

Asya Danielle Branch was born on May 5, 1998, in Detroit, Michigan, the sixth child of eight siblings.

Branch grew up in Booneville where she attended Booneville schools. After graduating from high school, Asya studied Integrated Marketing & Communications at the University of Mississippi.

She was the first African American woman to be crowned Miss Mississippi USA, and a year later, she went on to be crowned the first Miss USA (2020) from the Magnolia State.



Prentiss County Courthouse in 1920.



Looking north on **Main Street** in 1915.



Looking east on **Market Street** in approximately 1910.

History of Booneville:

Booneville was incorporated in 1861 and named for settler Colonel Reuben Boone. It was populated by emigrants from Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee and Alabama. In 1870, Booneville was named the county seat for Prentiss County.



Looking north on **Main Street** in approximately 1930.



A large crowd gathered on **Market Street** in 1935.

Booneville Main Street/ Tourism
100 West Church Street
Booneville, MS 38829
662-416-9278
ltucker@booneville-ms.gov
www.visitbooneville.com



SCAN ME

This project was funded by a grant from the Mississippi Hills Heritage Alliance



Welcome to the Downtown Booneville Historic District.

This tour guide will provide you with information about the historically and architecturally significant commercial and governmental buildings.

The most significant street for its architectural character is Main Street while Market Street has maintained most of its architectural significance. By the end of the 1890's, Booneville merchants were investing in the construction of flame-retardant brick buildings and the first electric downtown street lights were installed in 1922.

The district is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

1. Historic Depot (100 West Church Street)
National Register of Historic Places

The Booneville Main Street/Tourism office occupies a portion of the depot which was built in 1913 by the Gulf, Mobile & Ohio Railroad Company. The completion of the railroad in 1860 prompted the incorporation of Booneville as a town.

The Rails and Trails Museum is also located in the depot and features numerous artifacts, memorabilia, and photographs on display that shed light on the history of Booneville and Prentiss County. It is operated by the Prentiss County Historical Society.

An authentic GM&O caboose sits adjacent to the museum on the unused tracks.



2. Cunningham House (100 Truman Street)

This section of the home of Dr. and Mrs. R. C. Cunningham was moved to the present site in 1997 and once stood west of here at the site of the present First Baptist Church. According to local legend, Gen. Nathan B. Forrest held a council of war near the house in June 1864 and slept on the grounds. The house and its interpretation are maintained by the Rails and Trails Museum.



3. Price's Jewelry (106 South Main Street)
National Register of Historic Places

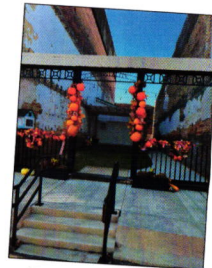
This building, built in 1890, housed a jewelry store for one hundred plus years and was operated by the Price family since the beginning. They also opened an appliance store in the Masonic Lodge building nearby and sold cabinet stereo record players at the jewelry store.

John David Price and his father, John H., became partners in the jewelry store and operated it until the 1980s.



4. Pocket Park (110 South Main Street)

The site of this former three-story building was once the home of the Jessie Patrick Company, a hat maker and clothing store established in 1889, and was family-owned. It was also a furniture store and most recently known as the Shackelford building.



6. First Baptist Church (401 West Church Street)

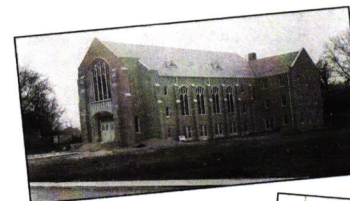
After worshipping in a log school house, and then at a location near the M&O Railroad, the church burned in 1910, along with the First Presbyterian Church. First Baptist's congregation worshiped in a livery stable until the current building was constructed on this site.

The pipe organ was a gift to the church from Mr. and Mrs. J.C Stanley, Jr.



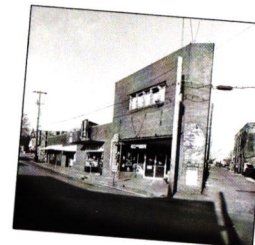
7. First Methodist Church (400 West Church Street)

First Methodist Church worships in their present brick building constructed in 1928. The most outstanding feature is the large stained glass window as well as 14 memorial windows, seven on either side. A bell tower houses the original bell purchased for the 1904 church that was located at the corner of Main and Church Street. The tower is located on the Waters Patio that joins the sanctuary and education building. The Wicks pipe organ, installed in 1947, honors the memory of earlier members. Additional pipes have been added during renovations.



8. The Von Theatre (206 West College Street)

The Von Theatre was opened in Booneville in 1945 by V.E. Crawford. The Von was a venue for musical entertainment and movies, but records were recorded there as well. In the 1950s, it was open on Saturday nights for the Dixie Land Jamboree with local talent performing. The 450-seat theatre also hosted Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash in the early years.



5. Booneville Hardware (112 South Main Street)
National Register of Historic Places

Currently used as a community center and event venue, this three story brick building was one of the first to anchor the downtown district with a commercial specialty store for building and construction materials.

One of the oldest and most prominent buildings in Booneville, the building burned in 1899 and was rebuilt in 1902.

