse.

The club hosts a monthly get-together for lunch or dinner, and the annual Englewood Fall Supper draws up to 500 hungry patrons. At one time, Englewood had a school, a country store, a blacksmith, and even a barbershop. There are still several houses, besides the clubhouse and surrounding homes which comprise this close-knit community.

❻ William Hayden Bass House

GPS 38.851550, -92.214810

BCHS *Historic Site,* designated in 2002

PRIVATELY OWNED.

Continue east on Route AB for nearly two miles to Rangeline Road. Watch carefully as you enter the large S-turn as Rangeline Road is on your right. Go past E. Logan Rd. to first lane on your right.

[Privately owned]

The **William Hayden Bass house** is located at 8351 S. Rangeline Rd. Another of David M. Hickman's early purchases ended up in the hands of William Hayden Bass, son of Eli Bass and grandson of Peter Bass, in 1864. That same year, William Hayden Bass built a fine home here utilizing foreman George Hubbard and labor from his family's plantation at Forest Hill.

The house is a generous 2,300 square foot, two-story T-shaped, wood frame structure with nine rooms. The house includes a flying staircase with cherry and walnut banisters, four fireplaces, and three porches. Much of the dimensioned lumber was cut near Rolla and rafted and hauled by wagon to the site. Other features include siding of beveled bald cypress, hand-hewn limestone foundation stones, and Southern pine heartwood flooring. After Bass sold the property, a Dr. Larch bought it and used the living room for his doctor's office. The house has been wonderfully preserved by its present owners.

The Boone County Historical Society recently received this desk, originally owned by William Hayden Bass. The desk would have resided inside the Bass home, above. Many items from various Bass family members have been donated to the museum.

❼ Lost Town of Summerville

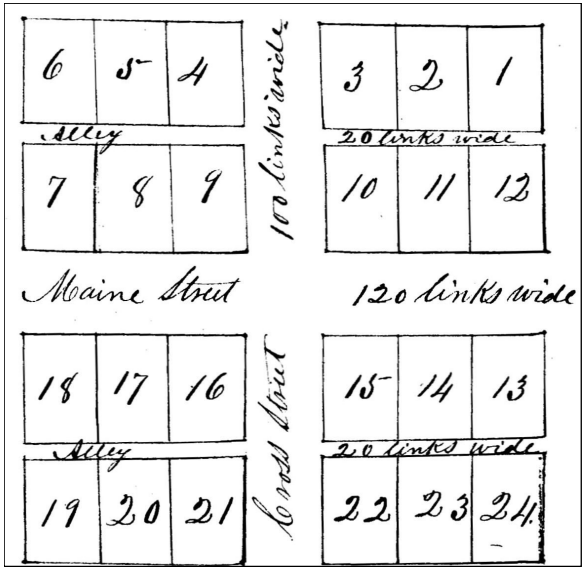
GPS38.845745, -92.212276

Our next site is just south of the William Hayden Bass house at the corner of Rangeline Road and Hubbard Road.

Site of Summerville–An Extinct Town.

Part of David M. Hickman's large holdings included the future town site of Summerville. He sold the land to Eusebius Hubbard, John Broughton and David Jacob who platted the town of Summerville, including 24 lots and two streets, Main Street and Cross Street, in 1848. This venture failed—no lots were sold and the "town" lay undeveloped. Present Hubbard Road marks the north edge of this plat. Cross Street is the same as our present Rangeline Road.

Application to have a post office in Summerville was made in 1849, and approved by 1850. However, by February of 1852 the post office was discontinued by the Postmaster General for, allegedly, not paying expenses,

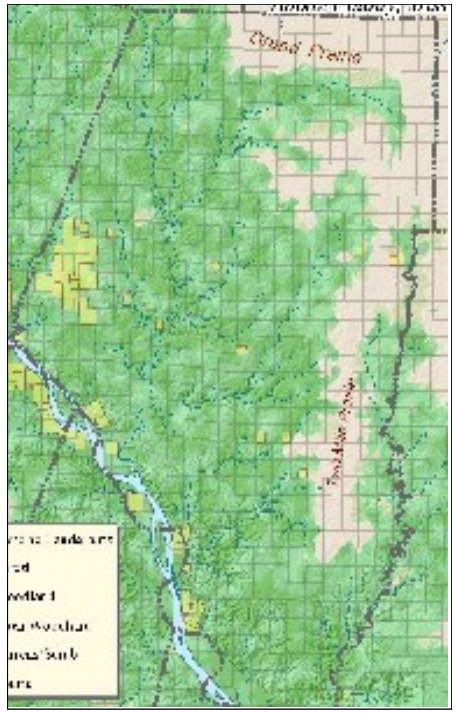


❽ Two Mile Prairie

Continue south on Rangeline Road after "passing through" Summerville. You are driving through the heart of Two Mile Prairie.

Two Mile Prairie. Early settlers to central Missouri who crossed Cedar Creek encountered a two-mile wide east/west stretch of fine prairie running north and south, beginning just east of future Ashland and continuing northward about twenty miles where it merged with Grand Prairie.

The edges of this prairie were especially prized for the combination of great farm land and adjacent timber resources so necessary to the pioneers — families that included the names of Bass, Harris, Martin, Ellis, Hickman, Barnes, Hubbard, Sapp, Smith and Jones. Eusebius Hubbard, thought to have settled here as early as 1818, built a log house in 1830 that still exists as part of the A.W. Mann house.



While the outline of the prairie has been lost to development, the name lives on in the Two Mile Prairie Elementary School in northeastern Boone County.

Map at right, by James D. Harlan, Geographic Resources Center, Department of Geology, University of Missouri.