

Kentucky's Heritage Landmarks Corridor CULTURAL HERITAGE

The young men hitch mules to a wagon that has been filled to the top with fresh produce. Their father comes out the barn long enough to give their labor a final inspection. Satisfied, he sends the boys on their way and returns to sorting a pile of oak that will soon be crafted into furniture. As the boys ride past the front porch, they wave to their mother and grandmother. The women are stitching together patches of fabric in the bright morning light. "Bring back all the supplies on the list," one of the ladies shouts as the wagon enters the country road leading to town.

This was a common scene in the early days of Kentucky's Heritage Landmarks Corridor. Today, the peaceful panorama can still be witnessed in the Amish and Mennonite communities of Casey County. Visitors are invited to experience a culture that dates back to the arrival of the German and Swiss immigrants to the region.

The Amish and Mennonites operate a variety of businesses that showcase their craftsmanship and handiwork. Pick up a map detailing the location of over 20 unique shops. Take home a jar of fresh elderberry jelly from Beachy's Apple Basket or shoofly pie from Nolt's Bulk Foods. Browse through a large selection of handmade candles at Firefly Candle or unique quilts at Lavender's Quilt & Fabrics or Bread of Life Café. Watch as an oak chair is created at Southern Woodcraft or a leather harness is crafted at the Leather Shop.

Along with its Amish and Mennonite crafts, the region is also known for its art studios. The largest concentration is in downtown Danville. Visitors can view stunning bronze sculptures at Lighthouse Studio, graceful glass creations at Jones Visual Arts Center, colorful stained glass works at Gautier Stained Glass or Glass Mountain Stained Glass, hand-painted folk pottery at The Elements Pottery & Crafts, beautiful paintings at Wilderness Trace Art League Gallery and the works of over 50 artisans for sale at The Gallery on the Square.

The Danville area has a long love affair with the stage. Visitors continue a 50-year tradition by joining the crowd for dinner and a performance at Pioneer Playhouse. Local talent can be enjoyed at the West T. Hall Community Theater. National and international acts present dance, music and theater performances at Norton Center for the Arts at Centre College.

Cultural offering in Heritage Landmarks Corridors include, but are not limited to:

Norton Center for the Arts (877-448-7469), located on the campus of Centre College in Danville, offers concert hall acoustics that are among the nation's best. Performances feature programming in the performing and visual arts including dance, music and theater

presented by national and international acts. The season runs October to April. All events are open to the public. The Center also features changing visual arts exhibits.

Pioneer Playhouse (859-236-2747) in Danville is considered to be the “Granddaddy of Kentucky Outdoor Dramas.” Since 1950, theatrical presentations have taken place at the outdoor dinner theater. Well-known actors including Lee Majors and John Travolta have graced the stage. Along with excellent entertainment, the facility offers a menu featuring tasty entrees including stuffed chicken breast, BBQ pork ribs and beef kabobs. The Playhouse is located on Stanford Road in Danville.

West T. Hill Community Theater (859-236-8607), located on Larrimore Lane in Danville, is celebrating its 25th year in 2004. The theater presents a year round series of productions starring local talent.

John W.D. Bowling Miniature Train Museum (859-236-8954) is located on the grounds of Twin Hollies B & B on Maple Avenue in Danville. The largest privately held permanent layout in Kentucky features a 1950s autumn landscape with 6,000 trees and 250 structures. Trains travel along over 2,600 feet of HO scale train track.

Penn’s Store (859-332-7715 or 859-332-7706) near Gravel Switch is the location of the annual Kentucky Writer’s Day. This event attracts poets, songwriters, and other authors who gather in the spring to honor Kentucky writers and celebrate the written word with original compositions and literary discussion. The privy adjacent to the store is also the focus of the annual Great American Outhouse Blowout, celebrated here the first Saturday in October since 1992!

Driving Tour through Southern Casey County (606-787-2690) allows visitors to experience the heritage of the Amish and Mennonite communities. Maps are available that highlight stops at 24 sites including Sunbonnet Fabric and Quilts, Leather Shop, Hoover’s Furniture and Horse-drawn Machinery Sales, T & H Callinan Finishing Shop, Lavender’s Quilt’n’ Fabrics, Lavern’s Farm Market, JD’s Bike and Buggy Shop, Southern Woodcraft and County Fabrics.

Lincoln County Historic Driving Tour (606-365-2533) features 11 sites including William Whitley House, L & N Depot, Lincoln County Courthouse, Buffalo Springs Cemetery, Isaac Shelby Cemetery and Crab Orchard Cemetery. Maps are available at the L & N Depot, Lincoln County Courthouse or William Whitley House.

An Art Tour of Danville includes:

Aegon Gallery (859-238-5469) is located at Centre College on W. Walnut Street in Danville. Exhibits showcase the work of students, faculty and guest artists in media including paint, ceramic and art-glass.

Jones Visual Art Center at Centre College includes the studios of ceramic artist Judith Pointer (859-238-5469) and internationally renowned glassblowing artist Stephen Rolfe Powell (859-238-5727).

Glass Mountain Stained Glass (859-238-0105) is located on N. Second Street. The studio, featuring the original art creations of Ted Caldwell, also conducts classes.

Wilderness Trace Art League Gallery (859-239-7089), located on the grounds of Constitution Square, showcases paintings and crafts by local artists. Exhibits change monthly.

The Elements Pottery & Crafts (859-236-1808) is the studio and gallery of potter Linda Brousseau. Located on the grounds of Old Crown Inn on Stanford Road, offerings include hand-made functional stoneware, hand-painted folk pottery, candles and other crafts.