

BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY



John P. Sites Gunsmith Shop, circa 1866, in the historic Village of Arrow Rock, Saline County

Arrow Rock: Gem of the Boonslick
*Boonslick Historical Society Summer Meeting
at Visitor Center in Historic Arrow Rock, July 16*

Overview of Arrow Rock History

Village of Arrow Rock Preservation Efforts

VOL. 16 No. 2 — SUMMER 2017
BOONSLICK HISTORICAL SOCIETY PERIODICAL

A Historical Gem...

The Village of Arrow Rock, meeting place for the summer gathering of the Boonslick Historical Society on July 16, is a jewel in the crown of Boonslick Country historic landmarks – “the best or most valuable part of something,” according to the Cambridge English Dictionary.

The Village of Arrow Rock has been designated a National Historic Landmark, recognizing its association with Westward Expansion, the Santa Fe Trail and Missouri artist George Caleb Bingham.

Bingham, historically known as “The Missouri Artist,” lived and worked in Arrow Rock during the 19th century. While he traveled almost constantly to paint portraits, to establish studios, or to study more about painting techniques, he maintained close ties in Arrow Rock from 1837 to his death in 1879.

National Historic Landmarks criteria – as opposed to those for National Register of Historic Places – require some factor of national significance in order to qualify districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects for such a designation. They must possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture.

Both types of recognition cover properties associated with events. The Landmark criterion, however, requires that the events associated with the property “be outstandingly represented by that property and that the property be related to the broad national patterns of U.S. history.” Thus, the quality of the property to convey and interpret its meaning must be of a higher order and must relate to national themes rather than the narrower context of State or local themes.

Arrow Rock meets all these qualifications. It is one of only 37 National Landmarks in Missouri, including such recognizable historic sites as Fort Osage in Sibley, Gen. John J. Pershing's Boyhood home in Laclede, Harry Truman Historic District in Independence, Mark Twain's boyhood home in Hannibal, and the Mississippi River community of Ste. Genevieve (an additional 5 National Landmark sites in Missouri are operated by the National Park Service).

The crossing of the Missouri River at the Arrow Rock site, which first was recorded in the 1700s, played an important role in early explorations, such as the Lewis and Clark expedition in 1804, that led to the opening of the American West. A ferry was later established near Arrow Rock, at what became a starting point for traders on the Santa Fe Trail. The district is now home to Arrow Rock State Park and the George Caleb Bingham House in which he lived from 1837–1845. During his time at this house, Bingham first sketched the Missouri River and local frontier life that later turned into his “genre” of art works.

Fort Osage, trading post, was established by William Clark in 1808. Built for the protection of the Osage Indians, Fort Osage experienced success in as a trade house until the end of the factory system in 1822. Clark came through the Arrow Rock area on his way to establish Fort Osage. The Fort also provided a military presence in the territory in order to assure Spain, France and Great Britain that the United States meant to protect its territory by military strength as well as to establish healthy relations with the Native American population in the territory.

Summer Program Notes

The Boonslick Historical Society summer meeting will begin at 3 p.m., July 16, in the Arrow Rock Historic Site Visitor Center. It is located one-fourth of a mile south of the entrance into the Village of Arrow Rock on Highway 41, approximately 15 miles

northwest of Boonville. A large sign on the highway notes the entrance to the Visitor Center and its large parking area.

Arrow Rock Historic Site Administrator Michael Dickey will present an overview of the area's history, followed by a presentation on the Village by Friends of Arrow Rock Executive Director Sandy Selby. Both will take place in the Visitor Center Auditorium. Following these presentations, attendees will be free to explore the many natural history and social history exhibitions filling the Visitor Center and to tour the historic Village of Arrow Rock. The Friends of Arrow Rock organization maintains a shop and museum on the Village Boardwalk.

—Don B. Cullimore



The Odd Fellows Lodge Hall and Print Shop museum, circa 1868, now houses collections of the Missouri Press Association. Photo by Don Cullimore

Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly is published four times a year by the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

We encourage our members and others interested in history to contribute articles or other information of historical interest, including family histories, pertaining to the region. Please address all contributions and correspondence related to the periodical to the editor, Don B. Cullimore, 1 Lawrence Dr., Fayette, MO 65248, or email to: Don.cullimore40@gmail.com, phone: 660-248-1732. Editorial guidelines may be obtained from the editor. Publication deadlines are February 1 for the March (Spring) issue; May 1 for the June (Summer) issue; August 1 for the September (Fall) issue; and November 1 for the (Winter) December issue.

The Boonslick Historical Society was founded in 1937 and meets several times a year to enjoy programs about historical topics pertinent to the Boonslick area. Members of the Society have worked together over the years to publish historical books and brochures and to mark historic sites. They supported the founding of Boone's Lick State Historic Site, marked the sites of Cooper's Fort and Hanna Cole's Fort and have restored a George Caleb Bingham painting on loan to The Ashby-Hodge Gallery of American Art at Central Methodist University, Fayette.

