



## **Kentucky's War of 1812: Leestown**

*The Kentucky Historical Society's historical marker 103 in Frankfort commemorates Leestown, a supply base during the War of 1812.*

The former site of Leestown, located near Wilkinson Boulevard in Frankfort, was first surveyed in 1773. In 1775, Hancock and Willis Lee made a more permanent settlement and named it after their family. Heightened Native American attacks that plagued Kentucky in 1777 forced the settlers to temporarily abandon the site. Ultimately reestablished, as the marker notes, Leestown became a “well-known shipping port for tobacco, hemp, corn and whiskey to [the] New Orleans market.”

The Virginia legislature established a tobacco inspection warehouse there in 1783, and as the site continued to grow, a large hemp rope factory and distilleries were soon built. As a successful commercial center, the area served as a supply base during the War of 1812. In addition, the marker notes, “In 1827 the stones for the Old State House were quarried from [the] river bank near here.”

KHS is the administrator of the Kentucky War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission. For more information, see [www.history.ky.gov](http://www.history.ky.gov).