

Local Hops

River Boat Landings

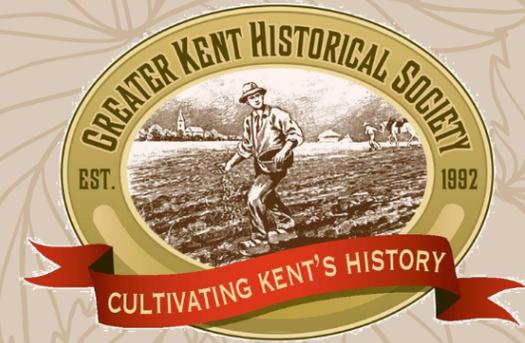
There are eight elevated, restored plaques explaining the historic monument sites, positioned north to south, just as the landings geographically functioned more than 160 years ago. Each plaque represents a landing and its pioneer, bearing such names as Van Doren, Neely, Downey, Langston, Saar and Alvord. Pioneers of the 1860s and '70s established small port-like boat landings along its winding reach through, the heart of a fertile, agricultural valley. As many as 16 riverboats drifted up and down the river at one time, historians say, along with the occasional canoe and pole-driven scow. The landings were important places, connecting communities with the outside world, a portal where goods were shipped out and brought in and where mail was delivered. Many of the landings supported a cable ferry crossing, an important service since there were no bridges across the river at the time, and Military Road represented the area's only significant route connecting north and south.

Hops were traditionally grown in Europe, most famously in Kent, England. But in the 1860s, Europe's hops fields were destroyed by aphids, the market looked to another source for hops. Washington had similar growing conditions to England, abundant available land, and a fertile valley close to a major port. Hops flowers that were grown, picked, and dried, could be sold at high prices and shipped around the globe. The hops on our grounds are from some of the original hop crops grown here in Kent. They were found, saved and replanted here at the museum, and continue to flower and flourish.

Bereiter House Window Tour



Even though the interior of the museum is closed, feel free to walk along the porch and peek in the windows. There are brief descriptions in each window of the rooms at the front of the Bereiter House. View Mayor Bereiter's office, staircase leading to the bedrooms, and the living room where the Bereiter family relaxed.



GREATER KENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Self-Guided Walking Tour

Welcome to the Greater Kent Historical Society. Please use this as a guide to explore the Bereiter House grounds. For more information, please visit our website:

kenthistoricalmuseum.org