Membership dues are \$15-Individual, \$25-Family, \$50-Sponsor, \$250-Patron, \$500-Life. The dues year is January through December. Receive our publication, *Boone's Lick Heritage Quarterly*, and attend annual Society events highlighting the region's history. To become a member, send a check made out to the Boonslick Historical Society, P.O. Box 426, Boonville, MO 65233.

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BOONE'S LICK HERITAGE QUARTERLY

Boonslick Historical Society Vol. 16, No. 2 • Summer 2017

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Arrow Rock Site Administrator Michael Dickey gives a general overview of Arrow Rock area, including Native American cultures, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks.

Walking Tour of Arrow Rock Village Pages 6-7



Two pages provide a walking tour map of Arrow Rock Village and a list of 28 historic sites and trailheads.

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Cover photo of John P. Sites Gunsmith Shop in Arrow Rock, circa 1866, by Don Cullimore.

Overview of Arrow Rock History

By Michael Dickey

For generations, the Arrow Rock bluff was a significant landmark on the Missouri River for Native Americans, explorers, and early westward travelers. This flint-bearing, high limestone bluff first appeared on a 1732 French map as “*pierre a fleche*,” literally translated as “rock of arrows.” Archaeological evidence shows that for nearly 12,000 years indigenous cultures used the Arrow Rock bluff as a manufacturing site for flint tools and weapons.

Following the War of 1812 and the subsequent peace treaties with Indians in 1815, large numbers of immigrants from Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia began pouring into the fertile “Boone’s Lick Country,” so named for the salt spring or “lick” across the river.

In the 1820s, the earliest travelers on what became the Santa Fe Trail crossed the river on the Arrow Rock ferry and filled their water barrels with fresh water at “the Big Spring” before heading west. In 1829, the town of Arrow Rock was founded on the bluff above the ferry crossing. Originally named Philadelphia, the town’s name was changed in 1833 to coincide with the better-known landmark name, Arrow Rock.

Many citizens prominent in state and national affairs were closely associated with Arrow Rock including Dr. John Sappington of quinine fame and George Caleb Bingham, Missouri’s preeminent artist of the mid-1800s. Three 19th century Missouri governors also came from Arrow Rock.

When the Civil War began, Arrow Rock had reached its peak population of 1,000. The region had a decidedly southern character evidenced in its culture, politics and architecture. One-third of Saline County’s population was enslaved African Americans. The Civil War precipitated an economic decline from which Arrow Rock never fully recovered. Steamboats and river commerce gave way to railroads that bypassed the town. Two fires devastated the business district, and the population dwindled to 400 by 1910. To-

day, 45 full-time and 33 part-time residents call Arrow Rock home.

While the village is small, don’t be fooled by its size. Arrow Rock remains a vital community. The restoration of the Huston Tavern in 1923 marked the beginning of historic preservation in the state of Missouri and set the stage for Arrow Rock’s future. In 1963, the entire town was designated a National Historic Landmark because of its association with the Westward Expansion. In 1968, the home of artist George Caleb Bingham was listed separately as a National Historic Landmark. Arrow Rock is also a certified site on the Lewis & Clark and Santa Fe Trails.

Residents participate in a variety of organizations that sponsor Arrow Rock activities and projects: The Friends of Arrow

Rock, founded in 1959, maintain thirteen historic structures; the Lyceum Theatre, Missouri’s oldest regional professional theatre, presents Broadway-caliber plays; the Historic Arrow Rock Council sponsors one of Missouri’s oldest heritage craft festivals; a Merchant’s Association continues to provide hospitality and services to the traveler; and an elected Town Board runs the affairs of the village.

The Village Scene in Arrow Rock

Many factors contribute to the village of Arrow Rock that we see today, not the least of which is the town plan

that was laid out in 1829 when Arrow Rock was founded. The nearly sixty-acre original town was platted in a grid pattern with one-acre square blocks, four lots to each block. Today, First Street forms the eastern boundary, but early plat maps of 1876, 1896, and 1916 show a Commons or Water Street parallel to the bluff. It is unclear if the street ever existed because there is no evidence of it today.

