

BACKGROUND

Shelby County is located in north-central Kentucky in the Outer Bluegrass Physiographic region of Kentucky. It is bordered on the west by Jefferson County and the city of Louisville, which is the largest city in Kentucky. It is bordered on the east by Franklin County and the city of Frankfort, which is the Capital City of Kentucky. The County is dissected in the middle by Interstate 64 and US 60, which travel parallel to each other on an east-west corridor. The County Seat and principal urban area of Shelby County is the city of Shelbyville. Shelbyville has an estimated 1998 population of over 10,000 people and is located near the geographic center of Shelby County. The Shelbyville Urban area has 1998 estimated population of over 14,000 persons. Shelbyville serves as the center for governmental, employment, commercial, educational, recreational, civic and other functions for Shelby County.

Shelby County was formed in 1792, the same year that Kentucky was made a State. Kentucky was formed from a part of Virginia and Shelby was formed from a part of Jefferson County. Shelby County is named after the State's first Governor, Isaac Shelby. Shelbyville was formed in 1792 using 50 lots set aside by William Shannon. The first residents of Shelbyville lived in and around a fort located and constructed north of Shelbyville in 1779 by Squire Boone. This fort and settlement area was identified by Squire Boone by painting his initials on a stone on the site. This farm still bears the name of Painted Stone. This settlement was located approximately 2 miles north of US 60 on KY 55.

Shelby County is located in the Louisville metropolitan area and the city of Shelbyville is 31 miles east of Louisville. Shelby County has a population of 33,300. Jefferson County has an estimated population of 672,000. Louisville is the dominant urban center in the region and its close proximity to Shelby County has many direct and indirect effects upon the County. The only other incorporated city is Simpsonville, which is located approximately 5 miles west of Shelbyville. In 1998 Simpsonville had an estimated population of 1,200 persons.