

Stamping Ground, Kentucky

Where the buffalo roamed

Stamping Ground was named for noise - the stamping of hundreds of hooves of impatient buffalo waiting to drink from Buffalo Spring. This bowl-shaped basin set amidst rich farmland is one of Kentucky's three major "stamping grounds" sitting at the junction of trails used by migrating herds.

In 1775, trailblazers Will McConnell and Charles LeCompte discovered Buffalo Spring and called it Buffalo Stamping Ground. It is located on an ancient migratory path the Native Americans called alant-i-wamiowee, or buffalo path - a wide swath of land cut into the forest that has left a permanent imprint at the spring. Also used by the Mound Builders and, later, pioneer settlers, it is likely the roadbed that forms the way toward Georgetown.

Sometime around 1790, a fort was built by Anthony Lindsay. Located near LeCompte's Run - a branch of the Elkhorn named for Charles - it became the first settlement in Stamping Ground and kicked off a series of other firsts, including the establishment of McConnell's Church in 1795 and the Post Office in 1814.

By 1880, Stamping Ground had about 300 residents and four stores. Less than 25 years later, in 1904, the population had doubled to 600 citizens who had built a dozen businesses - a tidy trio each of hotels, saloons, banks and churches, plus one public school.

After weathering two major fires and a tornado that spared only three buildings, Stamping Ground today it is a quiet, historic community surrounded by beautiful countryside.



Community Events

- Community Easter Egg Hunt
- Independence Day Parade - July 4
- Buffalo Daze - First Saturday in October: *a celebration of Stamping Ground's heritage and fall get-together*
- Halloween Mysterious Mansions - October: *see homes decorated with a ghoulish twist*
- Stamping Ground Christmas - Second Saturday in December

BICYCLES, BANDITS & BUFFALO



City of Stamping Ground

3374 Main St.

Stamping Ground, KY 40379

P: 502-535-6114

Open: Mon., Wed. and Fri., 8:30am to 4:30pm

WWW.STAMPINGGROUNDKENTUCKY.COM



Stamping Ground, Kentucky
Near Georgetown in Scott County

*(25 minutes north of
Lexington, KY)*

Historic Sites

- **Alexander Bradford House, *Main Street*:** Owned by its namesake, the postmaster and a clerk for the Baptist Church, the home operated as an “ordinary” or tavern as early as 1821. It was the only historic home left standing after the 1974 tornado.
- **Anthony Lindsey’s Station, *Owenton Road****: Site of the fort, a typical two-family station comprising three log cabins and a stockade for livestock, where families once sought protection during Indian raids.
- **Choctaw Academy, *address****: Established in 1818, the school taught Native Americans English, writing and arithmetic until it closed in 1842. Preservation work is currently underway. Get updates on the “Save the Choctaw Academy” Facebook page.
- **Henry Hockensmith House, *Cedar Pike*:** A three-bay, one-and-a-half story log house featuring huge stone chimneys at either end, the house was built in 1790, the same year Stamping Ground was founded. It was destroyed by fire several years ago.
- **John Scott Home, *address*:** Built near McConnell’s Run, this is likely the oldest home in the Stamping Ground area.
- **Marriage Location of Jesse and Frank James’ Parents, *406 Locust Fork Pike*:** Only a burned-out shell remains, due to a 2012 fire, where Zeralda Cole and Robert James took their vows on Dec. 28, 1841. The home once belonged to Zeralda’s uncle and guardian and was visited by the train robbing outlaws.
- **Stonetown Haven, *176 Stonetown Road****: This home – part of a rural African American community formed after the Civil War from land purchased by former enslaved persons – was restored and furnished with artifacts from the 1800s to interpret area Black history.

Stay & Play



- **Bicycling:** Cyclists enjoy this bike-friendly community’s scenic backroads and picturesque countryside, featuring the Trail of Two Towns with bike loops from Stamping Ground to neighboring Sadieville. Each Memorial Day Weekend, the family-friendly Horsey Hundred, sponsored by the Bluegrass Cycle Club, brings thousands of visitors to town to experience this leading central Kentucky cycling event.
- **Geocaching:** Download the map at www.georgetownky.com and explore the Historic Buffalo GeoTrail to see an old jailhouse, distillery ruins, cemeteries – even a bushwhacking bandit’s former hangout – collecting stamps or trinkets along with way. www.geocaching.com
- **Buffalo Springs Park:** This three-acre pocket park has a pavilion modeled on a train depot that offers plenty of picnic tables and a large grill.
- **Buffalo Gals Homemakers Barn Quilt Trail:** See unique and colorful barn quilts along Scott County’s scenic country roads. Pick up a trail map at the Georgetown/Scott County Tourist Information Center.



Eats

- **Poor Man’s Café, *130 Spring View Drive*:** This locally-owned diner features home cooking for its breakfast bar and daily lunch and dinner specials, plus hand-dipped ice cream. 502-535-7700



Sleeps

- **Historic Home Stay, *Main Street*:** One of the 6 original houses in Stamping Ground, the Alexander Bradford House has period furnishings & a brick patio perfect for warm-weather getaways. alexanderbradfordhouse.com; 502-741-9772
- **Buffalo Springs Distillery, *Main Street*:** Bourbon History buffs will love the opportunity to stay overnight in an old distillery building, built in 1868 and previously the site of Buffalo Springs Distillery. 859-230-8254