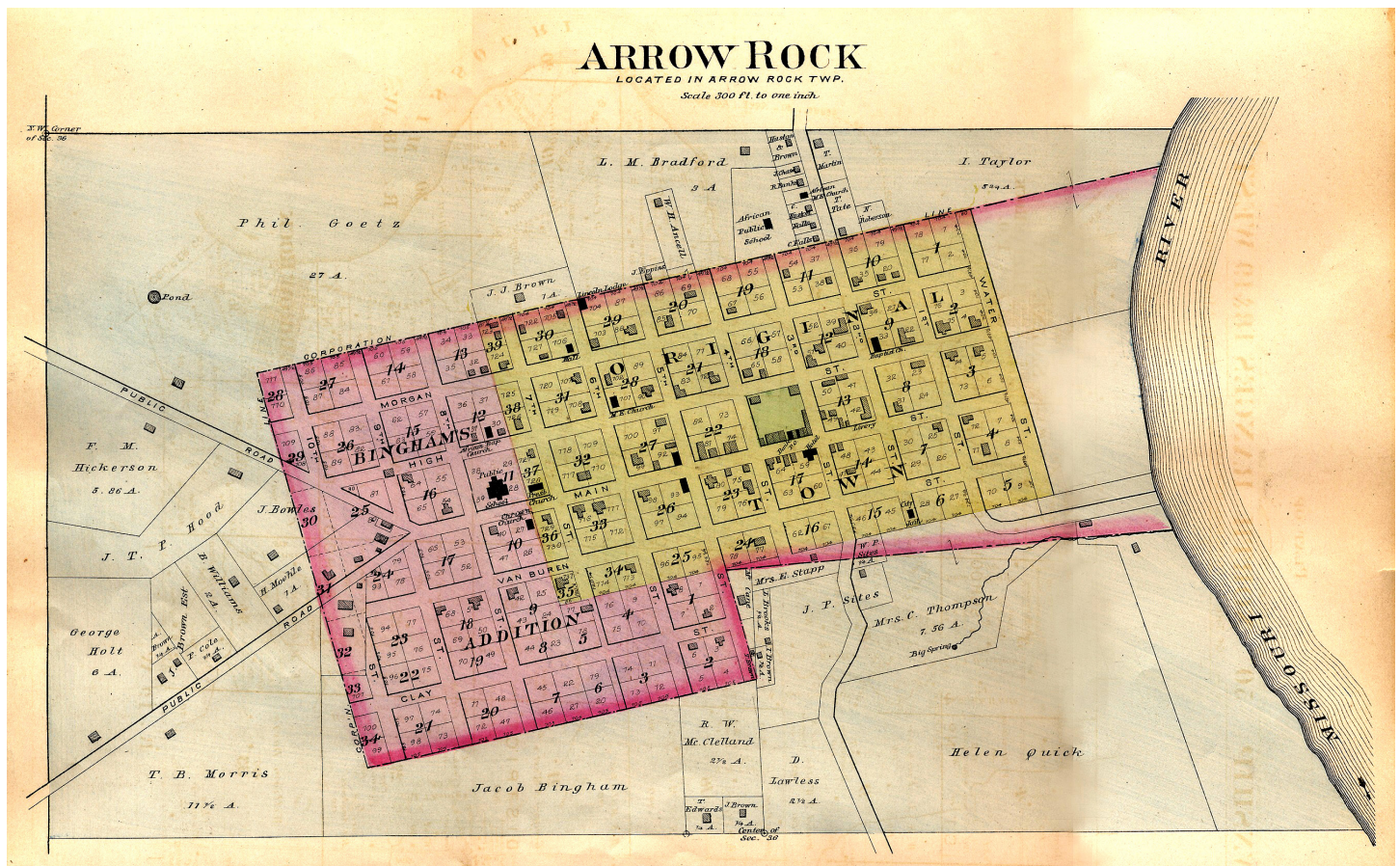
Prior to the Civil War, supplies, merchandise, people, and animals followed the route of the Santa Fe Trail from the Missouri River through Main Street, Arrow Rock’s primary east-west artery. Consequently, commercial businesses were concentrated on the river end of town on both sides of Main Street while churches and other institutional buildings were scattered throughout the community.

Most property in Arrow Rock was devoted to residential use, which in the 19th century meant that many back and side yards



Arrow Rock Historic Site Visitor Center is located in a wooded area between the Village of Arrow Rock and a large parking area. Photo courtesy Mo. State Parks

Michael Dickey is Site Administrator, Arrow Rock State Historic Site. He is also the author of historical books on Arrow Rock and Native American cultures of the Missouri Territory.

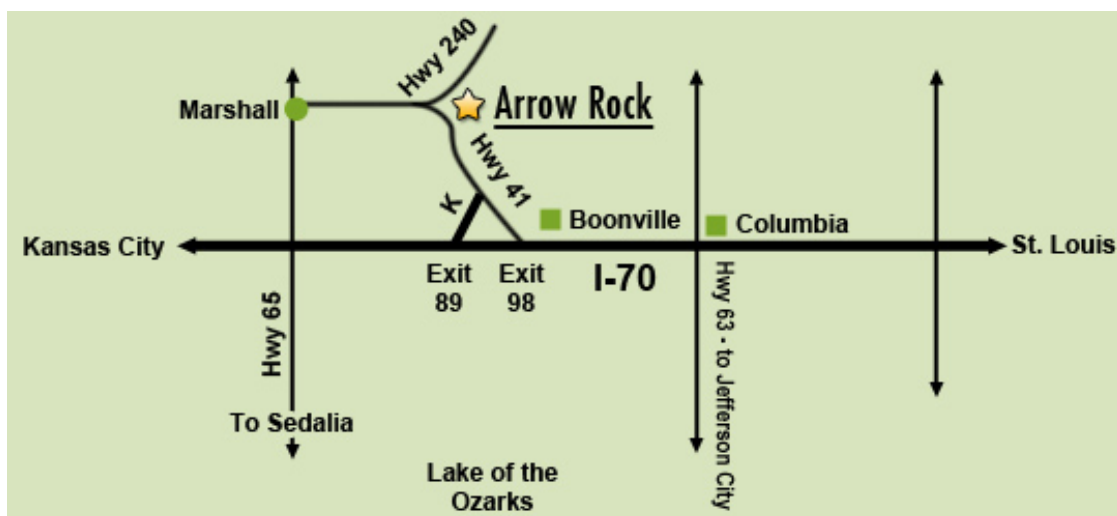


1896 plat of Arrow Rock Township showing town grid and farms around the town and Missouri River to the east. Courtesy Mo. State Parks

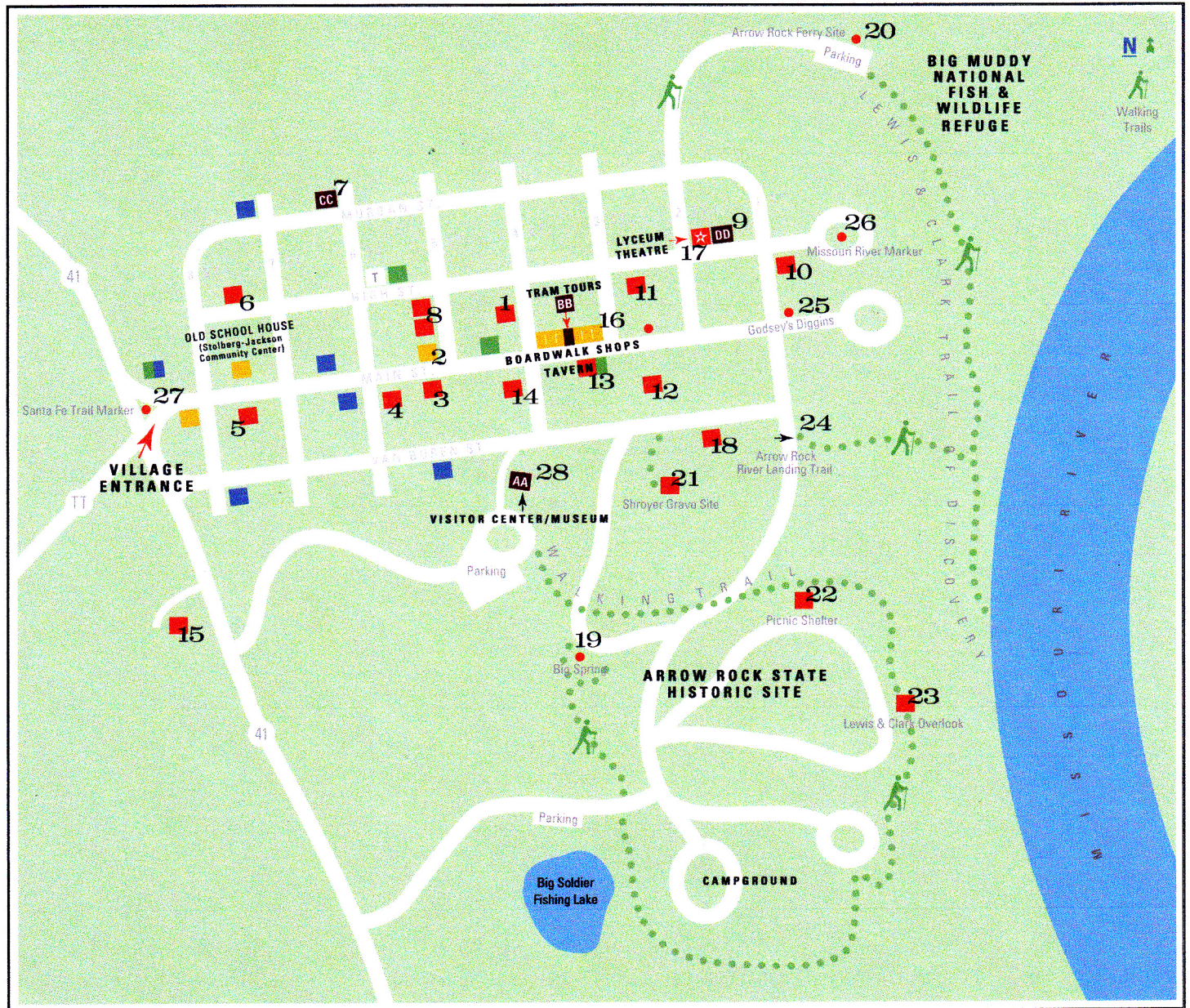
contained a multitude of outbuildings, animals, and activities. Frequently, these included a garden, various animals (most certainly chickens, a milk cow, and possibly a horse, with the attendant shelter for each), a cistern or well, an outhouse, a separate kitchen, a smokehouse, and, in a few instances, a slave house.

To accommodate all these uses and activities, many property owners acquired multiple lots, their property extending the full

depth of a block. This distinctive ownership pattern had a major impact not only on the functioning and visual appearance of Arrow Rock in the 19th century, but also on the Arrow Rock that we see today. Over the years, as these backyard activities became outdated and outbuildings were removed, Arrow Rock's landscape gradually acquired the park-like quality that characterizes the village in the 21st century.



Arrow Rock Historic Site Visitor Center is located one-fourth mile south of the entrance into the Village of Arrow Rock on Highway 41, approximately 15 miles northwest of Boonville.



- 1 Shelby Log Cabin** c.1830s
Originally located southwest of Arrow Rock, it was moved to this location to save it from destruction.

Friends of Arrow Rock

- 2 Masonic Lodge Hall and Craft Shop** 1868 Arrow Rock Lodge No. 55, est. 1842, built this hall in 1868. In 2008, lodge members moved their hall to a location that was more accessible. Since 1960, the Craft Club members have sold their handmade items on the lower level. **Friends of Arrow Rock**

- 3 I.O.O.F Lodge Hall and Print Shop Museum** 1868
Lodges provided social interaction

and a safety net to pay for members' burials and support for their widows and orphans. The lower floor served intermittently as a newspaper office and today houses the collections of the Missouri Press Association.

Friends of Arrow Rock

- 4 Miller-Bradford House** c.1839 | Sam B. Miller built the house in the 1830s, then sold it to Dr. Charles Bradford, a grandson-in-law of Dr. Sappington. Restored in 1959 by Bill and Cora Lee Miller, it was the first private restoration in the village.

Friends of Arrow Rock

- 5 Christian Church** (historic) 1872 | Johnny and Nannie Sites are credited with donating the land on which this church was built.

Friends of Arrow Rock

- 6 Brown's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church** (historic) 1869 | African-American residents built this church just north of the present city limits. It also served as the first African-American school, and the 1870 census lists 66 students, both children and adults. Zack Bush used a team of mules to move the church to its present location in 1881. **Friends of Arrow Rock**

- 7 CC Black History Museum, Brown Lodge** 1881 | Following Emancipation, many freed slaves continued working on farms but eventually purchased homes in Arrow Rock. They established their own schools, churches and social institutions such as this lodge. Prior to the Civil War, this lot was the site of the Caldwell pottery factory, the third largest in Missouri.

Friends of Arrow Rock | Self-Guided Tour

➔ The Village of ➔
ARROW ROCK
— A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK | EST. 1829 —

8 John P. Sites Gun Shop c.1866 | Sites learned to build guns from his father. In 1844, he and his bride, Nannie, moved to Arrow Rock. This is the only known restoration in the United States of a gunsmith's shop and home in their original location.

Friends of Arrow Rock | Shown on Tram Tour

John P. Sites House c.1838 Johnny and Nannie Sites purchased this home in 1866. By 1875, they raised the roof and added two bedrooms and a porch in the Victorian style.

Friends of Arrow Rock | Shown on Tram Tour

9 DD Dr. John Sappington Museum (new building)

Dr. John Sappington developed and mass-marketed quinine pills nationwide to successfully treat malarial fevers. He was also a political force in antebellum Missouri; two of Sappington's sons-in-law and a grandson served as Missouri governors.

Friends of Arrow Rock | Self-Guided Tour

10 * George Caleb Bingham House 1837 | One of America's great 19th century artists, Bingham is famous for his portraits and scenes of river life and politics. He built this Federal style house and lived here intermittently through the 1840s.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

*Indicates National Historic Landmark

11 Dr. Matthew Hall House

1846 | Dr. Hall was a noted civic leader and community physician. In 1856, he moved his family to the country to escape "the evil influence of a river town."

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

12 Academy Boarding House c.1829 | Public education did not exist until after the Civil War. The Arrow Rock Academy (no longer standing) was a private school incorporated in 1843, and students boarded at this log house for \$2.50 a week.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

13 ** J. Huston Tavern 1834 The Federal-style architecture of the Tavern, a cornerstone of Arrow Rock's historic renewal, demonstrates the southern heritage of early settlers. Visitors may view the restored summer kitchen and upstairs ballroom and bedrooms.

The Tavern continues to serve country-style meals.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

**Indicates Santa Fe Trail Landmark

14 Courthouse c.1830s | Arrow Rock was the temporary seat of Saline County in 1839 and 1840. This log structure was restored to represent the county courthouse of that period.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

15 Lawless Farmstead

(leased to Friends of Arrow Rock) c.1903 | This is a typical example of a turn-of-the-century Queen Anne/Eastlake rural home. Earlier plantation farming raised a single cash crop such as tobacco or hemp for rope making. The Lawless family diversified by raising wheat, oats and corn.

Friends of Arrow Rock and

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

16 BB Boardwalk Storefronts

Fires in 1872 and 1901 destroyed the original 1850s two-story structures. The rebuilt single-story buildings now house a variety of shops. Golf cart tram tours depart from the Friends of Arrow Rock office, which features the Christopher Collection of Early Missouri Firearms.

Private and Friends of Arrow Rock

17 Lyceum Theatre 1872

Formerly a Baptist church, this professional regional theatre has been producing Broadway-caliber productions here since 1960.

Private non-profit

18 Calaboose 1873 | This stone jail replaced an earlier one made of logs. Only one prisoner was jailed here, and when his hollering kept the neighbors awake, he was released.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

19 ** Big Spring | Tradition states early Santa Fe caravans watered their stock here before heading west. Burton Lawless granted free use of the spring to the town in 1829.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

**Indicates Santa Fe Trail Landmark

20 ** Arrow Rock Ferry Site | Original 1821 ferry landing site on the Santa Fe Trail. View marker from parking lot.

Private Property

**Indicates Santa Fe Trail Landmark

21 Shroyer Grave Site 1845 In the 1930s, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) built a shelter over the graves of early settlers Jacob and Mary Shroyer. The WPA provided work projects during the Great Depression.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

22 Picnic Shelter c. 1936 | This stone shelter house and the stone arch bridge down the hill from it were built by the WPA. Reserve the shelter by contacting the historic site office | 660-837-3330.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

23 Lewis & Clark Overlook

On June 9, 1804, the Corps of Discovery passed the 'Prairie of Arrows.' They almost lost the 55-ft. keelboat when it hit a snag just upstream. The river is now nearly a mile east of its former channel. The overlook provides a view of the Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

24 Arrow Rock River Landing Trail This walking trail is built on the road that led to the steamboat landing and warehouse sites. It connects to the Lewis & Clark Trail of Discovery on the Big Muddy Refuge. **Village of Arrow Rock**

25 Godsey's Diggings Marker This ravine-like excavation was an attempt by the town to link Main Street directly to the riverbank beginning in the 1840s. The project was abandoned by 1860.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

26 Missouri River Marker You are standing on top of the Arrow Rock bluff. American Indians used flint found in the limestone bluff here to make tools and arrow points. The river formerly made a bend here and then flowed along the base of the bluff.

Friends of Arrow Rock

27 Santa Fe Trail Marker Red granite markers like this mark the trail from Franklin, MO to Santa Fe, NM. The Daughters of the American Revolution began the marker project in 1912.

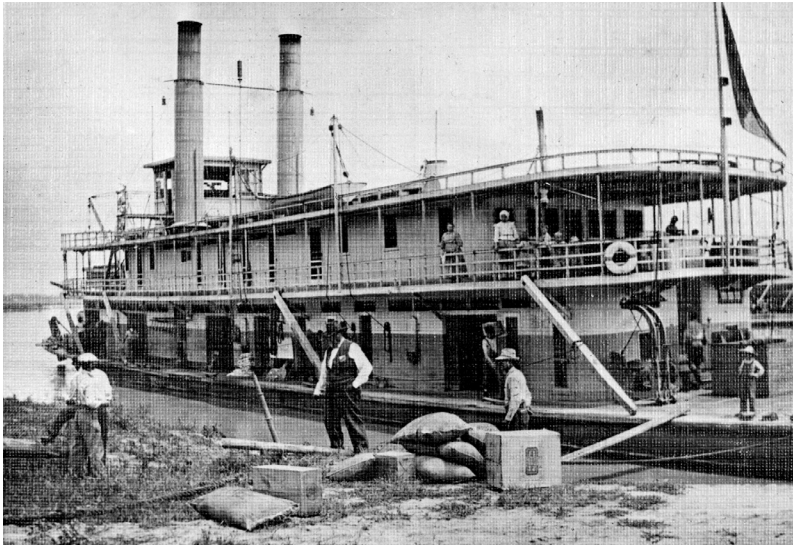
Village of Arrow Rock

28 AA Arrow Rock State Park Historic Site/Visitors Center/Museum/Campground open daily from March – Nov., 10 - 4. Open Friday through Sunday from Dec. – Feb. 10-4. | 660-837-3330.

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

→ The Village of ←
ARROW ROCK

Village Photo Album: Past and Present



Photos, clockwise from upper left: Steamboat A.M. Scott at Arrow Rock river landing, circa 1900; Main Street, circa 1890; Main Street Boardwalk, 2017; Black History Museum - Brown Lodge, circa 1881, photo 2017; The Cash Supply House, circa 1880; Dickenson and Green poster, 1876. Historic photos and artwork courtesy Mo. State Parks; modern-day photos by Don Cullimore

The Village of Arrow Rock: A National Landmark

The entire village of Arrow Rock has been designated a National Historic Landmark recognizing its association with Westward Expansion, the Santa Fe Trail and artist George Caleb Bingham.

George Caleb Bingham in Arrow Rock

Arguably one of America's greatest painters, George Caleb Bingham, historically called "The Missouri Artist", "Frontier Painter of Missouri" and "River Portraitist", lived and worked in Arrow Rock during the first half of the 19th century. While he traveled almost constantly to paint portraits, to establish studios, or to study more about painting techniques (he was virtually self-taught), he maintained close ties in Arrow Rock from 1837 to his death in 1879.

In 1836 Bingham married Sarah Elizabeth Hutchinson of Boonville and in July of 1837 he purchased Lot 14 of Block 3 in Arrow Rock from future governor Claiborne Fox Jackson. Bingham built his Federal-style brick house,

which remains on this site today, is a National Historic Landmark, and is open on tour.

A trip to Philadelphia in 1838 proved to be a benchmark in Bingham's artistic development. Here he first saw genre art at the Academy of Fine Arts. He fell for this style, the painting of realistic scenes of everyday life.

While he followed his passion for art, he also showed an interest in politics that grew over time and many of his famous genre pieces such as

Canvassing for a Vote, Stump Speaking, The County Election and Verdict of the People documented the political atmosphere of 19th century Missouri. Arrow Rock served as the backdrop for many of these works and Arrow Rock residents appeared in them.

Life and commerce on the river also proved to be the subject of many of his genre works such as Fur Traders Descending the Missouri, Jolly Flatboatmen, Raftsmen Playing Cards, and Fishing on the Mississippi.

Order No. 11, a painting depicting the forced evacuation of Western Missouri during the Civil War, captured the turmoil of this tragic period of history.

Artist George Caleb Bingham held many jobs during his lifetime: state legislator, company captain in the Union Army, State Treasurer, president of the Kansas City Board of Police Commissioners, Adjutant General of Missouri, and the first professor of art at the University of Missouri in Columbia. During his prolific career, George Caleb Bingham traveled far and wide, but he returned often to Arrow Rock to be with family, to gather subject matter, to

paint and to rest.

Read more about George Caleb Bingham and Bingham's Missouri at: <http://www.friendsar.org/binghamsmo2.html>

Park Information

Stroll through the history of a once-bustling river town that's now the serene village of Arrow Rock. You'll walk streets lined



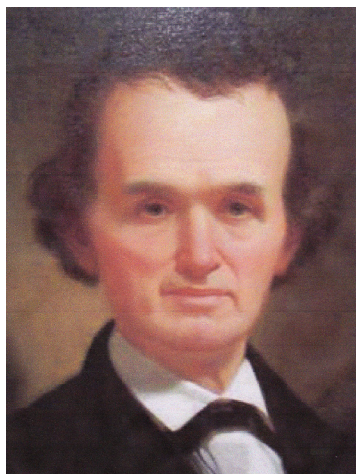
The original Arrow Rock Courthouse, circa 1830s. Photo by Don Cullimore

with the architecture of the historic "Boone's Lick Country." At Arrow Rock State Historic Site, you may wander into the historic J. Huston Tavern, which dates back to 1834 and provides a dining experience in the oldest continuously operating restaurant west of the Mississippi River. View displays of historic furnishings in the old kitchen and upstairs bedrooms. You can visit other historic buildings, such as the Old Courthouse and George Caleb Bingham's house. You can learn about the history of Arrow Rock and the "Boone's Lick Country" through exhibits and audio-visual presentations in the visitor center. The historic site is part of the larger Village of Arrow Rock, which features quaint stores and several antique shops.

At Arrow Rock State Historic Site

Make sure to view the nearly 9,000 square feet of exhibit space and the extensive collection of artifacts inside the visitor center, which opened in 1991. You can watch a 20-minute video "Arrow Rock: Frontier Town of the Boone's Lick." This video provides an introduction and general overview of the history of Arrow Rock and the Boone's Lick Country. Copies are available for sale. You can also purchase postcards, history books, prints of George Caleb Bingham's artwork and state park related souvenirs and clothing items at the visitor center gift shop.

The visitor center is a block-and-a-half south of Main Street, nestled in a wooded hollow so as not to dominate the historic landscape of the town. The parking lot entry road is located on High-



George Caleb Bingham
BHS Archives



Visitor Center replica of a Missouri River flatboat used to transport supplies on the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers. Flatboats and keelboats carried trade goods, including salt and agricultural produce, to military posts, Indians, settlers, and merchants, and docked at their home ports in St. Charles and Kaskaskia. Photo by Don Cullimore

way 41, one-quarter mile south of Arrow Rock. Site offices are located in the visitor center.

Arrow Rock State Historic Site is located in the heart of central Missouri's "Boone's Lick Country" and preserves and interprets this unique chapter of our American heritage. Exhibits are chronologically arranged to present the following themes:

- Native American Presence -- focusing on the Osage and Missouri tribes from prehistory to 1790
- France and Spain in the Missouri Valley -- 1673 to 1802
- Waterway West -- the Louisiana Purchase and the Lewis and Clark Expedition, 1803 to 1806
- Pioneer Industry, Making Salt at Boone's Lick -- focusing on the salt works started in 1805 by Nathan and Daniel M. Boone, sons of the famed pioneer Daniel Boone
- War of 1812, Settlement and Conflict in the Boone's Lick -- the clash between white settlers and the Sauk, Fox and Ioway tribes from 1808 to 1815
- Settling the Boone's Lick, Town Building on the Missouri Frontier -- and speculation, town founding and the massive migration from the upper South to the area between 1815 and 1830
- Boone's Lick Agriculture -- agricultural techniques and innovations and the use of slaves on hemp and tobacco plantations, circa 1816 to 1861
- Manufacturing, Handicraft Industries and Agricultural Processors -- the growth of the Boone's Lick as Missouri's second leading manufacturing center circa 1830-1861
- Rivers and Roads, Moving Passengers and Produce in the Boone's Lick -- Missouri River commerce from canoes and flat-

boats to steamboats and forms of overland transportation

- Westward the Star of Empire, the Boone's Lick and the Santa Fe Trade -- the beginning of trade with Mexico through the war with Mexico, 1821 to 1848
- Life in the Boone's Lick -- focusing on domestic life and civil progress and the medical innovations of Dr. John Sappington, from 1821 to 1861
- George Caleb Bingham -- the life and artwork of Missouri's most famous artist and Arrow Rock's most famous resident. Several original portraits and prints are featured
- Troubled Times, the Civil War -- 1861 to 1865
- End of an Era, the Boone's Lick in Decline -- the loss of population and prestige due to war and technological changes from 1865 to 1900
- Slavery, Racism, Violence:

Justice and the Constitution -- the black experience in the Boone's Lick from 1865 to 1955

- Arrow Rock, Preserving a Monument to the Golden Age of the Boone's Lick -- covers early efforts to preserve and interpret the town beginning in 1912 and through to the present.



The Calaboose, circa 1873, a stone jailhouse replaced an earlier one made of logs. Only one prisoner was known to have been jailed here. Photo by Don Cullimore

Friends of Arrow Rock Organization

The Friends of Arrow Rock was established in 1959 by a visionary group of people who believed Arrow Rock's rich history and 19th-century structures were treasures worth preserving. As a preservation organization, it works closely and coordinates activities with the Arrow Rock Visitor Center and cultural museum under the direction of the Arrow Rock State Historic Site administrator for Missouri State Parks, part of the Department of Natural Resources.

The mission of the Friends of Arrow Rock is to share the Missouri frontier experience with current and future generations. As stewards of its history, the Friends of Arrow Rock safeguard the memories of the village by preserving its buildings and artifacts. Through exhibits and educational programs, the Friends of Arrow Rock convey the history of the area to children and adults, grounding them in the past to prepare them for the future.

More than 50 years have passed since the organization's founding, but the members' commitment to sharing the stories of Arrow Rock and maintaining its architectural assets has never wavered. Today's Arrow Rock is one of the premier tourist attractions in Missouri, featuring with restaurants, museums, shops, B&Bs, hiking trails and a professional theater. Tens of thousands of visitors come to Arrow Rock each year to see one of the most remarkable historic towns in the United States, due in no small part to the ongoing work of the Friends of Arrow Rock.

Visitors are invited to explore this site to learn more about Arrow Rock's history and buildings, upcoming events, and Friends of Arrow Rock membership opportunities.

Huston New President of Friends of Arrow Rock

Marshall native Donna Huston was installed as the new president of Friends of Arrow Rock during the organization's annual meeting on June 4.

Huston is a 35-year member of the Friends of Arrow Rock board of trustees, most recently serving as first vice president. She succeeds Dr. Thomas B. Hall III, who led the organization for 13 years. Huston will be the eighth person to serve as president of F.A.R. since its inception in 1959.



Dr. Thomas B. Hall III shakes hands with Donna Huston, his successor as president of Friends of Arrow Rock. *Courtesy FAR*

In addition to her long-time service to the Friends of Arrow Rock, Huston has been a supporter of civic and charitable organizations throughout the region, including the Salt Fork YMCA, the Marshall Educational Foundation, the Arrow Rock Lyceum Theatre, the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the Missouri



J. Huston Tavern, circa 1834. Its Federal-style architecture serves as a cornerstone of Arrow Rock's historic renewal efforts and the southern heritage of early settlers. *Photo by Don Cullimore*

Governor's Mansion board.

During her first speech as president of Friends of Arrow Rock, Huston praised her predecessor, Dr. I Hall, along with the F.A.R. staff and her fellow trustees. "I know the secret to success," she said. "You surround yourself with talented people!"

Huston will put her organizational expertise to work as she helps coordinate upcoming fundraisers and oversees the organization's historic preservation and history education activities.

"We are so pleased that Donna accepted the nomination as our next president," said Friends of Arrow Rock Executive Director Sandy Selby. "She has always been an enthusiastic advocate for our organization and we know she will be an active, involved president and a fantastic leader for our members, board and staff."

Contact Information: Friends of Arrow & Arrow Rock
State Historic Site and Museum

Friends of Arrow Rock

Sandy Selby, Executive Director
310 Main Street, P.O. Box 124
Arrow Rock, MO 65320
Phone: 660-837-3231
Email: Office@FriendsofArrowRock.org
Website: FriendsOfArrowRock.org

Arrow Rock State Historic Site Visitor Center

Michael Dickey, Site Administrator
Phone: 660-837-3330
E-mail: arrow.rock.state.historic.site@dnr.mo.gov
Web: <http://www.mostateparks.com/arrowrock.htm>

Boonslick Historical Society

P. O. Box 426

Boonville, MO 65233



The Miller-Bradford House in Arrow Rock was built in the 1830s by Sam B. Miller, then sold to Dr. Charles Bradford, a grandson-in-law of Dr. John Sappington. It was restored in 1959 by Bill and Cora Lee Miller. *Photo by Don Cullimore*